

ALTADENA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Prayer and Praise Service

Sunday, May 15, 2022

5:00 PM

Prelude Music

INTRODUCTION

"Prayer does not fit us for the greater works; prayer is the greater work."

Oswald Chambers

FAITH IN WORK

PART ONE: GOD'S PLAN FOR WORK

Genesis 2:15

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ezra 7:23

Whatever is decreed by the God of Heaven, let it diligently be done for the house of the God of Heaven.

In *The Normal Christian Worker*, Watchman Nee lists various qualifications for the servants of Christ. He begins with diligence. "It is in fact essential that a Christian worker must be a person who will work; a person who regards everything as a burden cannot be a faithful servant of the Lord." Is this appropriate to emphasize diligence, especially in this place in guide?

Prayer Prompt:

Use the verses above to ponder.... Take a moment to consider the greatness of God's wonderful work. How is your work a gift to you and to others? How have you benefited from others' work? How have you seen the work of others benefit the world and God's kingdom?

Small Group Prayer - Groups of 5-6 gather together for a short time of prayer, remembering that silent prayer is welcome. (No pressure to pray aloud.)

Song #1

My Worth Is Not In What I Own

By Keith & Kristyn Getty

... My worth is not in what I own
Not in the strength of flesh and bone
But in the costly wounds of love
At the cross

... My worth is not in skill or name
In win or lose, in pride or shame
But in the blood of Christ that flowed
At the cross

... I rejoice in my Redeemer
Greatest Treasure
Wellspring of my soul
I will trust in Him, no other
My soul is satisfied in Him alone

... As summer flowers we fade and die
Fame, youth and beauty hurry by
But life eternal calls to us
At the cross

... I will not boast in wealth or might
Or human wisdom's fleeting light
But I will boast in knowing Christ
At the cross

... I rejoice in my Redeemer
Greatest Treasure
Wellspring of my soul
I will trust in Him, no other
My soul is satisfied in Him alone

... Two wonders here that I confess
My worth and my unworthiness
My value fixed, my ransom paid
At the cross

... I rejoice in my Redeemer
Greatest Treasure
Wellspring of my soul
I will trust in Him, no other
My soul is satisfied in Him alone

... I rejoice in my Redeemer
Greatest Treasure
Wellspring of my soul
I will trust in Him, no other
My soul is satisfied in Him alone

Source: Musixmatch

Songwriters: Keith Getty / Kristyn Getty / Graham A. Kendrick

My Worth Is Not In What I Own Lyrics © Make Way Music, Getty Music Publishing

PART TWO: CONFESSION – BROKENNESS OF WORK

Genesis 3:17-19

And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Ecclesiastes 2:22-23

What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

Psalms 127:1-2

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Prayer Prompt:

Use the verses above to ponder. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal how sin causes our work to be a "problem". What is our problem with work? Do you see areas of your life and work where you feel the "curse" the most? Diligence is not an invitation to busyness, but a way of seeking daily what the Lord wants us to do. Where and in what ways do you see yourself choosing busyness over diligently praying and serving Him with your work? Acknowledge these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.

Small Group Prayer - Groups of 5-6 gather together for a short time of prayer, remembering that silent prayer is welcome. (No pressure to pray aloud.)

Song #2**All Glory Be to Christ**

By Kings Kaleidoscope

Should nothing of our efforts stand, No legacy survive,
Unless the Lord does raise the house, In vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, Tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn, All glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our king! All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign will ever sing, All glory be to Christ!

His will be done, His kingdom come, On earth as is above,
Who is Himself our daily bread, Praise Him the Lord of love.
Let living water satisfy, The thirsty without price,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, All glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our king! All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign will ever sing, All glory be to Christ!

When on the day the great I Am, The faithful and the true,
The Lamb who was for sinners slain, Is making all things new.
Behold our God shall live with us, And be our steadfast light.
And we shall ere his people be, All glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our king! All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign will ever sing, All glory be to Christ!

Source: Musixmatch

Songwriters: Dustin Michael Kensrue / Chadwick William Gardner

PART THREE: THE GOSPEL BEARS FRUIT IN OUR WORK

Proverbs 16:9

"Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established."

To commit your work to the Lord means to SEEK HIS GLORY in everything you do.

John 6:28-29

Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

Regardless of our vocation or daily duties, our real work, in this life, is to BELIEVE in Jesus Christ. The way we express this is through believing prayer. So the real work we do, day in and day out, is to pray. Prayer is our true vocation and everything else flows from it. The priority of our daily tasks should be PRAY, WORK, PRAY. To pray before, during, and after our work motivates us, encourages us, and keeps our hearts and minds directed toward God, even in the most difficult and trying days.

John 15:4, 5, 6-8

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ...By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Prayer Prompt:

Use the verses above to ponder What are some ways you can be intentional about committing your work to the Lord to bear fruit for the kingdom of God? What are some ways you can be intentional about trusting God to establish His plans? Ask God to give us hearts that desire to glorify Him above all else in our work.

Small Group Prayer - Groups of 5-6 gather together for a short time of prayer, remembering that silent prayer is welcome. (No pressure to pray aloud.)

Song #3

Take My Life and Let it Be

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

I Corinthians 10:31

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

II Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

John 14:12

And greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father.

“There is nothing thrilling about a man’s work,
but it is the laboring saint who makes the conceptions (plans) of his Master possible.
You labor at prayer and results happen from His standpoint.
What an astonishment it will be to find, when the veil is lifted,
the souls that have been reaped by you,
simply because you had been in the habit of taking your orders from Jesus Christ.”

Oswald Chambers

BENEDICTION

Psalm 90:17

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes establish the work of our hands.

