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Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, October 3, 1792

John Newton

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marked
to, O.
with the



Ludenthin Oct 1842
W Campbell
Graph Markt
Pforzheim Weinberg



from



Dear Sir,

A Winters task which I have set myself, will oblige me to make my letters as short as I can, & to indulge myself in no correspondence, but what is necessary.

It seems however if not quite necessary, at least proper to thank you for yours of the 20 Sept. & I would join in thanksgiving to the Lord for his goodness in giving you a safe & comfortable return home. We enjoy a thousand mercies, in common with many who neither pray to him, nor praise him - but to know that they come from him, in answer to prayer, & are earnest of future & better blessings, gives them an additional relish of which W^{or}ldlings can have no conception.

In this world, we have an appointed station & calling, in which our Religious profession requires us to be accurate & faithful - But how to be fervent in spirit, & serving the Lord, while we are not slothful in business, is a lesson which only He can teach us. It is necessary to be diligent, but it is not necessary to be rich. The event must be left to his hand; our aim should be to promote his glory, which may be answered either way, whether we have what the World calls Great success, or not. If you have a Servant or a Journey man who is an honest man, & understands your business, he will be as active & industrious in it, as yourself. But then he is not responsible & when his work is done, he sleeps at night without care. The care of the issue is your part, & whether you gain or lose, you will not blame your servant, who has faithfully done his duty, according to your direction.

Now if you consider yourself, as it were a Servant or Journey man, so to speak, of the Lord, you will manage your concerns with ease & comfort. The business is not yours but his; you are to employ your talents to the best of your judgment, & then to cast all the care upon

can upon him. You need not be anxious, for he will overrule all for the best. Whether he gives you but just food & raiment (which they who seek his Kingdom in the first place, & use his appointed means are obtain without) or whether he allots you an abundance, either shall answer your professed end; his glory, will be equally answered. In the former case you will have enough, because it is what he sees sufficient for you. In the latter case, what you have more than enough, is not your own, but is still to be employed for 'till
But too many think, things do not go well, unless they can amass Wealth Wealth. They stretch every nerve to be rich, & thereby punish themselves with perplexities & sorrows. 1 Tim. 6. 6-10.

I have no insight into the prophecies which are yet ~~unfulfilled~~ unfulfilled, nor is my mind turned for that study. I would divert the whole of my little strength to the points mentioned Acts 26. 18. What you quote from Mr. Willison is remarkable, other writers have had the same thought. Who first started it or whether it has been borrowed one from another, I know not. How far it is the meaning of the passage, time will shew. This I know that the Lord intends. I believe he is on his way, to fulfill his word.

In the mean time, I rejoice with you, that we were more sensible of our present privileges, & more thankful for them. And that the Lords people, instead of amusing themselves with Politics, may be turned up to serve their Country by prayer, If they sigh & mourn for the abominations in the midst of us & stand ⁱⁿ the breach to avert deserved judgments, our peace & liberty may be yet prolonged. I think the calamities of France should remind us of Luke 13. 1-5.

With Miss Cathlets respect, & my prayers & best wishes for your prosperity & welfare in the best sense, I remain
D^r Sir Your affectionate
friend & servant
John Newton

9. 3 Oct. 92.

1000 Bibles cost me, here, £ 2. 2. 6. If they can be printed in Scotland (upon as good paper) so as to come something cheaper when carried (by land) to you, I will request you to get a thousand printed for me to pay the Carriage, & to send me an account of the whole of price, which I will pay to your Order either here, or at Edinb^{urgh}. Let them be cut smooth.