

CHAPTER 7: Work and Religion

My DEAR COMRADES,

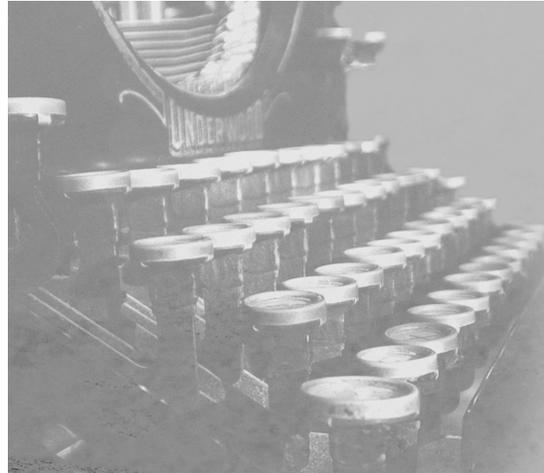
In my last Letter, you will remember that I was trying to show that it was the duty of all good men, and women to do their Work, not only with the view of giving satisfaction to themselves and to their earthly employers, but, also, to their Master in heaven. Is not this the distinct command of our Lord, given through the Apostle Paul to the Salvationists at Ephesus, the most of whom would probably be slaves? They were to do their Work, "Not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free."

Now, that passage contains the Divine Orders and Regulations for these Ephesian Soldiers, with regard to their daily Work; and if it means anything at all, it signifies that, whether bond or free, treated well, or treated badly, we are to do our Work to please God; and that if we do so, He will sooner or later declare His approbation of it, and see that we are properly remunerated.

Now, in pursuing this theme, allow me to remind you again, that I am talking of the labour of Every Day life, and that I am bringing all honest, honourable Work on to the same platform. If our Work is of God's appointment, then it is all equally religions, all equally a part of God's life for us.

I do not say that all Work is equally important to the world; that planting potatoes, weaving calico, or chopping wood is likely to have the same bearing on the well-being of mankind, as the guiding of an Empire, or the conducting of a Salvation Army Campaign. But I do say, if you have found your own proper Work, whether it appears in the eyes of men to be great or small, it is of equal importance that you should do it in the best possible manner.

Suppose that two of your Comrades – a brother and a sister – were removed to



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Heaven, and that on arriving there they found the place, to their no little surprise, strongly resembling the world they had just left. Suppose, further, that the Saviour were to come to the brother, and say to him: "I want you to build a cottage for one of My servants to live in; you must make it strong and sound in every particular, and do it as quickly as you reasonably can."

Then, suppose that He turned to the sister, and said: "I have just taken this child out of its mother's arms on earth. I want you to rear it for Me. You must nurse it, and clothe it, and train it, so that it may be capable of serving Me, as I may require."

And then, addressing them both, suppose He were to add: "I shall look in upon you every day to see how you are getting along, and shall reward you according to your diligence and devotion."

Now, would not that brother and sister be likely to feel highly honoured by the task imposed upon them by their Lord? and would they not, at once, set themselves to its discharge with all the earnestness they could command? And though they might not consider their Work to be as important as much of the Work going on around them in the Celestial Country, I am sure that they would regard it as being quite as important that they should build that house and rear that child to the best of their ability, as it was for the Archangels to exert all their power in doing the Work they had to do for the Master right up before His Throne.

Now, God has no less appointed you your Work in this world than He has in the next; and I contend that you ought to be just as anxious to do that Work to please Him here as you will be to do the Work appointed you there. You pray, day by day, "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven," and it is a blessed desire. Why not strive with all your might to fulfill it? God will help you.