

Lessons from a Bug – Proverbs 6:6-11

Video – What is your Work

These are all questions that we often ask each other, even ourselves.

- *What is your work? How do you spend your days? What are you making? What are you getting done? What are you accomplishing with your hours?*

But for those who are in Christ, there are **better** questions:

- *Who do you worship in the work that you do? Who are you serving in your labor? Whose glory drives your effort? How does how you do your work reveal the character of God? Will tomorrow be measured in dollars, & hours & completed tasks, or will the day be counted in eternity as one spent in service to the King?*

Does anyone really ask these types of questions? **Only those who view work from God's perspective & understand His great purpose for it!**

Most people see work as a curse, an inconvenience, a means to an end.

Take a moment & retrace your work history & see how that has shaped the way you view work today! I'll share mine!

But God views work differently! He created us to work, to bear His image in our work, and to glorify Him in all that we put our hands to.

- **We were created to work** - Genesis 2:15 – *“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden to work it & keep it.”*

Work was created before the fall & it was part of all that God declared good. It wasn't until sin entered the world that work became a burden (Gen. 3:17-19)

- God created us in **His image** (Gen. 1:26-27) & He is a God who works!

Our work is not our identity, but to work is to live out our identity as image-bearers.

- God's Word calls us to bring Him **glory** in all we do (that includes our work).

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” - Colossians 3:17

“So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God.” - 1 Corinthians 10:31

Work is not simply a means of acquiring stuff..., it is an act of worship!

Seeing work from this perspective, is what can enable us to approach each day saying, “We will strive for excellence, we will build with integrity, we will create order & beauty, & in whatever we do with our hands, our hearts will declare to God ‘I am a living sacrifice, this is my offering to you’”.

Sometimes we can learn best from observing the examples of others!

Have you ever watched an ant at work? What do you see?

Proverbs 30:24 – “Four things on the earth are small, but they are exceedingly wise.” The ant is the first one on that list! WHY? **Work ethic!**

Let's read **Proverbs 6:6-11**, to find wisdom at work in the life of a bug!

Lessons from a bug: **“Go to the ant, consider her ways, and be wise.”**

- 1) **The ant doesn't need a boss/parent looking over its shoulder to ensure that it is working hard. “Without having any chief, officer, or ruler...”**
- 2) The ant works hard no matter the season b/c there is work to be done!
“She prepares her bread in summer & gathers her food in harvest.”
- 3) **The ant knows it was created to work, therefore that is what it does.**

Have you ever seen an ant asleep, being lazy or refusing to work?
“A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands” – Never!

It is the sluggard who loves to sleep, to be lazy and who refuses to work!

The book of Proverbs has much to say about work and laziness! **The one who works is known as wise, the one who doesn't is known as the fool!**

Consider these **Proverbs: 10:4, 12:11, 12:24, 13:4, 14:23, 18:9, 21:25, 28:19.**

There is a connection between work, prosperity, and wisdom – the ant!
There is also a connection between laziness, poverty & folly – the sluggard!

But remember that “the ultimate purpose of work is neither income, nor prestige, nor self-fulfillment. Rather it is to bring glory to God.” - Selvaggio

A “fool-proof” life is one that works hard for the glory of God! **Embodying a biblical work ethic, & seeing work as a calling, is a core part of our purpose.**

9-9-18 Lessons from a Bug – Proverbs 6:6-11

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