

A Biblically Shaped Life: Like a Hard-Working Farmer

2 Timothy 2:6-7

⁶ *It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.*

Context: Every Christian's call to discipleship and disciple making (2 Tim. 2:1-6)

The focused _____ of a good soldier ...

The faithful _____ of a winning athlete ...

The persevering _____ of a hard-working farmer ...

"Beyond warfare is victory, beyond the athlete's effort is the prize, and beyond agricultural labor is the crop." (C.K. Barrett)

Four implications of the metaphor of a "hard-working farmer":

1) There is no room for _____ in the Christian life. _____ is the expected normal.

⁴ *The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing. (Proverbs 20:4)*

2) Not all the Christian life is _____ or _____. Much of it is _____ and _____.

²⁶ *The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. (Mark 4:26-27)*

3) Many of your most important moments will happen when you are _____ and/or _____.

... your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:4)

4) Those who work hard will be first in line for the _____ – and it will be _____.

⁷ *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:7-9)*

A farmer's greatest threat is _____.

A farmer's best defense is _____.

A farmer's highest aim is to _____.

Conclusion ... Thinking It Over

⁷ *Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.*

As a "soldier" in God's army, am I willing to _____ and _____ so that I may please Jesus?

As an "athlete" contending for a great prize, will I devote myself to _____ so that I may _____?

As a "farmer" preparing for an eternal harvest, will I consistently _____ for a result I won't receive until _____?