Joyously Do The Work!

- Intro:
  - this morning, elders spoke to the congregation - set goals and objectives for the year
    - Now what?
  - sermon: Joyously Do The Work, Following The Leadership Of Our Shepherds!

- What do the elders do, in accomplishing the work outlined for 2007?
  - lead and oversee: initiate the work, lead through the process of the work
    - Acts 20:17, 28 elders, oversee, shepherd
  - 1 Pet. 5:1-2 elders, shepherd, exercise oversight – rule by leading, example
    - illus.: not as driving cattle but as a shepherd - leading, as sheep

- some of the work is managed by deacons
  - Acts 6:1-4 work overseen by appointed men (deacons, same Greek word for deacon used in text), so apostles have time for spiritual matters
    - 1 Tim. 3:12 (qualified, proven managers) Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households.
    - illus.: what would you think if elders not show up for a workday, not sign up to clean the building, had a deacon lead a workday

- elders are also busy with other work, much we’ll never see of know about — elders’ time, stress, take care of problems, if everyone spent as much time, effect on family
  - 1 Tim. 5:17 rule over the church
    - Greek: proistemi, rule, to be over, to superintend, preside over to be a protector or guardian to give aid to care for, give attention to.
  - Acts 20:28-29 watch over the church, each individual Christian — guard
  - 1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:9 teach exhort, spiritually feed, refute false teachers

  - prayer: Richard Raybon, for elders, work, families

- What should our attitude and relationship be, with the elders – Jerry and Dennis?
  - 1 Th. 5:12-13a appreciate and esteem them – say thanks, look up to them with honor - words and actions
  - 1 Th. 5:13b live in peace with them and all brethren – do our best to get along with, cooperate with
  - Heb. 13:17 obey, submit – as they lead as shepherds, make their job as easy as possible
    - Greek, peitho: to listen to, obey, yield to, comply with
    - Greek, hupeiko: to resist no longer, but to give way, yield (of combatants) / metaph. to yield to authority and admonition, to submit
  - Heb. 13:7 imitate them – method of learning
  - Ja. 5:14-16 call on them for help – when in need, physically and spiritual – our personal responsibility

  - prayer: Gary Steen, for us as members and our attitude and relationship with the elders
Attitude Toward The Work: – do it joyously – there’s a right and wrong way to do it

- **Jn. 15:11** (Jesus teaching vine and branches) **His joy in us** as His disciples
  - **illus.: Acts 13:52** (gospel spreading) “And the disciples were continually filled with joy . . . .”
  - **illus.: Rom. 14:17** (kingdom, joy) “for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy.”

- **- 1 Jn. 5:3** **Christians joyously do the work** – even when persecuted
  - love God, work not burdensome
    - **illus.: Matt. 13:44** (parable of the hidden treasure) “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”
    - **illus.: Lk. 6:23** (Jesus, Beatitudes, what to do when persecuted) “Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.”
    - **illus.: Lk. 10:17** (when the 70 returned from working in the kingdom) “The seventy returned with joy . . . .”
    - **illus.: Lk. 24:52** (apostles return to Jerusalem after watching Jesus ascend) “And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy . . . .” – apparently more joy than when left

- Questions for your heart:
  - What is your attitude when doing the work? - thinking about doing the work? - preparing to do the work?

- What are some things you can do, personal, on your own – starting this week?
  - **note:** elders chosen not to have work groups and assignments - reason: so people do the work voluntarily and so the things done for others not people told to (**illus.: Phil’m. 1:14**) — teach us to think for ourselves

  - **note:** much of the time, we just have to work smart to do the work
    - **illus.: working smart** by calling an elderly brother while sitting at the doctor’s office doing nothings
    - **illus.: rf. - Matt. 25** stewardship, working smart - virgins prepared for whatever happened, one talent man not work smart (lazy, not resourceful)

  - **tips:**
    - **call the sick, elderly, anyone to encourage them:** when have a spare minute (commercials, in line, etc.) – give example, time to call, what to talk about
    - **visit the sick and elderly:** when out running other errands, don’t have to make a special trip - example how to call, what to say, go over, what to do and talk about
    - **take a dish to someone:** make extra when you cook dinner, take it later - freeze for later
    - **look for something that needs to be done at the building:** volunteer to do it
    - **ask, “What can I do?”** the elders and deacons will be glad to help you find something that needs to be done
    - **take the initiative to do what needs to be done**

- **note:** the more you stay busy working in the kingdom, the better you’ll feel (joy)
  - **illus.:** Jesus, more blessed to give than receive – joy if you are a giver – **illus.:** home after a bad day at work, gives purpose to life
  - **1 Cor. 15:58** **key to staying positive, joyous**, stay in your priorities - be busy doing the work

- **prayer:** Gary Palmer, for all of us as a congregation, our work together in the kingdom
Summary / Inv.
- the elders have set the goals and begun to lead in 2007, let’s all be sure we’re following their example and leadership
  – joyously serving the Lord, a message to the world – inv. – joyously do the work