

Vocation—Help or Hindrance

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I. Introduction.

- A. To finish well, we must lay aside every hindrance.
- B. The vocation of every believer is to grow in Christ and help others do the same.
- C. If we are not fishing for men, we are not following Jesus Christ. (Matthew 4:19; 28:19)

II. The purpose of working with our hands is...

- A. To provide goods and services beneficial to society broadly.
- B. To provide constructive expressions of the gifts God has given us personally. (Exodus 35)
- C. To make money for the necessities of life. (I Thessalonians 2:9, II Thessalonians 3:8, 10)

III. The necessities of work.

- A. Contentment. (I Timothy 6:6-8)
- B. Faith. (Hebrews 11:6)
 - 1. Faith only functions in the realm of the impossible.
 - 2. We make a mockery of praying for things when we can easily accomplish them.

IV. Things that are not necessary.

- A. The real problem is faith, not one's wardrobe. We are to be anxious for nothing. (Matthew 6:25, John 14:21, Philippians 4)
- B. Do not be anxious for the things of tomorrow. (Matthew 6:34)
- C. We seek to grow in our faith—no one is in the same place. (Luke 17; Romans 12:3)
- D. We ought to be careful of debt. (Romans 13:8, II Corinthians 6:10)

E. We should not lay up earthly treasures. Only the souls of men will last. (Mathew 6, Jeremiah 23:28, II Peter 3:10, Luke 8:14)

F. We must have such an intense love for Christ that every other relationship is secondary. (Luke 14:25, 43)

G. The problem of accumulated riches is that we begin to trust in God and not man. (Jeremiah 17:5, Hebrews 12:16-17)

H. God will provide today with today's needs. (II Corinthians 8:11)

V. Guidelines for handling money.

A. How does it relate to the Great Commission?

B. Is it a need or a desire? (Philippians 4:18)

C. Have I asked God if this is God's method of supplying the need?

D. Are we using it wisely as the Lord's steward? (I Corinthians 4:1-2)

Application questions:

1. What is the relationship between faith and money?

2. Why is it important in any vocation to remember God's calling for every person?

3. What challenges do you foresee in living a more biblical life with regard to your finances? How will you challenge yourself in this area? Explain.
