

June 11, 2023

## Don't Be Lazy

by Rickie Jenkins

“In regard to what you ought to be doing, don't be lazy” (Romans 12:11). This is directed against weariness in well-doing (Gal. 6:9). It is a real problem when trying to live the Christian life for any length of time. It is easy to get discouraged. It is hard to keep on steadily. The King James Version says, “Not slothful in business.” To most people business suggests commercial dealings only, which is why newer versions drop that word. But it is helpful to think of it in this way.

Consider the business of being a Christian. How can anyone take on the most important business of all, the business of being a follower of Jesus Christ, and do it in a passive, apathetic, part-time, or slovenly manner? What we should do is follow Jesus Christ with all our hearts, minds and with all the energy we can muster. We should work at being Christians. Robert Candlish writes about this wisely: “Your sanctification must be made a matter of business. It must be cared for and prosecuted in a business-like way; not indolently and slothfully, as if it were a process that might be left to itself, but industriously, diligently, with regularity and punctuality, as you would manage a worldly concern, on the common principles of worldly energy and worldly care and worldly zeal.”

Also, think about the business of being a father or mother as a Christian. Raising a family takes work. The love of Christ demands that this too be done steadily and without being lazy. Children will not raise themselves in godliness. Left to themselves they will grow up like an untended garden, full of weeds and other wild things. It takes work to raise children well.

Again, consider the work of the local church. The work of the church should be done in the best possible way we know how. After all, if it is done well, the lives we touch will continue long after we are gone, and our businesses and homes have passed to other hands.

Finally, think about the business of earning a living. Christians should excel in how they work. Paul told the Colossians, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving” (Col. 3:23–24). The last sentence means that love for Christ should prod us to work both well and hard in everything.

The life of a Christian is to rise above mediocrity. Paul was not a man of slothfulness. We see his values when he left all that he counted of value at one time and now call that rubbish

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**

## Important Dates

**Singing** - Cedar Park church of Christ, Austin, - June 16

**Bulverde Summer Series** - Bulverde church of Christ, Every Thursday June 1 - August 17

**Gospel Meeting** - Westside church of Christ, Killeen, June 23-25

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

(Phil. 3:1-8). He will go on to say, “I press toward the mark...” The word “press” speaks of urgency. It describes intensity. Mediocrity, at best, talks about things that are on the level of no real importance. Press is a word for agony, something strenuous. Press is the kind of effort that expended beyond the comfortable. Athletes talk about giving 110%. That is, they give everything they have and more. They hold nothing back, even when it hurts.

How do we live in this marathon race of faith? Never grow old and never grow weary in well-doing. Always renew the mind. Do all to the glory of God and press on! Sometimes it simply requires our will to grow. It will not always be easy!

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility and had a procedure to gauge the viability of a treatment for the pain.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system.

**Dinah Williams** continues to have mobility issues.

**Don Simmons** is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. He is currently in rehab.

**Alene** is having hip issues.

**Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister)** is undergoing chemotherapy.

**Sylvia Stinnett** had had an accident and cut her leg.

**Tony Mauck** has cancer that has already spread.

**Tristen Boatright** is struggling with migraines and will be having some tests run..

*If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.*

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making s upplication for all the saints,”**  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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