

“A Labor of Love”
Exodus Chapter 36

The LORD has given to Moses the most explicit and detailed instructions for the construction of the Tabernacle. Moses calls the gifted artisans, led by Bezalel and Aholiab, to begin the work. Notice that it is the LORD who has put wisdom into their hearts (verse 2). What a beautiful picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:3). It is God who has stirred their hearts to embark on this labor of love. Do you want to have your heart stirred for God’s work? Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly (Col. 3:16). Whether in word or deed, do *all* in the name of the Lord Jesus (Col. 3:17). Whatever you do, do it heartily as to the Lord, and not to men (Col. 3:23). A heart filled with the Holy Spirit is a heart stirred by God (Eph. 5:18-33; Col. 3:12-25). The artisans obeyed the command to begin the work and we are to obey the command to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

The Scriptures speak much of work and labor. We are to labor with our hands so that we have something to give to the needy (Eph. 4:28). Our labor of love is to minister to the saints (Heb. 6:10). We are to labor in the Gospel (Phil. 4:3). We are to labor in the Word (1Tim. 5:17). Those who don’t work are not to eat (2Thess. 3:10-12). Proverbs addresses the slothful, sluggards, and those who slumber (6:6, 10, 10:26, 19:15, 24, 26:14-15).

The children of Israel were so stirred that Moses has to command them to stop bringing anymore offerings (verse 6). God is a giving God. He gave His very best, His own Son (John 3:16; Rom. 6:23). The giving God has given His children a new heart (Ezek. 36:26; 2Cor. 5:17). It is a heart that should be full of generosity (Prov. 21:25-26). Paul complimented the Philippian church for the aid they sent for his necessities (Phil. 4:15-18). God will supply all our needs according to *His riches* (Phil. 4:19).

The work proceeds on the Tabernacle which is a picture of God manifest in the flesh through Christ (1Tim. 3:16). The materials of gold and the linen of blue, purple and scarlet denote royalty. Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (1Tim. 1:17; Rev. 19:16). Silver is also used extensively. Silver denotes redemption in both the Old (Gen. 37:28, 44:2) and New Testaments (Matt. 26:15). The work of the Tabernacle is now the focus for Israel as the Kingdom work should be for us (1Thess. 2:12).

