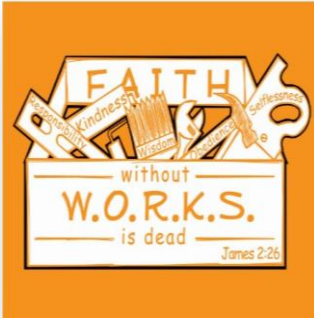


# "WHAT IT TAKES TO BE INTERESTED IN THE LORD'S WORK"

## INTRODUCTION



1. Everyone admires a person with strong faith, active in their work, happy and content...
  - a. Paul was in Judaism - cf. **Gal 1:13-14; Php 3:6**
  - b. Then later as he served Christ - cf. **Php 3:12-14; Ga 2:20**
2. Yet the range of interest among Christians often varies widely...
  - a. As Some are filled with **zeal** - cf. **1Th 1:2-3; 2Th 1:3-4**
  - b. Others become **lukewarm** - cf. **Re 3:15-16**
  - c. Some even become **cold**, forsaking the Lord - cf. **2Ti 4:10**

### I. FAITHFUL

If you are interested in doing the Lord's work the first thing that you must do is to be faithful.

- a. Paul stated that those who do the Lord's work are stewards and they must be faithful: **1 Cor 4:1-2**
- b. He also told Timothy about the qualifications of those to whom the work to be entrusted.
- c. Letting someone who is unfaithful, do the work of the Lord is like casting pearls to the swine. **Matt 7:6**
- d. They don't care or have any idea of how valuable the Lord's work is; **Matt 13:44**
- e. They view it as something to be used for personal gain and then discarded as you would trash.

[In **Col 1:9-10** we find Paul praying for the Colossians, in which he mentions three things that contribute to interest, desire, fervor, and zeal. First, he prayed that they may be filled with...

## **KNOWLEDGE]**

### II. KNOWLEDGE

#### **A. KNOWLEDGE INCREASES INTEREST...**

#### **B. KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WILL INCREASES INTEREST...**

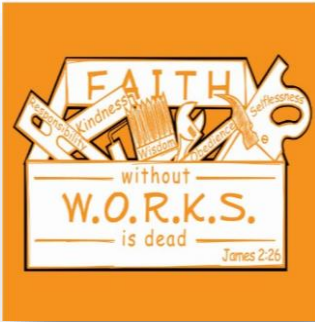
1. The Colossians bore fruit in response to their understanding of God's grace - cf. **Col 1:6**
2. The more we learn of God's will, the more excited we will become - **Ps119:111,162,164**
3. Obtaining this knowledge requires diligence.

[As we return to Paul's prayer for the Colossians (**Col 1:9-10**), we note his desire that they "walk worthy of the Lord". To knowledge, therefore, we must add... **PARTICIPATION]**

## **OVER**

# "WHAT IT TAKES TO BE INTERESTED IN THE LORD'S WORK"

## III. PARTICIPATION



A. PARTICIPATION INCREASES INTEREST...

B. PARTICIPATION IN GOD'S WORK INCREASES INTEREST...

[Any labor that we do for the Lord will not be in vain (**1Cor 15:58**). And that leads to the third thing Paul prays for which will lead to a heightened interest in the Lord's work... **Success** or bearing fruit **Col 1:10**]

## IV. SUCCESS

A. SUCCESS INCREASES INTEREST...

B. SUCCESS IN GOD'S WORK INCREASES INTEREST...

## CONCLUSION

1. If you are not interested in the Lord's work, or have lost interest, it is likely due to a lack of these three things:
  - a. Knowledge
  - b. Participation
  - c. Success
2. For those willing to maintain interest in the Lord's work, Paul shares two more thoughts with us...
  - a. We will not be alone in our efforts; God will work with us! - **Col 1:11**; cf. **Php 2:12-13**
  - b. We should be thankful that God has qualified us to receive the rewards to come! - **Col 1:12**

Are you showing your gratitude by maintaining a high level of interest in the work of the Lord...?