

Judging Works By The Proper Standard – Pt. 2

Answering the Critics

Introduction

- The charge is made that we are “not doing anything.”
 - We must be busy in the Lord’s work – 1 Cor. 15:58
 - We must do the works that the Lord has authorized – Matt. 7:21-26
- **Let us consider the basis for the charge of “not doing anything”?**



**WHY ARE WE
CHARGED?**

Four-fold Bases

- Legitimate: We could be guilty of not doing all that we should.
- Illegitimate:
 - “You are not growing (in number).”
 - “You are not saving many souls.”
 - “You have so few programs of work going on.”

Legitimate:

We Could Be Guilty

- We must grasp the extent of the commitment the Lord demands.
 - We must lose our life to Christ – Matt. 10:37-39
 - We must properly apply Jesus' demands for those who follow Him – Lk. 9:59-62
 - Does this change your view of the issue with Ephesus? – Rev. 3:14-19

Illegitimate:

“You Are Not Growing”

- Numerical growth is not a legitimate goal.
- Legitimate goals:
 - Spiritual growth – Rom. 1:11-12; Acts 20:26-27
 - Serving God faithfully to the best of our abilities – 1 Thess. 1:8; 1 Cor. 5; 2 Cor. 8:1-5
- If doing these produce numerical growth, that is great!
- We must be more concerned about growth of the universal, not local, church.

Illegitimate:

“You Are Not Saving Many Souls”

- Are we doing what we can and should?
- The resulting increase must come from God – 1 Cor. 3:6
- If Noah was judged by “numbers,” he would be a failure – 2 Pet. 2:6; Heb. 11:7
- If Lot were so judge, he would be a failure – 2 Pet. 2:6-9
- The same is true of Jeremiah and the prophets.

Illegitimate:

“You Have So Few Programs of Work Going On”

- “Works” generally mean social and recreational activities.
- What works of the 1st century church are we not doing?
- If we turn the local church into something different than God revealed, will He accept it? – Jn. 2:13-16; 1 Cor. 11:22, 33; 2 Cor. 10:3-5
- People today are not the first to want fleshly incentives – 1 Cor. 1-2
- Jesus refused to accept the fleshly-minded – Matt. 13:1-17; Jn. 6:48-66; Lk. 14:25-35

Conclusion

- The accusation of “not doing anything” concerns me.
- Yet, the general bases for it are false...as is, generally, the accusation.
- The Lord knows what we are doing and we need to do the very best we can.
- We must examine our works – Gal. 6:4
- Are you living faithfully to Christ?