事奉主(膏)

Serving the Lord (I)

事奉主和传福音,是相联的。一个人一得救,就得传福音,也就得事奉主。没有一个正常的基督徒,不是传福音并事奉主的。并且基督徒越蒙恩,越受主的带领和对付,就必越乐意事奉主,越好好的事奉主。

Serving the Lord and preaching the gospel are related. Once a person is saved, he should preach the gospel and serve the Lord. Every normal Christian preaches the gospel and serves the Lord. Furthermore, the more a Christian receives grace, the more he will receive the Lord's leading and dealing and the more he will be able to serve the Lord in a proper way.

壹 事奉主的动机

I. The Motive for Serving the Lord

- (一) '我爱我的主人,…不愿意自由。'出埃及二十一章五节。
- 1. "I love my master,...I will not go out free" (Exo. 21:5).

一个蒙恩的人事奉主,不是由于人在外面的鼓动或强迫,也不是因着人在旁边的劝勉或带领,乃是出于里面的一个动机。这个动机,就是他对主的爱。他对主的爱,在他里面催迫他事奉主,推动他事奉主。他里面对主的爱,叫他不能不事奉主。他爱主,所以他必须事奉主。这是旧约所论那爱主人的奴仆,所比方所预表的。那样的奴仆,虽然可以自由,不须作奴仆,但因爱他的主人,就不愿意自由,而甘愿作奴仆,服事他所爱的主人。我们事奉主的动机,也是如此。我们也是因着爱主,而甘心乐意作主的奴仆,事奉主。我们事奉主,乃是出于我们里面对主的爱。

Believers do not serve the Lord because of outward encouragement or pressure from man. We serve the Lord out of the inward motivation of our love for the Lord. Our love for the Lord inwardly compels us to serve the Lord. It urges us to serve Him. Our love for the Lord makes us unable not to serve the Lord. We love the Lord, so we must serve the Lord. This is typified in the Old Testament by the slave who loved his master. Although the slave could have been free and did not need to continue to serve as a slave, he did not want to go out free because of his love for his master. He willingly remained as a slave to serve the master whom he loved. This is our motive in serving the Lord. We become His servants and serve Him willingly because of our love for Him. Our service to the Lord comes out of our love for Him.

- (二) '神的慈悲劝你们,将身体献上,当作活祭,···如此事奉,乃是理所当然的。'罗马十二章一节。
- 2. "I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice...which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1).

我们所以爱主,是因为主爱我们。主的爱感动我们,激励我们爱祂。主对我们的爱,在我们里面产生出我们对祂的爱,叫我们不能不爱祂。所以是主的爱叫我们爱祂,也是主的爱叫我们事奉祂。就是因这缘故,使徒才用神的慈悲劝我们,将身体献上,当作活祭,以事奉神。神的慈悲,神的爱,激励我们爱祂,叫我们事奉祂。我们事奉祂,是为祂的爱所激励,是由于祂的爱在我们里面所激出的爱。这爱是我们事奉祂的动机,叫我们没法不事奉祂。

We love the Lord because He loves us. The Lord's love moves us and encourages us to love Him. The Lord's love for us produces our love for Him, making it impossible for us not to love Him. Therefore, the Lord's love causes us to love Him and serve Him. For this reason Paul exhorted the believers through the compassions of God to present their bodies a living sacrifice in service to Him. The compassions of God, the love of God, encourage us to love Him and serve Him. We serve Him because His love encourages us and stirs up a love within us for Him. This deep love is our motivation to serve Him, and it makes it impossible for us not to serve Him.

贰 事奉主的意义

II. The Meaning of Serving the Lord

(一) '作…神的奴仆'一'基督的奴仆'。罗马六章二十二节,林前七章二十二节。

1. "Enslaved to God"; "Christ's slave" (Rom. 6:22; 1 Cor. 7:22).

事奉主,就是作主的奴仆。'奴仆'这个名称,普通用在人身上,是不大好听的,是叫人有卑感的,但用在我们事奉主的人身上,是顶痛快的,是叫我们感觉荣幸的。哦,一个人能作主的奴仆,是何等荣幸的一件事!这是我们事奉主的人,所有的身分。这身分说出我们事奉主的意义。我们事奉主,不是作什么伟大的工作,乃是作主的奴仆,服事主;不是在人面前作什么伟大的事业,乃是在主面前像一个奴仆,作服事主的事。

To serve the Lord is to be the Lord's slave. The word slave is not a very pleasant expression when it is applied to unbelievers in the world, because it often denotes an inferior status. However, the word slave is a felicitous and glorious expression when it is applied to believers because we are serving the Lord. To be a slave of the Lord is a glorious matter! To be a slave is the status of those who serve the Lord and the meaning of serving the Lord. Serving the Lord is not about doing a great work before men; it is about being a slave before the Lord.

(二) '为主而活。'罗马十四章六至九节。

2. "Live to the Lord" (Rom. 14:8).

事奉主,既是作主的奴仆,也就是为主而活。一个真正事奉主的人,他的一切,都是为着主,他整个的生活,整个的人生,都是为着主。所以这不光是指著作传道,乃是指着整个的生活。我们不光是在为主作传道的工夫上,能以事奉主,就是在任何'正经事业'(多三8,14)上,如果有主的引导,也都可以一并且也都应该一事奉主。歌罗西三章二十二至二十四节给我们看见,就是给人作仆人,若作得合乎主的意思,也是事奉主。所以我们不论在什么职业或事业上,只要合乎主的意思,都可以事奉主。主没有意思叫我们每一个基督徒都离开职业,放下事业来专作传道的工夫。主的意思是叫我们每一个都事奉祂。事奉祂,不一定是作传道,乃是在凡事上都为祂而活。今天有许多人,虽然作传道,但不一定是为主而活,反而有好些爱主的信徒,虽然作职业,或作事业,倒是为主而活。他们表面虽然不是作传道,实际却是为主而活,所以他们是真实事奉主的人。

Since serving the Lord is a matter of being a slave, it is also a matter of living to the Lord. The entire being of one who truly serves the Lord is to the Lord. His whole living, his entire life, is to the Lord. Therefore, service is a matter of one's entire living. The call to serve the Lord is not limited to full-time workers and preachers. With the Lord's leading, it is possible to serve the Lord by maintaining respectable works in any career (Titus 3:8, 14). Colossians 3:22-24 shows that actual slaves were serving the Lord when they served according to the Lord's will. No matter what our career or job may be, we can serve the Lord as long as it is according to the Lord's will. It is not the Lord's intention that every Christian would leave his job or career to be a full-time preacher. The Lord's will is for every one of us to serve Him, but serving Him does not necessarily mean we must become a preacher. It only means that we live to Him in everything. There are many preachers today who do not necessarily live to the Lord. Similarly, there are many believers who love the Lord and truly live to Him, even though they have a career or job. They may not be preachers, but they are truly serving the Lord by living to the Lord.

照圣经看,基督徒不应当以专作传道为职业,却应当以事奉主为正业。我们基督徒所有的职业或事业,都是副业。惟有事奉主,是我们的正业。在我们,所有的职业或事业都是第二,惟有事奉主乃是第一。我们在世上活着的目的,乃是事奉主。我们该以事奉主为我们生活的中心和目的。我们所以作职业或事业,不过是带手而作,藉以维持我们的生活,并供给主工作的需要。同时藉着我们所作的职业或事业,与人接触,以便将主的福音传给人。所以我们不该将任何的职业或事业当作正业,看为首要,而把事奉主传福音看为次要。我们无论是以何事为业,都该是带手而作的。我们的目的,该是为着事奉主传福音。我们无论作医生或作教员,无论经商或作工,无论作任何职业或事业,都该是为着事奉主传福音。作医生的,该藉着行医,事奉主传福音。作教员的,也该藉着教书,事奉主传福音。作任何事业或职业的,都该藉着所作的,事奉主传福音。我们个个都该以事奉主传福音为正业,以我们的职业或事业为副业。我们若要作正常的基督徒,就必须这样。只有这样,才是为主而活,才是事奉主。

According to the Bible, we are not called to make a profession out of preaching; rather, we are called to serve the Lord. This is our career. Any career or job that we have is a secondary matter. Our principal occupation is to serve the Lord; serving the Lord comes first. Our goal for living on the earth is to serve the Lord. We should make serving the Lord the center and goal of our lives. The only reason that we have a career or a job is to

make a living and to supply the needs of the Lord's work. We also can contact people through our careers and jobs to preach the gospel to them. No career or job is more important than serving the Lord and preaching the gospel. We should consider our occupation only as something that we do on the side. Our focus should be on serving the Lord and preaching the gospel. Regardless of whether we are doctors, teachers, businessmen, or laborers, our career or job should be for serving the Lord and preaching the gospel. Doctors should serve the Lord and preach the gospel while practicing medicine. Teachers should serve the Lord and preach the gospel while teaching. Whatever our profession, we should serve the Lord and preach the gospel. Each of us should consider serving the Lord and preaching the gospel as our primary occupation and our careers and jobs as secondary occupations. This is the living of a normal Christian. This is the only way to live to the Lord and to serve Him.

参读: 圣经要道, 二十九题: 事奉主

Reference: Crucial Truths in the Holy Scriptures, Vol. 3, Ch. 29 Serving the Lord