

# “Work is Good” – Message Series

## Part 3 – The Pride of Work

### 1. Greeting

- Welcome new guests and online
- Father’s Day (**Psalms 127**)
- Weeks 3-4 of series then time off in July

### 2. Reading

- **Genesis 11:1-9**

### 3. Pray

### 4. Intro

- **God’s design is our pursuit**
- **Lyza story lol**
  - Balance the tension between weeks 1-2 and weeks 3-4
- **“Pride of Work”**
  - This kind of pride is different
- We’re going to eXpose some things in the neXt 2 weeks
  - Read opening verses...
  - **“LET US MAKE A NAME FOR OURSELVES” they said**

### 5. Message

#### 1) (NIMROD) WHERE’S MY TRUST?

- Nimrod gathers the people to Shinar valley
- Rebels against God’s command to “fill the earth”
  - **Trouble trusting after flood?**

- I WON'T LET ME DOWN is how people think when they don't trust God... think they can trust in themselves.
- **We never succeed in our own pride.**
- **Don't preserve and protect. Spread out and multiply!**
  
- **Constant references to us** (3X) not God
- **We need God...** should want Him
- I/MYSELF work to make MY money vs God gives me ability to make money/work
  
- **Willingness** to be God dependent (surrender)
  - **We must get to a point where human results don't satisfy us!**
  - **Our journey**
  
- Tower was impressive... reached to heaven (only 1<sup>st</sup> heaven)
- God had to "come down to view it" (v5) from the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven... He's far above man's best capabilities apart from Him. His ways are always higher!
  
- **Tower to try to reach to heaven is to try and take one's own glory**
  - There is a deep-rooted thing in the flesh of man to say "look at me and what I've done on my own"

## 2) (BABEL) WHAT'S MY MOTIVE?

- Scholars link Babel to Babylon
- King of Babylon is a reference to Satan's pride (**Isaiah 14:12-15**)
  
- **God alone eXalts/promotes** and brings down (**Psalms 75:6-7**)  
 For exaltation comes neither from the east  
 Nor from the west nor from the south.  
 7 But God is the Judge:  
 He puts down one,  
 And exalts another.
  
- **To seize one's own glory = UNHOLY AMBITION.**
- MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF? Do we want to be glorified in the eyes of others or are we secure enough in our relationship with God that we want to give Him the glory?

- **Matthew 6:1-4**

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you [a]openly.

- Jesus taught us to steer away from earthly glory
- Don't let the left hand know what right hand is doing = do good things in secret and let God reward you openly.
- If you take man's glory you forfeit the heavenly (greater) reward!
- To make a name for myself works entirely against these words of Jesus
- **Don't try to build your own tower**

- Jesus said the glory belongs to the Father (**Mthw 5:16**)

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- Jesus never taught personal ambition
- **when personal ambition extends beyond God's ways we're in trouble...**
- **Sovereign-self mentality permits this kind of thinking and is dangerous.**

### 3) (THEME) WHERE'S MY WORTH?

- **Make a name for themselves - Name is associated with identity**

- There's a God designed eternal longing in men to find value and worth. He created us to yearn for something we could only find in Him.
- **Work is one of the great misses** in man's attempt to fill that.

- **My fake ID story LOL (6'6" – Rob Stevens) – you'll never be successful trying to be someone else. There's only one authentic version of you that God created and He created you with purpose!**

- Jesus gives us a **new identity, new creation, new man, new nature**

- He will give overcomers a new name
  - **Abram, Sarai, Jacob, Saul** = name changes when they came into covenant relationship with God
  - **You don't have to make a name for yourself because you already have a name!**
- **Work is what we do IT'S NOT WHO WE ARE!**
    - Somewhere along the line our grammar and structure of communication turned to "I'm a \_\_\_\_\_".
    - Paul said, "I'm a servant of Jesus Christ called to be an apostle" (Rom 1:1)
    - His identity was in Christ. His work is what God called him to do. Many people get this backwards and find identity and value in their work which is a straw house.
    - **Beauty of encouragement = it blesses us but doesn't falsely puff up or unnecessarily tear down! When we find identity in Christ encouragement from others is a blessing. When we're insecure in our identity we can receive something unhealthy from that praise.**
- **This is the beauty the Gospel brings to work... redeemed to Him and empowered by Him for good works (Eph 2:10)!**
- Just as your job is not the source of your provision... your work is not your value/restoration. **Jesus is Jireh (Provider) and He is Rapha (Healer/Restorer)!**
    - If work is our meaning, it's an idol... **even if it's ministry!**
    - Work is meaningful but it's not our meaning.
- God's love redeems us and **give us our worth, value, identity.**
    - **We have those things in Christ** so we don't have to work for them any more.
    - We are **freed to work purely for the love** and fulfillment
- **The gift of acceptance is NOT your reward for your work. Acceptance is the sweet resting place from which our best work must flow!!!**
    - **Do you love your kids more for their works? NO WAY!**
- **You've never been more loved than you are right now!!!**

- People who find Jesus fall more and more in love with Him. However, God isn't falling more and more in love with you... He's already fully in love with you and always has been!
- For God so loved the world... (John 3:16)
- Love displays itself like this, while we were still sinners Jesus died for us (Romans 5:8).
- This is proof that God's love for you has nothing to do with your works.

6. Close

- Let's ADD VALUE TO OUR COMMUNITIES!
- **He's knocking (Rev). Will you answer and let Him come in?**
- **True meaning can be found in our work but only when we set our eyes on eternity and not "under the sun".**