

# DOING YOUR BEST FOR CHRIST: 2. BEING DILIGENT

## Christian Character in Action: Lesson 32

30 September 2022

**DILIGENT:** Steady in application to business, constant in effort or exertion to accomplish what is undertaken, assiduous, attentive, industrious, not idle, or negligent.

<sup>10</sup> **“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for *there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*”** (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

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**Joshua 22:1-5** Joshua gave a farewell address to the two and a half-tribes of Israel (Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh) before they left to possess their lands across the Jordan River. His words to them included a commendation for a job well done (thus far) in keeping the commandments of the Lord, followed by a challenge to be **DILIGENT** to **CONTINUE** obeying God’s commandments once they have been separated from the leadership of Joshua and the fellowship of the other tribes.

- Christian parents train their children how to live the Christian life. When it’s time to leave home, those children must be diligent to maintain what they have learned and be faithful to God.
  - Young people in Bible School have a great advantage of fellowship, ministry activities, class time, and godly counsellors. When they graduate, they will require diligence to continue serving the Lord.
  - Christians were forcibly separated from their churches during the pandemic. If they did not exercise diligence, they failed to love the Lord as they normally would, and their Christian conduct slipped.
  - Secular application: You need to have a desire to do the right thing and provide for your family by working. Knowing what is right isn’t going to be enough if you don’t add diligence.
  - Personal check-up: has your love for Jesus faded somewhat? You can’t blame anyone but yourself. A lack of diligence has caused your love and devotion to fade away.
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**Proverbs 4:23** The heart is prone to wander and is deceitful above all things. This verse cautions us to keep our heart with ALL DILIGENCE. We need to govern **our own** heart, especially in times when there is no other godly person or group to govern our activities.

- Is your Christian life of service to the Lord what it was before the church shutdown?
  - Have you been diligent yourself—or just leaning upon *other* people who are diligent?
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**Romans 12:8** Rulers are to rule with diligence. This requires that he be “steady in application of business, constant in effort or exertion to accomplish what is undertaken.”

- We want the people in leadership roles to be diligent (doctors, lawyers, teachers, police). We want them to do their very best where it affects us.
  - In the same regard, God needs diligent people working for Him who will tell somebody about Jesus.
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**2 Corinthians 8:7** The church at Corinth had become an excellent church through diligence. They abounded in diligence.

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**2 Corinthians 8:22** Paul was able to commend a brother as being “**diligent in many things**” and “**more diligent.**” You may have the ability to do a job, but if you are not diligent to do that job, nobody will be surprised when the job doesn’t get done.

- Nobody will commend you or recommend you if you’ve not proven yourself to be diligent.
    - If you’re not serving God in your home church, a pastor won’t recommend you to be a missionary, pastor, or assistant pastor.
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**Proverbs 22:29** If you do the bare minimum in your business, you’ll be average or you’ll fail. The man who is diligent in his business (doing his very best), will NOT be average; he’ll stand before kings.

- Don’t settle for average when you could be excellent. Don’t settle for an average church when you could help make it an excellent church. You don’t serve an average King.
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**Proverbs 27:23** Those in charge of flocks and herds must be diligent to know their status.

- If you’re thinking of entering fulltime Christian work, how much have you cared for the flock thus far? Have you been diligent to check up on people to make sure they’re okay.
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**Luke 12:58** When your freedom is at stake, you want somebody to diligently fight for you to keep you out of prison. You don’t want a lawyer who won’t do his best for you.

- People are going to hell. How diligent are you about warning them?
  - Do you believe what the Bible says about eternity, about souls, about judgment, about the importance of fellowship? Are you diligent to proclaim those truths?
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