



## Diligence in Ministry

Hebrews 6:9-12

1 Peter 4:7-11; Revelation 2:8-11

### We Are the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16)

- (v. 16) Every part doing its share will cause the whole body to grow and mature.

### Context

- The Audience
- (vv. 1-3) Pressing on to maturity.
- (vv. 4-8) **SERIOUS WORDS** for everyone to carefully examine themselves.

### BUT (v. 9)

- It might be helpful if we were to take the last phrase of this verse, “though we speak in this manner”, and move it to the beginning of the verse.
- His manner of speaking was very serious and with the greatest warnings.
- **BUT** – the writer now shifts his attention to a different group of people – different from those he addressed in verses 4-6.
- He is saying, “I am not saying this about you but you need to know that there are those **among** you who do **NEED** to hear these warnings.”
- In the verses that follow the writer will encourage true believers with the promises of God **and** exhortations to persevere.

### BELOVED (v. 9)

- “beloved” ἀγαπητός agapetos {ag-ap-ay-tos'} is used 60 times in the New Testament.
- It is **NEVER** used for unbelievers.
- The first 9 times it is used by God the Father in speaking of Christ.
- Those who are “**in Christ**” are loved as God loves Christ. (John 17:23)
- The LOVE spoken here of is a love regulated by **PRINCIPLE** and not **IMPULSE**.

- This kind of LOVE seeks the **HIGHEST GOOD** for its objects.
- One who possesses such a love is willing to give ALL (including his own life) to the object of this love. (1 John 3:16)

### Things That Accompany Salvation (v. 9)

- The writer is confident or persuaded that those whom he now addresses are not like those whom he had been addressing in the previous verses.
- He has come to this conclusion because he has carefully observed these saints.
- He is confident of better things. The “better” means something superior to that which is “good.” The things listed in verses 4-5 are “good”, but the writer sees “better” things in those whom he is now writing.
- Things that accompany salvation . . . here are some things:
  - Because one has a NEW heart he loves God. Love is demonstrated by obedience. (1 John 5:2-3; 2 John 6)
  - Because God has put His Spirit within him, he now desires to and walks in the ways of God. (1 John 3:24; Ezekiel 36:27)
  - Because he has a NEW HEART that loves God, he loves the children of God. (1 John 5:1; 2:9-11; 3:14-17; 4:20-21; John 13:34-35)
    - This love is NOT in word or talk, but in DEED and TRUTH. (1 John 3:18)
  - Because he has God’s Law written on his NEW heart, he loves God’s Law and God’s commandments are not a burden to him. 1 John 5:3
  - Because he has a NEW heart and a NEW Spirit, he hates what God hates. (Psalm 119:104, 128)
  - Because Christ is his LORD, it is a delight to serve his Lord. (Colossians 3:23)

### SAVING Faith WORKS (v. 10)

- God REMEMBERS and REWARDS. (Malachi 3:16-17; 4:2)
- Their love was visible by work and labor.
- CAUTION: We are NOT saved because of our WORKS. We are not consumed because of the mercies of God. Lamentations 3:22.
  - WORKS are the EVIDENCE of God’s WORK in us. (James 2:14-26)
  - Christ gave Himself so that we would be **ZEALOUS** for good works. (Titus 2:14)
  - God saved us for works He **foreordained** for us to do. (Eph. 2:10)

- NOTICE the qualifier of the work performed: “shown toward His name”.
- “to minister” - literally, “to wait on customers at tables”
- The Hebrew saints WORKED and KEPT on WORKING! Despite their own safety!!!!
- The OBJECT of their love was “the saints” – **the Body of Christ**. See Matthew 25:45.

### **A Call to Diligence (v. 11)**

- The writer’s desire (passion) was that ALL of them would be DILIGENT in order to REALIZE the FULL ASSURANCE of HOPE until the END.
  - The writer is calling these people to be DILIGENCE. The Christian faith is NOT for the LAZY or the SLOTHFUL or the DO NOTHINGS. (v. 12).
  - “diligence” has the idea of eagerness and haste, giving all your effort.
- The Christian faith is likened to a RACE or even a BATTLE.
- The “means” of achieving FULL ASSURANCE is to be DILIGENTLY BUSY with the WORK of the LORD. (See 1 Corinthians 15:58)
- The writer is calling for ENDURANCE “until the end!” (See Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Romans 2:7; Hebrews 3:14; Revelation 2:26 – this true believes will DO because it is Christ who sustains them – 1 Corinthians 1:7-8)

### **Faith and Patience (v. 12)**

- “sluggish” or “lazy” is the OPPOSITE of “diligent” in verse 11.
- This SLOTHFULNESS is in ALL of us!! It is the nature of the “OLD SELF.”
  - However, WE are the ones that must be DILIGENT to OVERCOME! (Rom 13:14)
- The writer is calling his readers to be IMITATORS of those who have inherited the PROMISES of God *through faith **and** patience*.
- “faith”: See examples in Hebrews 11. This is NO general faith in God – demons have this! This is a FAITH that WORKS and PERSEVERES!
- “patience” μακροθυμία makrothumia {mak-roth-oo-mee'-ah}: patience; endurance; constancy; steadfastness; perseverance; longsuffering.
- Through this FAITH **and** PATIENCE we INHERIT the promises.