

WHEN DO YOU SERVE GOD?

2 Timothy 4:2-3 ... Preach [and teach] the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine....”

In our previous devotional we asked the question, “Where do you serve God?” Today we ask the question “When?”. And the Bible answers with the command to be ready at all times.

The average Christian puts God in a box that he or she opens only on church day. It is an easy mistake to make because your life is absorbed with the realities of earning a living, feeding your family, running errands, fixing leaky roofs, giving your Caribao a bath, and more. Life can be so difficult for many, that they totally lose their focus on God...except on church day. On church day, you may still get up early and tend to your animals, harvest your bananas, prepare a meal, and get the kids dressed before you march to church. And, then as soon as church is over, you go back to the daily grind by washing clothes, preparing lesson plans, studying for exams, and ironing uniforms. Your time spent thinking about God may only consume one or two hours of your entire week. However, God is on the job caring and providing for you, 24/7.

I know pastors who are so consumed with making money that they do not set aside time in a day to study God’s Word. How can pastors teach others about God, if they are not growing and maturing in their own faith? I have encountered Sunday school teachers who – by their own admission – came to class on Sunday morning and read a lesson from a book without spending a single minute during the week studying the scriptures for that lesson, praying for their class, or applying that lesson to their own lives. A genuine worship leader will allow the Holy Spirit to influence his or her choice of songs for the church service, practice them until they can sing (or play) them to the glory of God, and pray for the people they will minister to. A dedicated worship leader who has a true servant’s heart, will spend the better part of their week preparing for a service because they realize it is not just about the music.

But the same concern for preparation applies to you even if you are not a pastor, teacher or worship leader. If you are rice planter, carpenter, welder, teacher or store cashier, you are to treat every day as an opportunity to serve God by serving people. When you get up in the morning, spend some time studying God’s Word and praying. Ask God to reveal hurting or troubled people to you that day to whom you can minister. Our service to God is not decided by the clock or the calendar. God has not instructed us to worship or serve him only on church day. God has created us and instructed us to serve him 24/7, just as he ministers to us 24/7.

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