

Acts 18:3

So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.

True story from many years ago.

At a job where I worked in California, after you have been there for ten years, they would give you a bonus of \$1,000. Well, when I reached my ten years I was planning on how I would spend that money. It came down to one of two things, a laptop computer, or a new keyboard (musical). I finally decided that the keyboard was the way to go, as I would use it to worship the Lord. Then it happened, car problems came along with other bills that came up, so I needed to use that money for bills instead of the enjoyment I thought I would.

I was pretty upset, after all, I had worked there for ten years, and after ten years of labor, I wanted something to show for what the last ten years of working had represented. When I discovered I had to use it for bills, all I could think was that the last ten years only represented that I worked to pay bills.

But then as I was driving to work a few days later, the Lord placed upon my heart that, yes, I do work to pay bills, and feed my family and take care of them, after all that's the purpose of work. It's not meant to be an enjoyment or pleasure in life; it's something we all have to do.

✠ **2 Thessalonians 3:10** *For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.*

The Lord showed me that my joy does not come from working or even being at the same job for ten years (or even the 18 years I had spent there), but rather my joy comes from the Lord and what He has done in my life, and that He will always provide. If He thought that it was time for a new keyboard, He would have supplied it. If not, then I didn't need it and the Lord would give me joy some other way.

Sure, I could have bought the keyboard and had our bills stacked up. Where would the joy be in that? But the Lord supplied what I needed, that's when I enjoyed what HE had given me. That's also when you will enjoy what HE had given you as well!

I share this with you because the Lord taught me this many years ago, and in turn I pray it will teach you as well. We all have to work, and God supplies our jobs so we as men and women can take care of our families, and when we try to gain apart from Him it means nothing.

Also, over the years, the Lord has provided for me with not just one, but five keyboards to create worship music for Him. But it all came in His timing, not mine; Therefore He receives all the glory for it, not me.

† **Ecclesiastes 5:18 (NLT2)** *Even so, I have noticed one thing, at least, that is good. It is good for people to eat, drink, and enjoy their work under the sun during the short life God has given them, and to accept their lot in life.*