

## I WENT TO WORK AT THE WRONG PLACE

By Dale DuVerney

Imagine for a moment that you are a mechanic for the local Ford dealer here in town. Let's suppose that today you went to work to fix cars, labored all day long, only to realize that you had been laboring at the Chevy dealer by mistake. Oops, the wrong place of employment. Do you believe that you would be entitled to a paycheck from the Ford dealer for your labor at the Chevy dealer? I realize it is but a crude illustration of an important spiritual principle, but it does illustrate an important truth - we all realize that we do not have expectations of a paycheck from an employer for whom we have not labored.

Jesus' own apostle, Paul, wrote to the Corinthian church: *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 15:58). The life of the Christian is a work, a labor of love (cf. Ephesians 2:11; Titus 2:11-14; John 14:15). Can you imagine the tragedy of reaching the judgment seat of Christ only to find that you have been laboring for the wrong person all along? Jesus said that such is indeed possible. Notice: *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"* (Matthew 7:21-23).

There are multiplied millions today who believe that they are laboring in the "name of the Lord" only to actually be laboring under another. That name may be called Baptist, or Lutheran, or Catholic, but it is not Christ. The apostle Paul wrote: *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him"* (Colossians 3:17). Yet, how many today do what they do in the name of another?

The beloved apostle Peter once told his countrymen: *"...let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. .. Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."* (Acts 4:10-12). If salvation is found only in the name of Christ, why would anyone want to be called by any other name? The first century disciples were called Christians (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16), I believe in fulfillment of prophecy (Isaiah 62:1-2). Yet, when asked about their faith, often one will say: "I am a Baptist," or "I am a Catholic" or some other religious denominational title. I even had a man tell me one time, "I am not a Christian, I am a Catholic." I had to be sure I was understanding him correctly, so I asked him again and he said: "No, I am not a Christian, I am a Catholic!" I was surprised by his honesty. I doubt that many have ever investigated their religious names Biblically. How many times were the disciples of Christ called Baptists, Lutherans, Catholics, Methodists, or a host of other religious titles? Can you think of a single instance? Can we even read of those names in the Bible? Oh, I realize that we read of John the Baptist. If it was a title, John was the only Baptist we ever read about. The name Baptist, as used of John, is actually a designation, for he baptized others. Just as a florist works with flowers, or a pharmacist works in a pharmacy, so John baptized. Do we not read, however, that religious division by names is condemned? The apostle wrote: *"Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, 'I am of Paul,' or 'I am of Apollos,' or 'I am of Cephas,' or 'I am of Christ.'" Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name"* (1 Cor. 1:10-15).

Did you go to work for the Lord in the wrong place? For one to be in the Lord's employ, he must be baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins past, to be added by the Lord to His church (Acts 2:38, 41, 47: cf. Matthew 28:18-20). When Jesus comes again He will be coming to deliver the church up to God (1 Corinthians 15:24; Matthew 16:13-19). At the same time, every plant (religious institution) that God has not planted will be rooted up (Matthew 15:13). Dear friends, God is glorified only in His church (Ephesians 3:21; Romans 16:16). Christ is the Savior of His one body, which is the church (cf. Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:16; 3:8-11; 4:1-6; 5:23). Are you in His church today?