

## Serving God by Adam Woeger

God tests those who desire to follow and serve Him. He is examining, to see if they want an eternal, genuine relationship with both Him, and with His Son, Jesus Christ. Many people will seemingly walk the walk, and talk the talk, for a season, but the key is, whether they will continue to do so, when no one is watching them.

“I the LORD **search the heart**, I try the reins, even to give every man according to **his ways**, and according to **the fruit of his doings**.” Jeremiah 17:10. God desires **disciples** of Jesus Christ, who will trust and rely on Him, and **who will endure** the race set before them, and learn to **truly be overcomers**, no matter what they will face in this life. God has given us a foretaste of **His Kingdom** now, by dwelling inside us. Will we take advantage of the many opportunities and blessings that He has already provided for us to experience today?

Will God find you to be a faithful or wicked steward? “**Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful**.” 1 Corinthians 4:2. We are not to judge others, but to focus on the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus that is set before us. Strive to know, and be like, Jesus Christ. “**I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus**.” Philippians 3:14. Be focused continually on Jesus and do not allow anything or anyone to confuse, distract, and deceive you to lose that **focus on Christ**. “...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with **patience** the race that is set before us, **Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of *our* faith...” Hebrews 12:1-2. Remain faithful.

Many today are preaching a **prosperity** Gospel message, where the main focus seems to be **on being blessed** with many material possessions. But I believe God would rather have us **be satisfied**, looking unto Him at all times for our provision. God has provided for all that we will need, **if we will seek** Christ. *See* Matthew 6:33. “**But godliness with contentment is great gain**. For we brought nothing into *this* world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And **having food and raiment let us be therewith content**. But they that will **be rich** fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For **the love of money** is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and **pierced themselves through** with many sorrows. **But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness**.” 1 Timothy 6:6-11. **Be content**.

**There is a blessedness in living simply**. God delights in **supplying all your needs**, but does not promise to supply all your wants. When you live modestly, and dress modestly, you bring Him glory. Stop trying to lay up treasures here on earth, and instead lay up treasures in Heaven, **by working** to advance God’s Kingdom.

**God will reward those whose hearts are right before Him**. If you are **not** “in it for the reward,” but rather are serving Him **out of your love for God, great will be your reward!** The hirelings and the false followers will be weeded out. Those who will endure will be those who truly do love Him, without selfish motivations.

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly**. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an **hireling**, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. **The hireling fleeth**, because he is an hireling, and **careth not for the sheep**. I am the good shepherd, and **know my sheep, and am known of mine**.” John 10:10-14. “**Blessed is the man that endureth temptation**: for when he is tried, he shall receive **the crown of life**, which the Lord hath **promised to them that love him**.” James 1:12.