

Producing for Eternity

In one of my treasured *Restoration Reprints*, Jesse R Kellems, a minister for churches of Christ (according to the title page) made a profound yet obvious statement based upon his years of studying the Bible.

“Man is larger than the earth. His mind is so vast in its possibilities that it might know all that earth has for him, if it had but the time. The more a man studies the better prepared he is for learning. The worm and the ox are satisfied with their lot. Man is the only being of earth which is never satisfied. He reaches out to vaster worlds. He must have an immortality to reach his fullest and best. And how incomplete is this world.”

And, then, he quoted Victor Hugo: “The tomb is not a blind alley, it is a thoroughfare.”

There is a sense in which Jesus understood and lived this principle as an example that we should follow. In an incident with a blind man, recognizing it as yet one more opportunity to reflect the glory of God the Father, Jesus stated: “*I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work*” (John 9:4). There was no time for Jesus to rest on His laurels, no time for idleness. The possibilities of the moment could not be passed by unattended.

And, with such an attitude that rendered so great an example for His disciples, He became (on frequent occasions) so exhausted that He could sleep through a life-threatening storm (Matthew 8:23-27). Such industry! Such intensity in the moment! Never an anemic event but that the Son of God was not intent on supplying its need.

Of course, the practical application is: how nearly do we approach the Savior’s example? It is that seed of immortality that intrinsically presses the sentient soul with obligation and urgency. We are engineered by our Creator to observe and produce, discontented with sloth, mediocrity or chaos. We are an ordered, perfection-seeking body of discovery when filling our natural role. It is only through habitual neglect that the worst of humanity masters the waste of a human soul.

As we traverse these temporary trails through the forests and jungles of life, understand that our eternality will not allow us a life of idleness unless we train, in the worst way, for failure.