



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – March 24, 2024

To Know Christ...

2 Peter 1:5 “⁵ Now for this very reason also, **applying all diligence**, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge...”

Hebrews 6:11-12 “¹¹ And we desire that each one of you **demonstrate the same diligence** so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and endurance inherit the promises.”

Romans 12:8 “...the one who is in leadership, **with diligence**,”

Can you remember the last time you were genuinely eager for something to happen? You could hardly wait for that day or hour to come! This Greek idea translates to the English word “diligence”. This type of diligence carries the idea of being zealous for something and being earnest about it, sometimes even for it to be accomplished quickly in haste. Paul commands leaders to lead with diligence. When spiritual leaders have no zeal nor earnestness, the body of Christ suffers. There can even be times when congregations of the Lord’s body are held hostage because of the leadership’s tardiness in moving forward in wisdom. Where is the diligence?

Does every saint continually apply all diligence? Take the time to examine yourself. The apostle Peter says, if we want to escape “the corruption that is in the world by lust,” it will require a continual application of all diligence in putting on the divine nature of God. [2 Peter 1:4-11] God’s character (nature) has no corruption instilled by the world’s desires, but do you? Are you eager to be Christ-like? The Hebrew writers reveal the contrast of diligence, it’s being sluggish! How do you respond while being physically sluggish? Do you reach beyond what is comfortable and easy? It is even worse when it is on the spiritual side, we die rather than grow. Applying all diligence will allow us to inherit His promises and discover the full assurance of hope. (Hopelessness is the mindset of the sluggish.) Examining your eagerness for the Divine Nature of God, are you diligent or sluggish? Eager or slack? Your answer reveals your relationship of inheriting the promises of God. Choose wisely, your soul depends on it. Eagerly apply all diligence, and it is not worth delaying!

- Carey Terry