

# FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

## Faithful to Bless Our Work

John 5:17-19

INTRODUCTION: Continue to have more and more join us in person. WELCOME!

To those still worshipping online, WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE! We are praying for conditions to get to the place that you can rejoin us. We miss you. We want to see you. We want to talk with you, even if it is through a mask six feet away!

The Building 4 Generations to Come Building Team has their report and recommendations out for you on a table in the café or the foyer. Please be sure to get yours today. If you have yours already, I ask you not to read it now, although I really do want you to read it later.

God has done great things for us; He is doing great things for us, and I am eager for you to know all about it.

But right now, we need to hear from God through His Word.

Tomorrow is Labor Day. Labor Day has been an official federal holiday in the U.S. now for 126 years. But folks, a long time, ...

**A long time before governments honored the work of a person's hands, mind, tongue and life, God declared labor, work to be something**

- **He designed,**
- **He ordained,** and that
- **He would bless.**

I am afraid we are surrounded by a culture that no longer values work, whether we are talking about strenuous physical labor or painstaking mental toil. Many seek to avoid as much work as possible and counsel others to do the same.

It is a very appropriate time for us to be reminded, or to learn if we do not know, what God thinks and says about work. Today, I want to just walk you through the Scriptures to see God's perspective on work, on labor, for the purpose that we might fine tune our own perspective to be more in harmony with His.

The first time the word "work" appears in the Scriptures is in Genesis 2:2, and God Himself is the one who did the work described. Let's read.

Genesis 1:31–2:2 NKJV 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.

2 And on the seventh day God ended **His work** which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

### **GOD SET THE EXAMPLE FOR US BY WORKING TO CREATE THE UNIVERSE.**

This is only the first time we see God working, not the last. We will see more later as we move through the Scriptures.

### **GOD PUT ADAM AND EVE TO WORK, EVEN WHILE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN.**

Genesis 1:26–28 NKJV 26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” You think taking care of your cat is tough? How about lions, tiger, and leopards? Throw in snakes! Spiders!

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and **subdue it**; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Man worked in obedience to God’s command before the fall.

Work was not a penalty for sin.

The second law of thermodynamics was a consequence of sin, and it meant that the work of people’s hands would not be as productive as before sin entered the world.

### **GOD COMMANDED US TO WORK SIX DAYS AND REST ONE.**

Exodus 20:9–10 NKJV 9 **Six days you shall labor and do all your work,**

10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, ...

The pattern is work 6 days, rest 1. Mankind has been trying to turn that around ever since!

And that does not mean that we are supposed to be on a money paying job 6 days a week. There is work to be done at home, work to be done for others, work to be done in God’s Kingdom.

But **the point we need to see**, and there are many who need to understand, believe, accept, and practice this – the point is that **God designed us for work**.

**He designed us for productivity, not for leisure and entertainment.** That is not to say that all leisure and entertainment is wrong, but that it should not be what dominates our lives.

Proverbs 18:9 NKJV He who is slothful in his work Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.

**Slothful – “a slacker”** A slacker is kin to a vandal.

Let’s go to the New Testament.

John 5:17 NKJV But Jesus answered them, **“My Father has been working** until now, and **I have been working.”**

So, what kind of work has God the Father been doing since creation?

What kind of work has Jesus been doing? The Lord tells us.

John 5:19 NKJV Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but **what He sees the Father do**; for whatever He does, **the Son also does in like manner**.

John 4:34 NKJV **Jesus said** to them, **“My food is** to do the will of Him who sent Me, and **to finish His work**. And that is exactly what Jesus did.

When Jesus was upon the cross, just before He died, John tells us this.

John 19:28–30 NKJV 28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!”

29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.

30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, **“It is finished!”** And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Jesus completed the work of His Father by dying upon the cross in the place of sinners.

So what was the work of both Father and Son Jesus was describing in John 4 and 5?

**Both God the Father and God the Son were at work in providing salvation.**

**The Holy Spirit has a part in this work also in being the One to convict people of sin, righteousness, and judgment.**

John 16:8 NKJV And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

**Jesus commands us to be engaged in the work of the Kingdom.** Not for salvation. Out of love and obedience.

**John 20:21 NKJV** So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

He has told us to proclaim the gospel, make disciples, be a witness of Him. That does not mean that this is our only work, but it is a primary work.

But even many Christians act as if Kingdom work, gospel work is optional – not just like a second job, but a third or a fourth.

Many Christians put leisure, entertainment, fun things way ahead in importance in their schedule and stewardship of time and money than joining the Lord in His work.

**Colossians 3:23 NKJV** And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

All of our work is to be to the Lord

- Work we do just to feed our family and pay the rent
- Work we do not just because it pays but as a vocation
- Work for our family and for others
- Certainly for Kingdom work.

**Jesus says our work in the Kingdom has an urgency about it.**

**John 9:4 NKJV** I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; **the night is coming when no one can work.**

Can you see the shadows deepening in our world?

Do you see the darkness growing?

The night is coming.

The shadows, the darkness, the night will not win, not in this universe, not in this world!

The light of the Lord Jesus Christ will be victorious!

But in the lives of those who have blocked the light of Christ,

In the hearts of those who have embraced the darkness,

In those who walk in the shadows because they love them,

The night is coming, and I fear it is falling quickly.

If someone does not tell them of the light of Christ through sharing the gospel,

If they do not come to the light by trusting in Christ,

They will dwell forever in darkness and pain and torment.

The night is coming, and no one can work at saving them then.

What God has called us to do brothers, what God has created us to do sisters, has great urgency about it.