

## GOD'S RHYTHM OF WORK!

### Genesis 1:26-31

INTRODUCTION: Do you remember your first job? Work, for most of us has been a major part of our lives. Just as we need rhythm for music to sound beautiful; so we need work as a part of our lives that they may flourish as human beings made in the image of our God for healthy living. Some people treat work like a curse: they spend their time trying to avoid work. Some people treat work like a god, they spend their life sacrificing everything to their work hoping it brings them all they seek in fulfillment. What we need today is a biblical view of work. From God's Word we believe work is a gift from our God to us to be stewarded. Genesis 1:26-28: we are all image bearers, blessed by our God with authority and commanded to be fruitful, to multiply, to fill the earth and to subdue it. Then in Genesis 2:5-9 God created a worker to take care of His garden. Genesis 2:10-15: Why did God create man and put him in the Garden: to work and take care of it!

#### I. WORK IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE!

Being made in the image or likeness of God we were created to represent God on earth and to steward His creation. That is why we are here on this earth and it gives special dignity to what it means to be human. We are image bearers of God and our God is a worker! God created in six days all that exists. God is still at work today all over the world accomplishing His will. 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12.

#### II. WORK WAS GIVEN BY GOD AS A STEWARDSHIP TO MAN!

Our God created the earth, the place for mankind to live on and then gave us a stewardship to cultivate it. Work comes from God as a gift of stewardship! In both Genesis chapter one and two we see our God creating mankind and placing him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it. The fall of mankind did not happen until Genesis chapter three so work is not a curse; work is meant to be a blessing. We work a lot of hours in our lives and it is meant to bring us joy and a key to finding joy in our work is to see it as a blessing and not a curse. Hebrews 13:15-16.

#### III. GOD'S GIFT OF WORK IS FOR THE BLESSING OF MANKIND!

Genesis 1:26-28: God put mankind into the Garden to be fruitful and multiply to fill the earth and to subdue it, to work and keep the Garden. Who benefits from all this: Humanity, the people filling the earth. Ultimately productive work is essential to human flourishing!

#### IV. OUR WORK WAS AFFECTED BY THE FALL!

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden there were consequences both grave and long lasting: Genesis 3:17-19. Remember work is not the curse. Work has always been a gift from our God to us as His representatives. But now after the fall work comes with frustration and pain. Work that was totally fulfilling at first now has become partially fulfilling and frustrating after the Fall. The Fall brought problems to our work and our relationship with our work. We now tend to either idolize our work or try

to avoid our work altogether. John 17:4. Only when we trust in Jesus finished work can we truly begin pursuing a stewardship of the work God intends for us to do.

#### V. HOW DO WE STEWARD GOD'S WORK WELL?

We must learn to work from our identity in Christ and not for our identity. In Christ we are children of God: we are image bearers who are being made into Christ likeness. The core of who we are comes from our identity in Christ. We are God's loved children and we work from that truth. What my work says about me is not the ultimate judge. What matters is what God says about me. So we learn to work from our identity in Christ. We must learn how to work hard and to rest well. Ecclesiastes 9:10; Colossians 3:23-24. Just because you work hard does not mean you idolize your work. We need to pour our head, hands, and our hearts into our work for God's glory! 1 Corinthians 10:31. All of God's gifts are meant to be used for God's glory. We need to do our jobs well because it reflects on Christ. 1 Timothy 5:8. Our work allows us to be able to give: Ephesians 4:28. We also are called to work for our own enjoyment: Ecclesiastes 3:12-13. Our work truly is a gift of God to us. Gifts are meant to be enjoyed.