

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

MAY 23, 2022

The German philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724 – 1804) left many writings, but the central ethic of his writings was organized around the principle that one should always respect the humanity in others. He believed that there were three important things that should be included in the lives of people: something to do; someone to love; something to look forward to.

The writer of Ecclesiastes agreed with “something to do.” He wrote, “*Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might...*” (Ecclesiastes 9:10a).

It has been theorized about working Americans that because of our “Puritan work ethic” many of us are Type A personalities who do not take our vacation time. I do not believe that is what either the writer of Ecclesiastes or Kant meant.

What I do believe is that each of us should have a purpose in life, something to which we can give ourselves, our energy, our devotion. It certainly was not intended to include “doing” that job that you hate to go to every day. It has been demonstrated that earning a great deal of money does not necessarily produce satisfaction with one’s work, nor does it cause one to “do it with all one’s might.”

Part of having a life filled with satisfaction is having something to get up for every day. It might be work that offers remuneration, but it need not be so. There is such a great need for volunteers, especially in the agencies that provide services to others. Whether one is “wired up” (pun intended) to simply sit at a computer all day or one really gets great joy from human contact, there are many agencies that would welcome volunteers.

Whatever you do, remember that you have been preparing all of your life to do it. Do it to the best of your ability.

Question: What is it that you do that gives you joy in doing it? If you do not have such a task, think about it and explore your options until you have one.

*Lord, thank You for the blessing of work, for the blessing of having a task that is meaningful even if one is retired. Amen. Pastor Louise*