

# God Is...a Worker

September 2, 2007

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis chapter 1 verse 1 (3)*

## Work is a good thing

- God modeled a good work ethic
- Work is a God-given responsibility that existed before sin entered the world
- ***Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.***  
*Proverbs chapter 13 verse 4 (489)*
- ***If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith...*** *1 Timothy chapter 5 verse 8 (NIV)*
- I have a God-given responsibility to work so I can provide for the needs of my family & me, and so I can help others - ***Use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need.*** *Ephesians chapter 4 verse 28 (897)*

## Evaluate yourself honestly

- ***I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves....*** *Romans chapter 12 verse 3 (866)*
- Know what you can & can not do!
- Understand your own strengths & weaknesses! Ask others what they see in you
- ***Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.***  
*Proverbs chapter 12 verse 15 (489)*

## Learning from God

- ***God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day" and the darkness "night." And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.***  
*Genesis chapter 1 verses 3-5 (3)*

### **The pattern:**

Then God said...

- God had a specific plan for each day. Do I?
- How do I approach my work-day? Do I have a goal or goals for each day?
- ***"Then God said...."*** *Genesis chapter 1 verses 3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26 & 29 (3)*

And that is what happened...

- Every day, God accomplished all He set out to do
- Do I? No. Do I seek to keep growing in my knowledge, skill & practice as a worker?
- Is my goal each day to honor God thru my work? Am I trying to be the best worker I can possibly be?
- ***Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.*** *Colossians chapter 3 verse 23 (904)*
- Am I working hard each day or just doing enough to get by?
- Am I working hard to honor God or doing just enough so not to cause problems with those around me?

And God saw it was good (awesome, the best)

- God regularly evaluated His work, took inventory of it
- “good” means radical, awesome, the best, WOW!
- How often do I or others evaluate my performance at work?
- How am I a better worker today than I was a year ago?
- What areas am I growing in, improving in?
- How open am I to honest evaluation / criticism by others?
- ***If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise.***

*Proverbs chapter 15 verse 31 (491)*

### God Rested

- ***On the seventh day God had finished His work of creation, so He rested from all His work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when He rested from all His work of creation. Genesis chapter 2 verses 2 & 3 (4)***
- “rested” - to stop, cease, be still
- Was God tired?? No, so why did He rest??

To teach us that we can't hear His voice in our lives if we live at break-neck speeds

- God knows that life (*out of necessity!*) is hectic, “noisy”
- God also knows that there is a direct correlation between the pace of life & our ability to hear Him - ***Be still, and know that I am God! Psalm 46 verse 10 (434)***

To teach us that we need to be intentional about slowing down our lives

- Typically, my life will not slow down unless I am intentional about slowing it down
- Every day...find some time to be still, quiet, listen to God
- Every week...take the time to be part of a church service and focus on God
- Teach yourself to be comfortable in stillness & silence before God

To teach us that the world will not fall apart when we slow down

- The world survived when God rested, so it'll survive when I rest / slow down
- In fact, we'll accomplish more for God & experience more of Him in our lives when we live a life that regularly takes time to “rest”

1 Kings chapter 19 verses 11 & 12 (277) teaches that...

- God's voice was NOT in the mighty windstorm or in the earthquake or in the fire
- Rather, it was in the sound of a gentle whisper

**Next Sunday: God is...Gracious**