

Series: The Right Way to G.R.O.W. a Church Working Hard or Hardly Working

God Rewards Our Work

1 Corinthians 3:5-15 (NIV)

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe--as the Lord has assigned to each his task. [6] I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. [7] So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. [8] The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. [9] For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

[10] By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. [11] For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, [13] his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. [14] If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. [15] If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

1. I RECEIVE MY ASSIGNMENT, I DON'T CHOOSE IT.

v. 5 "...as the Lord has assigned to each his task."

- God always initiates our relationship with Him.

John 15:16 (MsgB)

"You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil..."

- When I join God in His work, I am working smarter, not harder.
- When God gives the assignment, it's hard to fail.

Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

2. I UNDERSTAND MY ASSIGNMENT IN LIGHT OF THE TEAM.

v. 9 *"For we are God's fellow workers..."*

Isaiah 55:11 (MsgB)

So will the words that come out of my mouth not come back empty-handed.

They'll do the work I sent them to do, they'll complete the assignment I gave them.

- I work my part in the team assignment.
- I depend on others and others depend on me.
- I pray as if it all depends on God and work as if it all depends on me.

3. MY WORK WILL BE TESTED IN THE END.

v. 13 *"...his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light."*

Romans 2:16 (NLT)

The day will surely come when God, by Jesus Christ, will judge everyone's secret life. This is my message.

- My work builds on the foundation of Christ.
- Everything I have done will be tested with a kingdom template.
- Kingdom work will pass the test, everything else will not survive.

Romans 2:6-7 (NIV)

God "will give to each person according to what he has done." [7] To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

I WORK HARD ON THE ASSIGNMENT THAT GOD GIVES ME AND HE PRODUCES THE RESULTS