

As to the Lord

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; For ye serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23,24

The ministries of a church can provide opportunities for a person to participate in areas of Christian service. Teaching Sunday School, going on visitation, working in Vacation Bible School, helping in the nursery, being an usher, assisting on work projects, and countless other opportunities; all of which are very important and beneficial. To be a part of any of these ministries requires commitment and some level of sacrifice. There also are other areas of service outside of the church in which we can find ways to share the light and love of God.

Sometimes a well-meaning person can fall into the trap of participating in ministries for the wrong reasons. Whether it be for recognition, or to please others, or to just be cooperative and helpful, or maybe even to gain some attention from the Lord. If these are some of the things that motivate us, our service is for the wrong reason and will become just another activity.

Today's text brings to light the best purpose for all of our service. As redeemed men and women, we should never forget the great cost of our forgiveness, and that with grateful hearts we can give every area of our lives as service to the Lord. Remembering *Whom* we are serving helps mitigate any discouragement when our efforts in ministry are met with ingratitude. If we by faith envision the Lord beholding all that we do whether great or small as a thank offering to Him, it will be enough to satisfy any need for recognition or appreciation. When we realize that ultimately, we are serving the Lord, things that appear to be of less importance take on a greater significance. May we not fall into the same trap as the Pharisees in loving the praise of men more than the praise of God. The Scriptures demonstrate that the praise of men is usually immediate but short lived, while the praise of God is somewhat silent for the moment, yet it will last forever.