

# The Diligent Worker

**James Bullington**





## 2 Timothy 2:3-7

- “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, *yet* is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. The husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits. Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.”
-



# Introduction

- Expectations
  - One is expected to endure.
  - One should expect to sacrifice.
- Focus
  - Distractions take us away from success.
  - Poor focus endangers more than self.
- Abide by the rules
  - The prize is awarded for legal competition.



# Introduction

- Secular Workers
    - Current Trends
    - Guidance from God's Word
  - Spiritual Workers
    - Expectations of All Christians
    - Specific Spiritual Vocations
  - Biblical Examples
-



# Secular Workers

- We all have an obligation to support ourselves.
    - 2 Thess. 3:10 “ For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”
  - Social safety nets are intended to be temporary solutions.
-



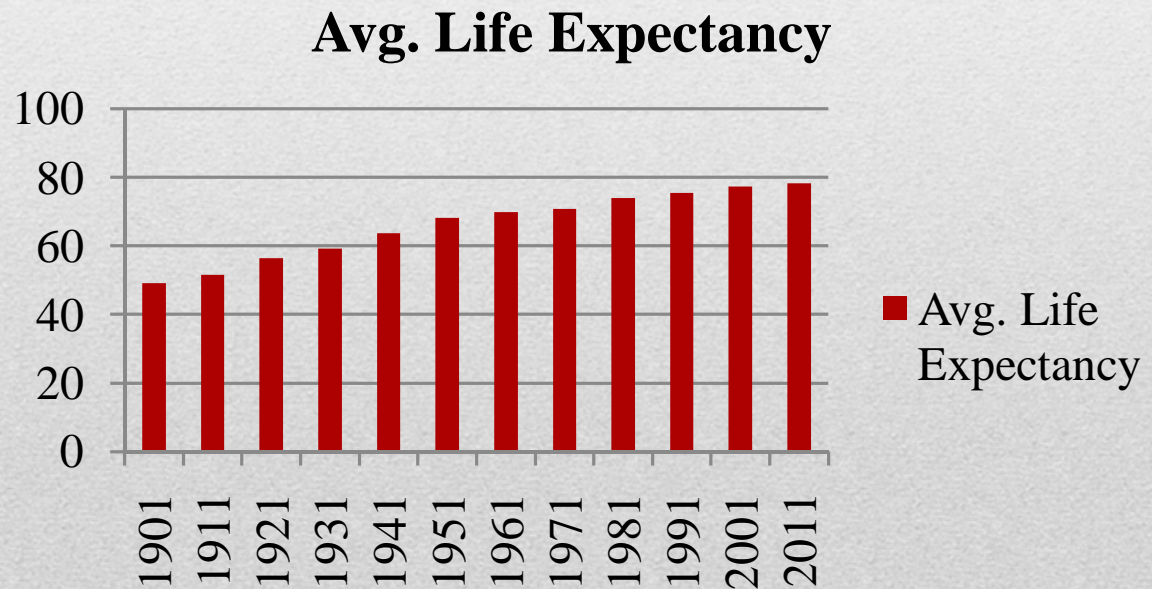
# Secular Workers

- Current Trends
    - High unemployment in ages 15-24
      - 40% of the youth in Spain
      - 25% of the youth in Great Britain
      - 1 in 5 of your age in the United States cannot find a job.
    - Our national unemployment rate is 9%.
      - At this level, young people must compete with more qualified applicants for every job.
-



# Secular Workers

- Current Trends (cont.)
  - The average life expectancy continues to increase.





# Secular Workers

- Current Trends (cont.)
    - The average life expectancy continues to increase.
      - People are generally healthier.
      - The cost of retiring early is increasing rapidly.
      - People are working longer.
      - Young people are competing against an abundance of experienced workers.
-





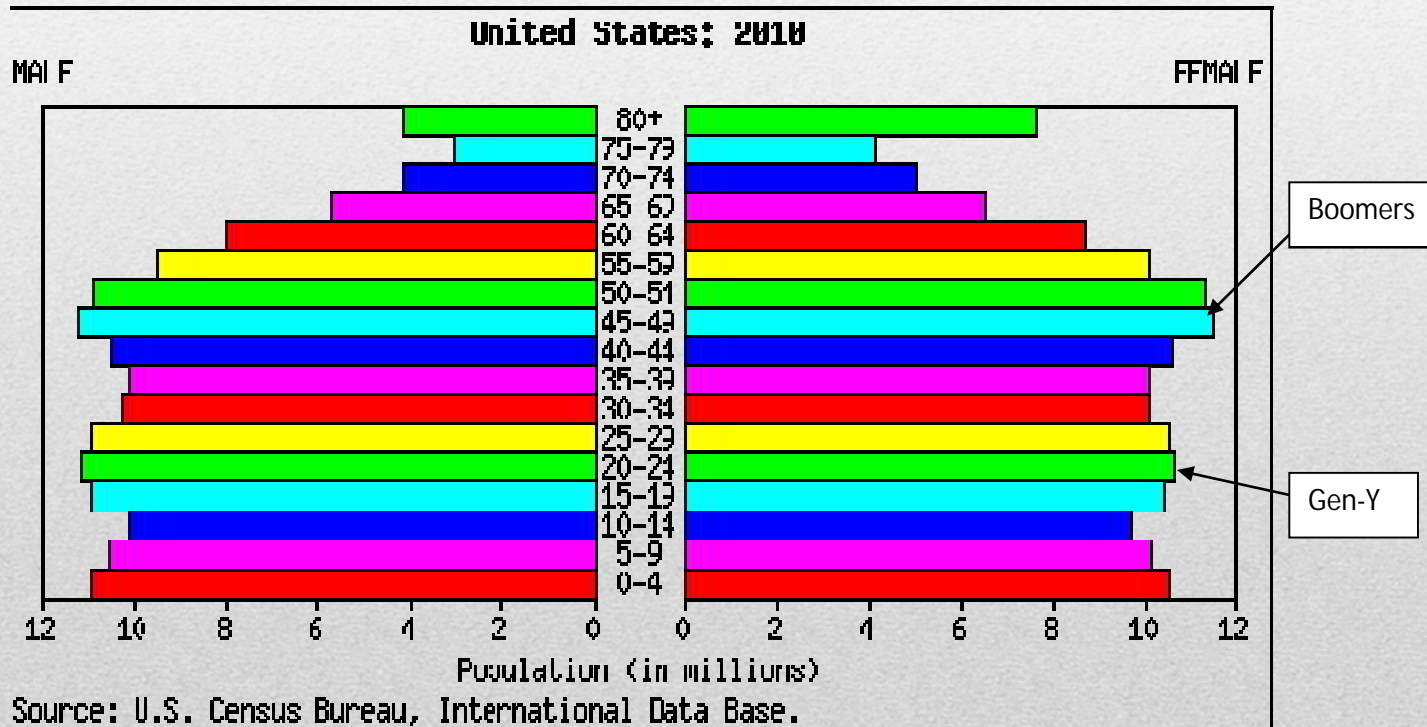
# Secular Workers

- Current Trends (cont.)
    - Baby Boomers' retirement
      - The single largest population demographic is just starting to determine whether they can retire or whether they must continue to work.
      - This is occurring at the same time Generation-Y is seeking employment.
      - The combination of all these trends is making it more difficult for the average youth seeking employment in the United States.
-



# Secular Workers

- Current Trends (cont.)





# Secular Workers

- Current Trends (cont.)
    - Echo or Generation-Y entering workforce
      - The workforce with an attitude
      - Technologically advanced
        - **Communications, media, digital tech.....**
      - “Trophy Kid” mentality
        - **I participated; therefore, I am to be rewarded.**
        - **Continued parental interference**
      - What is my employer going to do for me?
-



# Secular Workers

- Guidance from God's Word
    - Must not be slothful
      - Pr.18:9 "He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer."
      - Pr. 26:13-16 "...As the door turns upon its hinges, so does the lazy man on his bed. The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; it wearies him to bring it back to his mouth...."
-



# Secular Workers

- Guidance from God's Word
    - Must not be slothful
    - Must be active and timely
      - Pr. 10:4-5 "He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame."
-



# Secular Workers

- Guidance from God's Word
    - Must not be slothful
    - Must be active and timely
    - Must choose companions wisely
      - Pr. 12:11 "He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread, but he who follows frivolity [vain persons] is devoid of understanding."
-



# Secular Workers

- Guidance from God's Word
    - Must not be slothful
    - Must be active and timely
    - Must choose companions wisely
    - Must be honest
      - Eph. 4:8 "Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need."
-



# Secular Workers

- Guidance from God's Word
    - Must not be slothful
    - Must be active and timely
    - Must choose companions wisely
    - Must be honest
    - Must provide for his own
      - 2 Thess. 3:10 "... we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."
-





# Secular Workers

- Guidance from God's Word
    - Must not be slothful
    - Must be active and timely
    - Must choose companions wisely
    - Must be honest
    - Must provide for his own
    - Must do so with excellence
      - Ecc. 9:10 "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might..."
-



# Spiritual Workers

- Expectations of All Spiritual Workers
    - Become a Christian
      - Hear the word to generate faith – Rom. 5:17
      - Believe – Mark 16:16
      - Repent – Luke 13:3
      - Confess – Rom. 10:9-10
      - Be Baptized – Acts 2:38
-



# Spiritual Workers

- Expectations of All Spiritual Workers
    - Become a Christian
    - Grow as a Christian
      - Study – 2 Tim. 2:15
      - Be Confident – 2 Tim. 3:12-17
      - Exhort one another – Heb. 3:12-13
-



# Spiritual Workers

- Expectations of All Spiritual Workers
  - Become a Christian
  - Grow as a Christian
  - Remain a Christian
    - Focus on whatsoever is: – Phil. 4:8

• Honest

• Lovely

• Just

• Of Good Report

• Pure

• Virtuous and Praiseworthy

---



# Spiritual Workers

- Expectations of All Spiritual Workers
    - Become a Christian
    - Grow as a Christian
    - Remain a Christian
      - Focus – Phil. 4:8
      - Steadfast in the Work of the Lord
        - 1 Cor. 15:58
      - Faith – 2 Cor. 5:7
      - Work with Confidence – 1 Cor. 10:13
      - Be Prepared – 1 Pet. 3:15-16
-



# Spiritual Workers

- Specific Spiritual Vocations
    - Elders
    - Deacons
    - Evangelists
    - Teachers
-



# Spiritual Workers

- Specific Spiritual Vocations
    - Elders
      - Must have specific character traits
      - Must possess certain abilities
      - Must have a sound reputation
      - Must meet certain expectations of leaders
-



# Spiritual Workers

- Specific Spiritual Vocations
    - Elders
    - Deacons
      - Must serve the needs of the saints
-





# Spiritual Workers

- Specific Spiritual Vocations
    - Elders
    - Deacons
    - Evangelists
      - Must speak truthfully and consistently with the apostles' doctrine
      - Must speak fervently with passion for the truth
      - Must speak and reprove with authority
      - Must be ready always
-



# Spiritual Workers

- Specific Spiritual Vocations
    - Elders
    - Deacons
    - Evangelists
    - Teachers
      - Must take heed and continue in the doctrine of Christ – 1 Tim. 4:6
      - Spread God's word – 2 Tim. 2:2
-



# Examples Found in the Scriptures

- Noah – Gen. 10
  - Joseph – Gen. 39
  - Jeroboam – 1 Kings 11:28
  - Nehemiah
  - Paul – 1 Cor. 11:25ff
-



# Conclusion

The diligent worker is one that applies his talents with zeal to the best of his abilities. This is what we are taught through Scripture to do. This is what society should expect. This is definitely what God expects.

Have you taken a survey of your talents lately?

Are you using them?

---

