



# THE EXHORTER

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***“And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.” Acts 2:40***

The Palmer Road church of Christ, Westland, Mi. ([prchurchofchrist.org](http://prchurchofchrist.org))

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***Col. 3:23,24-“ and whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”***

These are encouraging words written by Paul to the Colossians, but they are equally encouraging to us! Many times we lose focus on why we are doing things in this life. We all have a busy schedule. We all have a daily grind. We work hard all day every day. And for what? Well, it might be for a nice house. It might be for a nice car. It might be because at the end of the day, you like to kick your feet up and feel like you've worked hard for whatever you have.

Many of us have the first part of this verse down! We work hard. We work heartily. We all should put our heart into everything we do. When we go to work, we need to give it our best. When we go to school, we need to give it our best. When we become a parent or spouse, we need to give it our best. Why? Because that is what Jesus expects of us. He expects us to not be lazy. He expects us to work hard and whatever we do, do it heartily. Put our hearts into it. So when we look back at our lives, we can say, “I did my best. I gave it my all.” I love the saying “if you don't work hard, losing doesn't hurt so much, and winning doesn't feel great.” If we've put everything we have into our work and our life, the rewards will be so much better.

But we are not working to please men. We are not working for the worldly possessions. We are working hard, because we will receive the reward of the inheritance. We will receive eternal life. I think many times we lose focus on what we are really working for. Many of us work 40 hours a week. Some of you work more than that. Some of you are in school, and that can be considered a full time job. We get used to working hard each and every day, and when we get that paycheck or that report card, we can't help but think it was all because of me. I earned this. And we look at our homes, cars, furniture, video games, families, etc. and we think that those are the reasons we work hard. We have to pay bills, we have to support a family. And we forget that the reason we work hard each and every day is because we are working towards an imperishable crown of righteousness.

We are to labor in Christ's vineyard. We are to labor night and day bringing lost souls to him. God puts us in our jobs not to gain worldly possessions, but because there might be some lost souls that need to be saved. God puts us in school because we can be an influence to other students around us. Paul reminds us that if we work hard and serve Christ, we will receive the reward of inheritance. We will be called to our eternal home.

I wonder how many of us will go to work today and think about what we can buy with our money. I wonder how many of us will tell ourselves that all these worldly possessions are worth the hard work. Our possessions on earth can only be kept for so long. We can't take them with us when we die. But instead, we need to be working for something greater. Something spiritual. Something eternal. Yes I know that we have to work hard to make money to pay bills. I know it's not a bad thing to have a nice car or a nice house. It's not a bad thing to support a family. But don't let our hard work go to waste. Don't let our focus be lost. We work hard for Jesus Christ. Whatever we do, we do it all in the name of Jesus Christ. Paul said in the book of Philippians that he pressed on towards the upward call! He worked hard. But his focus was always on Christ.

Work hard today. Don't give up. The eternal reward will be greater than anything money can ever buy!

Roger Shouse

Some additional thoughts:

**Monday-** 1 Cor. 15:58

**Tuesday-** 1 Cor. 3:8

**Wednesday-** Heb. 4:9-11

**Thursday-** Heb. 6:10,11

**Friday-** 1 Tim. 5:17-19

**Saturday-** Matt. 11:28