

**“You’re Not Doing
Anything”**

A Serious Accusation

- A church's faithfulness is judged by its works ("I know your works") – Rev. 2-3
- An individual's faithfulness is judged by his/her works – Rom. 2:5-9
- We would be wise to listen to the Lord's exhortation to be busy in His work – 1 Cor. 15:58; Col. 1:9-10
- We must be busy working for the Lord!



The Lord will judge us by His

AUTHORIZED WORKS

Doing the *Lord's* Work

- It isn't enough to be doing "something"; we must be doing the *Lord's* work – Matt. 7:21-23
- We need to know the works God has *authorized* and be *doing* those works.
 - Doing what the scriptures equip us to do – 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Col. 3:17
 - Evangelizing – Acts 8:4; 1 Thess. 1:8; Phil. 4:15-16
 - Edifying – 1 Cor. 14:26; Heb. 10:24-25; Gal. 6:1
 - Helping needy saints and as individuals helping others – Acts 4:34-35; Jas. 1:27



WHY THE ACCUSATION?

Assumption:

You Are Not Growing

- Churches doing the Lord's work in the Lord's way do grow numerically.
- Numerical growth is not a legitimate goal.
- We must seek spiritual growth and faithful service – 2 Pet. 3:17-18; 2 Cor. 5:9-10
 - If faithful service increases numbers, great!
 - If faithfully doing the will of God does not, so be it.

We Need to Grow the *Universal Church*

- God adds the *saved* to His church (Acts 2:47), and He *knows who are His* (2 Tim. 2:19).
- We cannot...
 - Water down the gospel – Acts 17:30-31
 - *Lure* people to Christ through food, fun, and entertainment – Jn. 6:44-45
 - Save a soul without full confidence in and proclamation of the gospel – Rom. 1:16

Assumption:

You are not Saving Many People

- If we do the work, God gives the increase – 1 Cor. 3:6
- The number of those who accept the truth does not determine the success of those doing the teaching!
 - By such standards Noah would be a failure... but not before God – Heb. 11:7; 2 Pet. 2:5
 - Many today would question his approach; but only repentance and entering the ark saved!

Assumption:

You have so few Programs

- Many judge the vitality of a congregation by its *programs*.
 - **Programs** mean weight loss, job training, financial counseling, sports, recreation, etc.!
 - These may be numerically successful, but are they **scriptural**?
- What programs did the 1st century church have that we do not? – 1 Cor. 4:6; 2:11-12
- If N.T. churches didn't create programs to give the world what it wanted, why should we? – 1 Cor. 1:22-25