

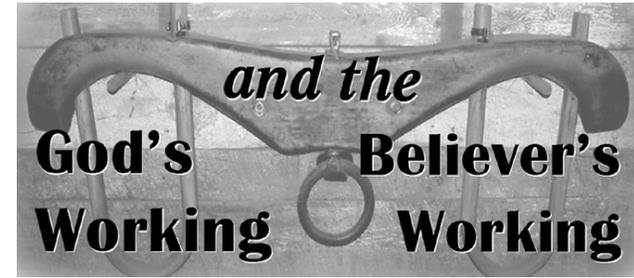
1 Corinthians 3:1-11

What an awesome privilege that we, creatures of the dust, can labor together with the living God as His coworkers. The New Testament delineates this relationship, putting an emphasis on both **God's working** and the **believer's working**. It is a fascinating interplay between the sovereignty of God and the human responsibility of His blood-bought child. Scripture balances these two elements perfectly, and we must never over-emphasize one to the neglect of the other.

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (**the believer's working**), for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure (**God's working**)” (*Phil. 2:12-13*). “Whereunto I also labor, striving (**the believer's working**) according to His working, which worketh in me mightily (**God's working**)” (*Col. 1:28*). “Let us labor [make every effort, be diligent] therefore to enter into that rest [the enjoyment of His working]” (*Heb. 4:11*). Paul said, “I labored more abundantly than they all (**the believer's working**), yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me (**God's working**)” (*1 Cor. 15:10*). We work and labor, but our labor is in the Lord (*1 Cor. 15:58; Rom. 16:12*). We are workers and laborers, but we should never forget that it is “together with Him” (*1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1*). We can be fruitful in every good work, but only as we are strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power (*Col. 1:10-11*).

We can do His will by performing every good work, but only as He works in us that which is well pleasing in His sight (*Heb. 13:21*). The early Christians went forth and preached everywhere, but the Lord was right there working with them (*Mark 16:20*). An immense, impossible task is before us, but as we are yoked up with Christ the work becomes easy and the burden light (*Matt. 11:28-30*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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