

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Effort

"He that would have the fruit must climb the tree." – Thomas Fuller, M.D., *Gnomologia*, No. 2366

"He who limps is still walking." – Stanislaw Lec, *Unkempt Thoughts*

"Doing your best is more important than being the best." – Anonymous

"Strength and growth come only through continuous effort and struggle." – Napoleon Hill

"Good character is not formed in a week or a month. It is created little by little, day by day. Protracted and patient effort is needed to develop good character." – Heraclitus

One of the great detriments of modern society is that folks want all the benefits of life without putting forth the effort.

My father used to speak of digging ditch when he was younger, a job which paid a whopping ten cents an hour. The amount of effort that went into that is hard to put into words. It was a grueling and thankless job to say the least.

The modern work ethic is to do the least amount that one possibly can get away with for the most money they can possibly get.

There is a picture that truly can make one chuckle. It shows all of these men on highway construction standing in their uniforms, watching one lone man do the digging. And yet when it comes time for pay, each and every one will expect the same compensation.

When the Bible speaks of going into all the world and preaching the gospel (Matt. 28:19-20), the disciples knew that such a task was not just to be for a few. Even the early church knew this reality (Acts 8:4). Only with a combined effort were they able to take the gospel to every creature under heaven (Col. 1:23).

The modern ethic in the church is to hire paid servants to take the gospel into the world. It is with regret that one has to note the indifferent attitude that many take toward the Great Commission. Once again, it seems to be the same mindset of doing the least possible and hoping for the same benefits as those who work. Many have substituted good moral living in place of reaching out to lost souls. Their "Great Commission" is tied up in morality.

Certainly morality has its place. There is no doubt we are to live good, moral, upstanding lives. But to hold to that, and that alone as the sum of what the Lord expects is to miss the mark. And people wonder why the church is not growing like it once did.

We need all the brethren to put forth an effort to bring souls to Christ!