



Put Your Heart Into It

As you work hard trying to better your life, remember this one important thing



By Brother Emil Palensar

If you are reading this, it means you are probably a student, and if you're a student that most likely means you are torturing yourself with studying late hours and fitting classes, work, church, recreation, social life and sometimes even sleep into far too few hours in the day.

For what?

Oh I'm sure you have your reasons: trying to change something about your life, advance in your current job, change your career, start a career (or at least figure out a direction for your career), get a pay raise. Whatever your reason, you are most likely trying to improve your situation in some way. You have a goal — the degree, the certificate. You know what classes to take. Shoot, you may even have it all planned out to retirement.

But have you considered the process?

From the Heart

A good career does not just appear. You have to wade through class after class, each with its exams, instructors, expectations, teaching styles, and the list goes on. But during this painfully long process, your life goes on, too. God's Word gives us some advice you may want to consider during this transitional time of your life.

Colossians 3:23-24 says, "And whatsoever ye do, **do it heartily, as to the Lord**, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Ephesians 6:5-7 exhorts, "Servants,

be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, **doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service, as to the Lord**, and not to men."

During this educational process, don't consider the daily drudgery of never-ending studying just a means to get to an end. *This is part of your life*, and in your life you are serving the Lord. Take Paul's advice to "do it heartily, as to the Lord," and put your *heart* into it!

Walk the Walk

What does it mean to "put your heart into it?" Don't blow off the class

because it is hard. Work at it because you are working for the Lord. He can get you through it. Don't blow off the class because it is easy. Learn all you can because you are working for the Lord.

You don't like a particular teacher or someone in your study group? Realize that they are a child of God, and He instructs us to be that person's servant, and you my friend, are working for the Lord.

Choose your direction with the Lord's will in mind. Is this career path going to bring you closer to the Lord? Or will it cause you to work every Sunday? (Sorry, to all you professional football players.) Is your end goal to make enough money to buy a small country and be the most powerful person with all the prestige and fame that you can muster? Or maybe, just maybe, you are doing this for the Lord and you have His work in mind. Have you even considered that? If you aren't sure what your motives truly are, or if you don't know how to fit your plan into the Lord's will, there is a simple solution: just ask Him!

When you step out into the world with those extra letters at the end of your name, whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord.

Pray before you register for the semester, pray before you start the first class, pray before you take the examinations, pray for direction, pray that he will use your job, career, promotion, new knowledge base — whatever it is — for His purposes. And I do believe that God can use your education for the building of His kingdom.

I know what you're going through because I've been there. In many ways, this is a heat-of-the-day time in your life. Remember, as you decide your career path, choose your classes, interact with other students and instructors, study for the tests, design the projects, and work your tail-end off to pay for it all ... and when you step out into the world with those extra letters at the end of your name, whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord.



Snap the code or click here to visit our Facebook page at The Church of Jesus Christ (GMB Student Support Program), where you'll find videos, podcasts and thought-provoking posts.

REFLECT

Do you consider what you're learning in school to be important for your future? If not, why?

Have you thought about how your education can benefit God's kingdom? Or have you only thought about how it can benefit [insert your name]'s kingdom?

Do you usually give your *best*? Or are most of your contributions half-hearted? If you find that you don't really care much, why is that?

Are you actually trying to grow and develop during this time, or are you just rushing through it so your "real" life can begin?

CONSIDER

There are many people in this world who don't have the opportunity to get an education. We're not going to pull the "clean your plate; there are starving children in third-world countries" guilt trip, but it's something to think about. There are people out there who think, "If only I'd learned to read and write, I could do so much more..." "If only I had the chance to learn a trade..." As a student, you've been given a great gift — and a great responsibility. Don't take it for granted. And don't waste it.

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