

Preparing for “Retirement”

Ponder: What are you working for?

Scripture: “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life . . .” (John 6:27a, NKJV).

Baby-boomers have lived long enough that about ten thousand per day are retiring. Depending on whose web site you read, many of them are either in serious trouble or catastrophic trouble. Reasons vary: company pensions are less common; the stock market has taken huge hits, devaluing 401-K’s; and the housing market cratered in 2008, leaving many in houses worth less than the mortgage against them. And, to be up front about it, many chose to live above their means rather than save for retirement.

But this devotional isn’t about finances or retiring from a job. The retirement issue simply illustrates another far more pressing matter most people choose to ignore: their spiritual condition (and thus their eternal destiny).

Isn’t it amazing that people will toil for decades to secure a comfortable retirement for the last twenty years or so of their lives, but give little or no attention to preparing for eternity? They want a competent, well-trained financial advisor, and they are willing to pay said advisor handsomely; but when it comes to matters of the spirit and eternity, a “do-it-yourself” mentality prevails. Those who actually seek some spiritual direction usually have no idea as to the competence of their counselor; one is as good as another, they suppose. Personal charm and charisma trump Bible knowledge and wisdom.

The time will come when it will be too late to prepare. Jesus’ parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) makes that abundantly clear. And one person cannot prepare on behalf of another. The foolish virgins who took no oil for their lamps simply lost their opportunity to participate in the wedding feast. Application: Those who are unprepared will miss Heaven!

Whether by our death or Jesus’ return, every one of us will permanently “retire” one day. To ignore that reality and fail to prepare would be the height of folly! There is a “food” that endures to everlasting life. Jesus said to work for it, not meaning that we boot-strap our way to Heaven, but that we learn and obey His word so we can access His grace. Is that what you’re working for?