

Joyously Do The Work!

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **this morning, elders spoke to the congregation** - set goals and objectives for the year
 - **Now what?**
- **sermon:** Joyously Do The Work, Following The Leadership Of Our Shepherds!

➤ What do the elders do, in accomplishing the work outlined for 2007?

- **lead and oversee:** initiate the work, lead through the process of the work
 - **Acts 20:17, 28** elders, **oversee, shepherd**
 - - **1 Pet. 5:1-2** elders, **shepherd, exercise oversight** – rule by leading, example
 - **illus.: not as driving cattle but as a shepherd** - leading, as sheep
 - - **some of the work is managed by deacons**
 - **Acts 6:1-4** work overseen by appointed men (deacons, same Greek word for deacon used in text), so apostles have time for spiritual matters
 - **1 Tim. 3:12** (qualified, proven managers) Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households.
 - **illus.: what would you think if elders not show up for a workday, not sign up to clean the building, had a deacon lead a workday**
 - - **elders are also busy with other work, much we'll never see or know about — elders' time, stress, take care of problems, if everyone spent as much time, effect on family**
 - **1 Tim. 5:17** rule over the church
 - **Greek: *proistemi***, rule, to be over, to superintend, preside over to be a protector or guardian to give aid to care for, give attention to.
 - - **Acts 20:28-29** watch over the church, each individual Christian — **guard**
 - - **1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:9** teach exhort, spiritually feed, refute false teachers
- **prayer:** Richard Raybon, for elders, work, families

➤ What should our attitude and relationship be, with the elders – Jerry and Dennis?

- **1 Th. 5:12-13a** appreciate and esteem them – say thanks, look up to them with honor - words and actions
 - - **1 Th. 5:13b** live in peace with them and all brethren – do our best to get along with, cooperate with
 - - **Heb. 13:17** obey, submit – as they lead as shepherds, make their job as easy as possible
 - **Greek, *peitho***: to listen to, obey, yield to, comply with
 - **Greek, *hupeiko***: to resist no longer, but to give way, yield (of combatants) / metaph. to yield to authority and admonition, to submit
 - - **Heb. 13:7** imitate them – **method of learning**
 - - **Ja. 5:14-16** call on them for help – when in need, physically and spiritual – **our personal responsibility**
- **prayer:** Gary Steen, for us as members and our attitude and relationship with the elders

- **Attitude Toward The Work:** – **do it joyously** – there’s a right and wrong way to do it
 - **Jn. 15:11** (Jesus teaching vine and branches) **His joy in us** as His disciples
 - **illus.:** **Acts 13:52** (gospel spreading) “And the **disciples** were continually filled with **joy**. . . .”
 - **illus.:** **Rom. 14:17** (kingdom, joy) “for the **kingdom** of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and **joy**.”

- **- 1 Jn. 5:3 Christians joyously do the work** – even when persecuted
 - **love God, work not burdensome**
 - **illus.:** **Matt. 13:44** (parable of the hidden treasure) ““The **kingdom of heaven** is like a **treasure** hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and **from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has** and buys that field.””
 - **illus.:** **Lk. 6:23** (Jesus, Beatitudes, what to do when persecuted) ““**Be glad in that day and leap for joy**, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.””
 - **illus.:** **Lk. 10:17** (when the 70 returned from working in the kingdom) “The seventy **returned with joy**. . . .”
 - **illus.:** **Lk. 24:52** (apostles return to Jerusalem after watching Jesus ascend) “And they, after worshipping Him, **returned to Jerusalem with great joy**. . . .” – **apparently more joy than when left**

- **Questions for your heart:**
 - **What is your attitude when doing the work? - thinking about doing the work? - preparing to do the work?**

- **- What are some things you can do, personal, on your own – starting this week?**
 - **note:** elders chosen not to have work groups and assignments - reason: so people do the work voluntarily and so the things done for others not people told to (**illus.:** **Phil’m. 1:14**) — **teach us to think for ourselves**

 - **note:** much of the time, we just have to work smart to do the work
 - **illus.:** **working smart** by calling an elderly brother while sitting at the doctor’s office doing nothings
 - **illus.:** **rf. - Matt. 25** stewardship, working smart - virgins prepared for whatever happened, one talent man not work smart (lazy, not resourceful)

 - **tips:**
 - **call the sick, elderly, anyone to encourage them:** when have a spare minute (commercials, in line, etc.) – **give example, time to call, what to talk about**
 - **visit the sick and elderly:** when out running other errands, don’t have to make a special trip - **example how to call, what to say, go over, what to do and talk about**
 - **take a dish to someone:** make extra when you cook dinner, take it later - freeze for later
 - **look for something that needs to be done at the building:** volunteer to do it
 - **ask, “What can I do?”** the elders and deacons will be glad to help you find something that needs to be done
 - **take the initiative to do what needs to be done**

- **- note:** the more you stay busy working in the kingdom, the better you’ll feel (joy)
 - **illus.:** Jesus, more blessed to give than receive – joy if you are a giver – **illus.:** home after a bad day at work, gives purpose to life
 - **1 Cor. 15:58** **key to staying positive, joyous**, stay in your priorities - be busy doing the work

- **prayer:** Gary Palmer, for all of us as a congregation, our work together in the kingdom

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- the elders have set the goals and begun to lead in 2007, let's all be sure we're following their example and leadership
- **joyously serving the Lord, a message to the world – inv. – joyously do the work**