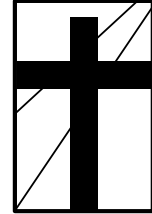


The Chaplain's Chapter



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"DUTY"

We're changing emphasis this month in a natural progression from "FOCUS" to "DUTY". My Mom used to say "Anything worth doing is worth doing right". Focus speaks to the doing right part, while duty has to do with doing. There are some other sayings like "You get out what you put in", or "Blessed is he who has found his work". "An idle brain is the devil's workshop".

The duties of life are many. Our conscience directs us as to duty or work. I believe that conscience is the Holy Spirit. To work is a duty, a privilege, a blessing. And for those of us who are doing the Lord's work, nothing could have a greater satisfaction. God smiles down on us when we obey His call to duty.

And this doesn't mean just church work, chaplaincy or those who are ordained. My first sermon at the first meeting of Phelan Bible Fellowship was "Everyone Has A Ministry". That, simply put, means that each person's life work is what puts them in good stead with the Lord, as long as we are diligent in it's performance. And the course of your life's work can change. You don't necessarily have to put in 20 years as a policeman and then 20 as a teacher. You can have different goals at different times in your life. God can guide you from one endeavor to another, if you are listening to Him and agreeable to His will. Five years ago I opened an insurance office. Two years ago, I started a church. I had already raised four adult children when, praise be to God, I had another. Follow the dictates of your own conscience. Walk in integrity with the Lord. Don't pay so much attention to what others say, as much as you pay attention to what He says.

I want to thank Tom and Robin Burns, in this forum, for answering what they perceived to be a call to duty in the United States Corps of Chaplains. They are starting a "Phelan Team" in the California Brigade. Neither one of them are clergy. But each of them is industrious. And they truly are among the few of whom Carlyle spoke when he said "Blessed is he who has found his work".

I hope you have found your work. I pray that you don't *try* to do it, but, in the words of the famous Nike commercials, you "*Just Do It*". And, as the Bible says in Galatians 6:9, "*And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not*".

Blessings,

Alex

"AID...HONOR...COMFORT"