

## Sunday School Lesson for the Month of November, 2023

### *Partnership With God*

**(Sunday, November 5, 2023)**

Realization of God's ownership is only the beginning of acquiring money. Even though God is owner and provider of all things, He seldom drops it from heaven into an idle lap. Money and possessions are acquired through labor. By working, we enter a partnership with God. Labor is the only honest way of acquiring money under God's economy. Work is not something to be avoided like a dreaded curse. Adam was "*put in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it*" (*Gen. 2:15*). Labor was an aspect of God's plan for man, even before sin entered the world. By working, we join forces with God in meeting our needs. Instead of a curse to be avoided, labor is a relationship to be enjoyed. To be God's partner through working, we experience great blessings.

Our partnership with God acknowledges ownership, anticipates God's strength, accepts responsibility, and avoids poverty.

**(Sunday, November 12, 2023)**

**Acknowledges Ownership.** An important step in realizing our partnership with God is to recognize His ownership (*Colossians 3:23-24*). Our work is transformed when we know that we work for God, not a human employer. To get up and drive to work on Monday Morning is no less an act of worship than to get dressed and go to church on Sunday. In the sanctuary and on the job, we have the opportunity to serve and honor God.

Since God is the owner and our job is a means of serving Him, our work habits should be transformed. The Christian ought to be the finest employee. There can be no thought of wasting time, or giving less than our best effort. We do not work for an unreasonable employee or over-demanding boss. God is the ultimate owner and "*it is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving.*"

Consequently, our work becomes an opportunity for ministry and worship. Our labor will minister to others as they notice the attitude of a servant of God. At the same time, God will be glorified as we testify of His ownership to our fellow workers.

Christians will sometimes use their Christianity to take advantage of other Christians. Christians taking advantage of other Christians in the name of Christ is wrong. We work for the same employer, so there is no benefit in cheating one another. Our partnership is with God and, as a result, with one another within the family of God. Of course, we also express our partnership with God when we deal fairly with unbelievers, treating them with love and respect.

**Anticipates God's Strength.** God's strength is an essential part of the partnership. (*Deut. 8:18; James 1:17*)

As we enter partnership with God, we anticipate God's strength to enable us to succeed. As a partner with God, we are totally dependent on the ability He gives to produce and wealth. Regardless of our occupation, the ability to earn income is received from the Lord.

**(Sunday, November 19, 2023)**

**Accepts Responsibility.** Our partnership with God requires that we accept responsibility. (*Proverbs 28:19; 2 Thessalonians 3:10*)

These verses spell out our responsibility in our partnership with God. If we don't accept that responsibility, then we cannot expect God to fulfill His promise of provisions. Our part in the partnership is to work, and God's promise is to supply our needs. We must be careful not to think God is obligated to give us whatever we want. His promise is to provide for our needs. Partnership with God means that we have the responsibility to work and do the best we can. As we fulfill our obligation, God will certainly keep His word and provide for us. The vast majority of our resources come to us through our work. Although God is capable, He seldom meets our needs in a miraculous manner. More likely, He joins us in partnership.

**Avoids Poverty.** God provides great promises for us as His partners.  
(*Psalms 37:25*)

The partnership works!! God will not allow His people to go hungry. He will respond to our efforts and ensure that our needs are met.

In contrast, those who refuse to work can expect to live in poverty.  
(*Proverbs 20:4; 20:13*)

Laziness revokes the promise of God to provide our needs. Our society offers convincing evidence that those who do not work will live in poverty. These words are true!!