

WORK: WHO NEEDS IT? ...(Part 1)

(Genesis 1:1, 31; 2:1-3, 15; Ecclesiastes 5:18-20; 9:7-10)

...How should the Christian think about work? Many people think of it as a 4-letter word and something to be avoided at all cost, others think of it as a necessary evil that must be engaged in to survive. Still others live as if work is the only reason for living. What does the Bible have to say about this important subject?

...A quick glance at the opening pages of the Bible we find it talking about work as soon as it begins talking about anything, that's how important this subject is. We will see that work is part of our DNA, it is good for us!,

THREE INSIGHTS ABOUT WORK REMINDING US THAT GOD BUILT US TO BE PRODUCTIVE...TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

...For work is a supreme gift from God and one of the main things that gives our life purpose

I. God Worked From The Very Beginning. (Genesis 1:1,31,2:1-3)

- A. The whole magnificent project of inventing and creating the universe is described within...
 - 1. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
 - 2. "The heavens and the earth were finished...in the 7th day God finished his work."
- B. The Hebrew word used for "work" is the ordinary word for human work. Two words for this:
 - 1. The first word emphasizes labor that is raw and unskilled.
 - 2. The other word, used here, designates skilled labor, work that is performed by a craftsman or an artisan. Such is the finesse and professional skills of God's work.
- C. This view of work as originating in God who creates an orderly cosmos and then enlisting human beings to continue His work, "subduing," is unique among the great "faiths."
 - 1. The Babylonians: The creation was the result of conflict between warring cosmic forces. Marduk defeats the goddess, Tiamat, and makes the world out of her remains.
 - 2. The Greeks: The creation account includes the idea of successive ages, where in the golden age, both gods and humans lived on earth together in harmony without work.
 - 3. Genesis could not have been more different. Work was not a necessary evil...

II. God Continues His Work Today. (Genesis 2, Psalm 104:10-22)

...God not only worked to create everything, He also works in caring for His creation. "Providence!"

- A. God works not only to create, but He also cares for His creation.
 - 1. He forms Adam. (Gen 2:7)
 - 2. He plants a garden and waters it. (Gen 2:6,8)

3. He fashions a woman for him. (Gen. 2:21-22)
 4. The rest of the Bible tells of His continuing work as Provider, caring for the world and cultivating the ground. (Psalm 104) He cares for the needs of every living thing.
- B. God commissioned workers (us) to carry on His work. (Gen 1:28)
1. We are told to “fill the earth and subdue it.” (1:28) Only ones given a job description.
...Though all was “good,” it was to a great degree undeveloped.
 2. In 2:15, we see Adam being put into the garden to “work it and keep it.” The implication is that while God works for us as our Provider, we also work for Him.

III. God Created Work For Our Good. (Ecclesiastes, John 5:17)

- A. Work was part of paradise. God’s good plan always included human beings working...or “More specifically, living in the constant cycle of work and rest.” “God works daily.” (John 5:17)
- B. Work is as much a basic human need as food, beauty, rest, friendship, prayer, and sexuality.
...Therefore without meaningful work we sense significant inner loss and emptiness.
...Work is so foundational to our makeup, in fact that it is one of the few things we can take in large doses without harm. Leisure and pleasure are gifts, but only if taken in small doses.
- C. According to the Bible, we don’t merely need the money from work to survive, we need the work itself to survive and live fully human lives. The reasons for this:
1. Work is one way we become useful to others, rather than just living for self.
 2. Work is one of the ways we discover who we are. Through our work we come to understand our distinct abilities and gifts.

SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN MY LIFE?

1. Work...who needs it? You do! God made each one of us with differing gifts and abilities and desires that we use them to be a blessing to others. Work is a gift. Remember the greatest worker of all is God Himself. He not only made the world in six days, but has continued to hold it together until now. Furthermore, God through our Lord Jesus accomplished the greatest work ever done...when He undertook our atonement at Calvary.
3. Give yourself 100% to your work. Give the best that you have all the while asking the Lord to help you accomplish the task at hand...whether it is huge or boring.
...”Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.”
...Remembering...that ultimately you are always working for the Lord.
4. At the bare minimum, thank the Lord for work...at least it provides you with something to do, and allows you to be a blessing to others.
5. Always work hard, except in one area, in the meriting of salvation. You cannot learn a spot in heaven by anything you might do. Impossible! There is only one way to be saved...listen to Acts 16:31, “What must I do to be saved? Believe on the Lord Jesus and will be saved...” Jesus is calling...have you believed upon Him?