

CHRISTIANITY: NOT HIRING PART-TIME

The church is full on Sunday mornings, especially Easter and New Year's. Everyone crowds into the auditorium to perform their religious duty and to make themselves feel better for a short time. When Sunday night comes around, the crowd is less, and by Wednesday night, it has diminished drastically. People are "Christians" on Sundays, Wednesdays, and the occasional church camp, but are not practicing on Mondays through Fridays. There is no possible way that we can influence others for Christ until we get REAL ourselves. We can't continue in our roller coaster spiritual life and we must quit playing games with God. It's time that we focus on Christ and what He wants accomplished through our lives. Being a part-time Christian has many disadvantages and we must become more aware of these and start living full-time for Christ.

Mark 8:34-38

Jesus begins to tell the people what the cost of being a disciple will be. He opens the opportunity to become full-time Christians to everyone, as He says that "**whosoever** desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Anyone who wants to be a full-time Christian has the opportunity and the job opening to be one.

LIMITED BENEFITS

As a part-time worker, little or no benefits are provided. For instance, a part-time employee may be able to participate in a 401k, but does not receive health insurance. As a part-time Christian, we will receive our "Fire Insurance," but will miss out on many more blessings we could experience on this earth and in heaven. As John 10:28 states, once we are saved, no one can snatch us from His hand, but if we do not live full-time for Christ, then we are not getting to experience the full potential that we could achieve. Living only part-time for Christ keeps us from receiving numerous rewards and blessings on earth, as well as not experiencing the fullness of God.

ODD HOURS AND OFF TIME

If we do not live full-time for Christ, then we do not grow as comfortable with our "job." We cannot grow as Christians to our full capabilities if we do not get into the Word on a daily basis and continually grow in our Christian faith. We will not feel as comfortable sharing our faith with others if we do not live out our own faith daily. Not only does working odd hours and having many hours of off time during the week keep us uncomfortable with our faith, but it also weakens our relationship with our co-workers. As a part-time Christian, our relationship with other believers will be strained. If we do not make it a constant commitment to get into the house of God every time the doors are open, we lose some of the close fellowship that we have with other believers. Believers need to join together in order to stand strong for Christ and in order to do that, we must try to fellowship and spend quality time with other Christians as much as possible.

DOESN'T PAY AS WELL

If a person has a part-time job, usually the pay is not as high compared to a full-time employee. A manager often does not place a really high value on his or her part-time employees and therefore does not pay the part-time employees as much. Without our daily commitment to Bible study, prayer, and fellowship with other believers, we do not receive as many blessings through our Christian faith. God cannot possibly continue to pour blessings onto our lives without our commitment to Him.

LESS KNOWN, LESS TRAINED, LESS KNOWLEDGABLE

While working part-time, some customers may not even know that we work at a particular place of business. If the customers come into the business only on days that we do not work, then they may not even realize who we are or that we work there. If some people only see us when we are not living our Christian life, then they may not even realize that we are Christians or even worse, they may know that we are Christians and not want what we have because we are no different than they are. This could really hurt our testimony towards the world. As part-time, we are also less knowledgeable and less trained concerning the products and the procedures. If we are not in the Word, then we will not know how to help others through tough situations or even get through hard times of our own.

TO BE FULL TIME

1. We must deny ourselves daily.
2. We must take up His cross daily.

To deny means to give up our own selfish gratifications in order to live for Christ and discover our true self and God's interests. We have to basically die to ourselves and to our own desire and live for Christ daily. Next, we must daily take up His cross and follow Him. Being a full-time Christian will not always be easy, but it will always be worth it. Once we have decided to follow Christ, we must not turn back and we must follow despite the consequences we may encounter. There are actually two decisions that we must make in order to become a full-time Christian. First, we must make a once-for-all decision of accepting Christ as our Lord and Savior. This decision no longer has a cost, as we are saved and can never be taken from Him. The second decision is a moment-by-moment decision where we must constantly make a true effort to live for Christ. In order for us to make a true and real difference for Christ, we must live our lives as full-time Christians. If we want the job, it's available and waiting for us.

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