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“WHATEVER YOUR HAND FINDS...”

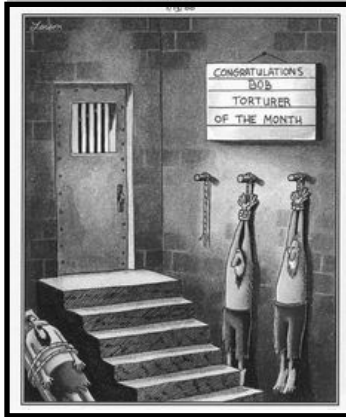
“Whatever your hand finds to do, verily, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.” (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

Whatever became of excellence? Excellence, exceptionally high quality which seems to be a rare commodity across the breath of our nation. Mediocrity, just what it takes to get by seems to be the accepted norm. But such an attitude takes the joy out of life that comes by always striving to do one’s best. Solomon in Ecclesiastes chapter nine lays out the rationale that we, each one, has been given but one life to live, *“Go then, eat your bread in happiness...”* (v.7) *“Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life, and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun.”* (v 9)

Moreover, as a child of God, one should have a drive to do the best absolute best in every aspect of life. Consider what Paul pens to the brethren in Ephesus as seen I chapter six and verses five through six. *“Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ, not by way of eyeservice as men-pleasers but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.”* Applicable to us today as seen in the paradigm of the employee and employer relationship.

Sadly many get caught up in simply going through the motions if life; not striving for excellence. Excellence must be the benchmark for the child of God, as previously noted. In the 31st chapter of Proverbs, there is found a celebration of the wife and mother who was exceptional. *“Her children rise up*

and bless her; her husband also, and he praises her saying: Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all.” (vs 28-29) Of course this principle would apply regardless of gender. In short to be the best spouse/parent possible. But consider as well verse 31. *“Give her the product of her hand, and let her works praise her in the gates.”*



Stand back, look at the comportment of your life. Can you honestly say that in all you do, you strive to do it to the best of your ability? Or as my wife used to say to our sons when they were younger and given an assigned task, they would come

in and say they were finished and she would ask them, “are you a member of the 100% club?” They knew what it meant and on a few occasions they would excuse themselves and go back and do a better job. Clearly they knew what their mother wanted. Come on now, we really do know what our Heavenly Father expects from us in all that we do. What He desires is that we do to the (see Matthew 25:14-30) best of our ability. Think back to Ecclesiastes 9:10, *“Whatever your hand finds to do...”*

So, are you a member of the 100% club? The brethren in Ephesus thought they were. However in Revelation 2:4 they were told, *“But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”* What were they told to do? Go back and do the deeds they did at first (see verse 5) is what they were directed to do. Oh, so simple.

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.” (Colossians 3:23-24) (wbe)

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