

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

THE TERMS AND BENEFITS OF SERVICE

"He who plants and he who waters are one and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labour" I Corinthians 3:8.

Every appointment has its terms and benefits of service. Every factory, no matter how small, has its conditions and rewards of service. A man working in an industry without the proper registration with the industry and the labour office can be denied his reward. Also, a man working in an office without an appointment letter stating his terms and benefits of service will not get paid at the end because from all indications his name is not on the staff list. He is just doing voluntary service, which attracts no remuneration, since there was no appointment binding them. For one to be recognised as a worker, he has to have been appointed. He will have a letter of appointment. Every calling of God is an appointment no matter the nature of your responsibility therefore; it has its conditions of service or guiding principles.

When God called Abraham, He told him, "Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: and I will make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing; and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curates thee: and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed"(Gen. 12:1-3).

This was Abraham's appointment letter. Every detail of his life was taken care of in it. His part was to depart and keep his faculties stayed on God so that God could show him where He wanted him to be. This was his service. His salary or reward was that he was to become a great nation. He was to receive an abundance of blessings to enable him bless others and his name was to become great; heard of in every nation of the world. That was not all. God's insurance department insured his life. The policy was that God blessed anyone who blessed him, and God cursed anyone who cursed him. He had a covering from all attacks.

He must have considered his letter and said, "Well, I think this is a good deal. It is good business; I will take up the offer." He had a choice after having considered the stated terms and benefits to either reject or accept the offer. He accepted it, played his part and got all the benefits.

The callings of God have always followed this same pattern. He gives you a direct call into Ministry or a task within a Ministry. It is an appointment. Understand the appointment nature of the task! Be conscious of this fact. Such an appointment is an enlistment into God's army and is entitled to whatever benefits go with your task. No soldier goes to war at his own charge. A superior officer must give him a charge. In ministry, there is only one who gives charge – God. He is the one who calls. Your calling is your task; when you do it you get your wages. God's terms of service are very distinctly stated in His word. They all have two parts. There is what to do and what to get after doing what you have been given to do.

"Who goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a Vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?" I Corinthians 9:7

"He who reaps receives wages" John 4:36

"You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain" I Corinthians. 9:9

"The labourer is worthy of his wages" Luke 10:7

God says, "Reap;" "tread out the corn;" "minister spiritual things;" "preach;" "labour." This is your part. The harvest is ripe; you can see multitudes of unsaved and unreached people looking for a way out of their misery. Go to them. Harvest them into the kingdom, not just your Sunday assignment in the Church. The corn is ready to be threshed. Thresh it that you might partake of it. Minister spiritual things to the people. Feed them spiritually. Do your job. Preach the gospel, labour in it and you will get your wages. All these, in essence, only mean that "whatever your calling or responsibilities, wherever you have been called to work, take it up as a task that must be done. Do it with all your heart, all your mind and all your might and your benefits will surely follow".

A soldier at war does not have to worry about whether his salary and entitlement are going to be paid or not. He knows they will be paid. He also knows that if he gets recognition through an outstanding performance, he will be greatly rewarded. So he goes about his task with one goal in mind – that of excelling. As a soldier of God, your reward is in doing the task in hand. Unlike the world, where the incompetent may get high wages, God's benefit system cannot be faulted. He rewards according to what has been done. He sees all. All things, including the thoughts and intents of the heart, are bare before Him. He knows exactly what your input is and rewards you using the same measure – "with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." Matthew 7:2.

He rewards according to your works. Your input determines your earnings. The benefits are for the soldier at war alone, not for those who don't engage in battles. You will agree with me that not every soldier fights. There are those who dodge for one reason or the other. There are those who just pretend to be doing something really serious while in actual fact, it is just camouflage. There are soldiers who show a lot of "face-fullness." When their boss is around, they are excellent, but as soon as he departs, they go back to their normal lazy ways. In God's army, there is no room for dodging. There is none for slothfulness or "face-fullness." He sees all. He knows all. Only those who are really at their tasks get the benefits. The wages are for the reapers or harvesters. The ox that will eat is the one that threshes out the corn. Many are called but few are chose. God is watching; He is counting; He is rewarding. You may fool human beings but you cannot fool Him.

What you receive depends on the spiritual impact you make. Spiritual impact is the key to material miracles. "Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel." I Corinthians 9:14. Minister spiritual things, not your own things. Get spiritual substance from the source, which is God, and dole it out to the people or take your practical responsibilities in the Ministry seriously.

Your business is to make yourself a spiritual tank of goodies to the people to whom you are sent serve. Get out on the field of your calling and labour, don't involve in political issues that are capable of bringing conflict into the church. Don't be a supervisor or an overseer. In God's system, the supervisor or overseer doesn't have any wages to earn just for their titles. It is only the labourer who earns wages. I got an understanding of this early in the ministry and it has delivered me from begging and borrowing. What I need, I always get when I go about the business my Father has put into my hands, even though, the ministry is yet to take serious what the Bible teaches about blessing the Ministers. What I don't get, I believe I don't need, so it doesn't bother me.

In ministry business, nobody puts you on any grade level. You are the one to determine your level of benefit. What you earn is not in God's hand, neither is it in the hands of the devil or your enemies. What you earn is determined by you! Determine your own reward grade level today with God. Labour in that assignment which He has given you, for the labourer is worthy of his wages.

As servants, we will be judged at the judgement seat of Christ - not for our sin, but for our service. Listen, "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10

You will be "audited!" Again Paul says, "Each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, or what sort it is." I Corinthians 3:13.

Live without reservation! Give yourself completely to Him today and, when that day comes, you'll have great joy as you stand in His presence.

Yours in the Master's business,

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