

By Faith Lesson 37

Saved to Serve

Read John 13!

Jesus said of Himself, that He did not come to be ministered to but to minister. He served all people completely and generously. He was the friend of the publican and the sinner. He healed the sick, awakened the dead and comforted the mournful.

Jesus as an example

The conclusion of the serving work of Jesus was His death on the cross for the sins of the whole world. He performed a heavy work in atoning our sins, so that we would become partakers of eternal life.

Jesus gave the work of serving unto His own. The life of a believer is the following of Jesus in doctrine, life and suffering. (Matt. 16:24)

As the servants of Christ

Since the child of God has experienced that the Lord Jesus has served him personally with the forgiveness of all his sins in the Kingdom of God, love is kindled in his heart toward God and his neighbor. Paul writes: "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." (II Cor. 5:14,15)

First, the soul-

The ministry of the Christian is twofold. Peter wrote: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (I Peter 2:9)

The child of God, having received the forgiveness of all of his sins, desires in his heart to exhort all people who are not partakers of grace unto repentance and to preach unto the penitent the forgiveness of sins. Every believer is in this way a servant of Christ and a priest of the Holy Spirit.

-then the body.

Of the other ministry, it is written: "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." (Heb. 13:16) The matter concerns the fruits of the Spirit, including the ministry of love.

A fruit of faith

The child of God sees through faith that his possessions are the gift of God, "borrowed goods," which should be used above all for the work of the kingdom of God, but also for helping our neighbor in distress. In the early congregation, too, there were the sick and the poor, which the Christians mutually assisted. (Acts 11:28-30)

The child of God does not do good to merit salvation. Readiness to serve also proceeds from faith. This service is not a heavy duty, but a marvelous privilege. The Christian has been saved to serve.

Exercises

1. Read John 15:1-11. What sort of person can serve with the true mind of Christ?
2. What does the saying, "Saved to serve" mean?
3. Read Luke 10:38-42. What does Jesus mean by the "good part" of Mary, from which God desires to send His children unto the footsteps of Martha, the path of service.
4. Read Matt. 6:1-4. Of what does Jesus warn His own?
5. What kind of service can be found for the young believer in the work of the Kingdom of God?