

for Christ make the same confession, *diem perdidit* ! Is this not especially true of Christians who have time and talents for Christian work, and yet have never done anything for Christ?

Let us next consider the encouragement to those who labor in the Master's vineyard. Let us remember what was shown above, that we do not labor *to be saved*, that we do not work *to become sons of God*. We are saved by faith. Salvation is the gift of God. We labor then because it is the will of God, and because by so doing we prove by our works that our faith is a loving faith in the Son of God. But besides this fundamental reason for working for God there are other rewards and encouragements in working for God. Let us notice a few of those rewards promised to those who obey the Master's voice when he says, "Go work to-day in my vineyard."

(1) Working for Christ strengthens the Christian's own spiritual life. If a man be a true believer nothing will stimulate his Christian life better than engaging actively in work for Christ.

If a man's bodily health be weak, exercise properly taken, will prove a blessing. And so if a man be weak spiritually exercise in spiritual things will bring increased strength. The reader may have heard of the traveller who had lost his way in a snowstorm in the Alps, and who was beginning to despair of ever reaching a place of safety. Just as he was sinking in the snow, and giving himself up to that fatal torpor which overtakes those benumbed with cold, he discovered, almost at his feet, a man unconscious in the snow. At once he roused himself and endeavored to assist his fellow-traveller who was in a worse plight than himself. He forgot his own cold and sought to rescue the man now almost perished. By these means he brought back warmth to his own system, and succeeded in saving not only his own life, but also the life of the benighted traveller. It was good for him thus to work in saving another. And this is just as true of Christians who help to save those who are not Christians. By speaking and praying with and for the careless a believer's spiritual strength is increased, and in such work, he will succeed by the blessing of God in developing his own spirituality and in saving souls from death.

(2) Christ promises a present revenue to all who work for him. It is written : "He that reapeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto life eternal." The Lord bountifully rewards all his true servants.

Christians should serve the Lord for his own sake, and not for the sake of the rewards ; but while this is true, yet it is well to remember that God has promised these blessings, and that Christians should prize them, because they are not only valuable in themselves, but because they come from a bountiful heavenly Father. The present wages of the Christian worker is happiness and joy in serving God. So pleasant is the work that no man can engage in it in the true spirit without feeling blessed. And none who work go without