

## **UNFINISHED WORK**

Ecclesiastes 9:10 ... "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going."

I am not a perfectionist, but I place high personal standards on the quality of work that I do. Today's verse reinforces the importance of doing your best, but it also cautions that your time for work is short and what you accomplish here on earth will be left here after you are gone. In most cases, your work will not be remembered by others. I am not yet in the grave, and most of what I've done has already been forgotten.

In God's kingdom, there are rarely jobs that you alone can start today, finish tomorrow, and that God then calls "Finished." Most of the work God assigns you to do for him, never ends. You continue a task started by someone else, you pour yourself into it, you give it your best, then God assigns someone else to enter the picture and continue that job, adding their particular skills and their unique talents in a way you could not. And others will follow him or her. This is because God's standards are the highest and no one person is smart enough or lives long enough to complete his work. Most, if not all, of the work God needs to be done will not be finished until Christ returns.

A sort of reverse analogy is the teaching profession. A teacher only contributes 10 months to the education of a particular child, which develops over 13 or more years under the guidance of many teachers. No one teacher can take the credit. In fact, even the collective of all of those teachers cannot take credit, because they only facilitated the opportunity to learn. The student's education was really his or her responsibility.

Do not become discouraged by thinking that your time on earth will be just another muddy footprint among millions who came before and after you. Your 70-90 years are an opportunity to do your best and please God with your hard work. I have known many wonderful people who did just that, and who died at peace and happy with what they accomplished. I have known others who chose to live miserable lives of nothingness and died having accomplished little. Above all, do not forget that your reward is not here. Your rewards, if you are a true and obedient follower of Christ, will be in heaven.

Copyright © 2017 Datu Wali Mission Foundation