DILIGENCE

Diligence is a biblical word that is not used very much. I like the word because it shows intensity, excellence and hard work. One dictionary gives this definition, which is just right. “Diligence is steadfast application, assiduousness and industry; the virtue of hard work. It is one of the seven heavenly virtues.”

I first got interested in the word while studying the book of Jude. In this little book Jude said, “Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints.” (Jude 3 ASV) What better thing could diligence be given to.

This idea goes along with other passages in both Old and New Testaments. Solomon said in Eccl. 9:10 “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might;” (ASV) Now that is diligence. Diligence means to “do it with all your might,” “give it all you got,” “do the best you can.” You know we have always heard that God will not demand of us what we are not able to do. The person next to you or the person in the pew may not know if you are “giving your all,” but God does. He is the one we are to please.

We should be careful to be diligent in whatever we do. It does not matter if it is teaching a class, preaching a sermon, cleaning the building or mowing the grass, diligence is important. There are things with which we can “get by.” A lot of folks will not know if we are giving it all we got or not. But for our own satisfaction and approval by God of our work, we should do it with diligence.

It takes just a little more effort, but it pays great rewards.

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November 28, 2014