

## Wisdom in Work

---

Good morning. If you have your Bible, I invite you to open it to the book of Proverbs chapter 6. As with the previous sermons in this series, we will be looking at passages from all over the book of Proverbs but will begin by looking at chapter 6. We again continue our series, Proverbs: Wisdom for Life, as we seek the wisdom of God for different areas of our life. We have looked at all sorts of topics over the course of this series from marriage, eating, communication, purity, family and parenting.

Today, we close our series with a new topic and consider what Proverbs says about wisdom in work. And maybe even a little more specifically, what Proverbs says against laziness. I have to be completely honest; I really struggled in preparing for this sermon. The main reason is because I know that for many of you in the room, you would say your struggle is not necessarily with laziness but with overworking. I've had several conversations with many of you about the crazy hours and hard work you are putting in at your jobs. But when I come to the text of Proverbs, the refrain repeated most often in the book has to do with laziness.

And what I think we will find is that Proverbs has wisdom for all of us in how we approach our work. I believe that with any portion of Scripture it has application for each one of us as God sees fit. And as Pastor Nathan mentioned last week, whenever we hear the Word preached, we have to work at applying the sermon to our context. In the passage we will begin with this morning, Solomon gives us a helpful analogy and observation to consider what wisdom in our work looks like. With that being said, I'd like for us to begin our time by reading Proverbs 6:6-11 as we think about what it means to be wise in our work.

## READ Proverbs 6:6-11

Would you pray with me?...

## INTRODUCTION

Does anyone know how many hours a person typically puts into work during the course of their life? I saw in an article online that said, “the average person will spend 90,000 hours at work over a lifetime.”<sup>1</sup> Assuming a person works 40 hours a week, that’s over 40 years of your life spent at work. Which is around 1/3 of a person’s life. Another article on the New York Times said that “nearly half of employed Americans (48 percent) consider themselves modern-day ‘workaholics.’”<sup>2</sup>

Do you know where the word “workaholic” came from? The term was invented by a man named Wayne Oates [Picture]. Wayne Oates was a professor of psychology of religion and pastoral care at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1947-1974. He coined the term “workaholic” in 1971 in his book *Confessions of a Workaholic*. In his book, he defined a workaholic as “the compulsion or the uncontrollable need to work incessantly.” Maybe that sounds like someone you know...or maybe that’s you.

If that’s the case, then why a sermon on laziness? Well, what if the reality is that we are prone to being workaholics *because* we are lazy? I know. That may seem crazy. However, how many of us struggle to prioritize our time? Could it be because we don’t want to do the hard work of setting up healthy boundaries and schedules, allowing us to have margin in our lives? Do we struggle to trust the Lord with rest?

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gettysburg.edu/news/stories?id=79db7b34-630c-4f49-ad32-4ab9ea48e72b&pageTitle=One+third+of+your+life+is+spent+at+work>

<sup>2</sup> <https://nypost.com/2019/02/01/almost-half-of-americans-consider-themselves-workaholics/>

Or what about the person who is overworking to gain more money and accumulate more stuff? Is the accumulation of wealth and earthly possessions really just a desire for laziness? So, the question this morning is not “Am I lazy?”, but rather, “How am I lazy?”

The main point for us this morning is this: Every Christian should avoid the foolishness of laziness and pursue wisdom in working.

To unpack this, we are going to look at two main points this morning: 1) Beware the Sluggard and 2) Become the Wise.

## **BEWARE THE SLUGGARD**

Let's start with **Beware the Sluggard**. Proverbs has a lot to say about the sluggard or the lazy person regarding work. As I said earlier, there may be many in the room who would initially say that laziness is not their struggle. But I think laziness can reveal itself in several different ways. I want us to consider specifically three ways that laziness can reveal itself: 1) The Idolater, 2) The Idler, and 3) The Idealist.

Let's look at the first one: **The Idolater**

What exactly do I mean by this? An idolater of what? I'm specifically referring to an idolater of sleep. Look at Proverbs 20:13:

### **Proverbs 20:13**

<sup>13</sup> **Love not sleep**, lest you come to poverty;  
open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.

Proverbs warns us against a love or desire for sleep more than anything else. Proverbs 19:15 says:

### Proverbs 19:15

<sup>15</sup> Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep,  
and an idle person will suffer hunger.

This sense of laziness and slothfulness leads one to want to just continue sleeping, “a deep sleep” it says. And sleep is a good thing for our bodies. We don’t function well without getting an adequate amount of rest for our mind and body. I can definitely attest to that! But adequate sleep could mean more sleep than you are currently getting or less sleep. I’m sure everyone in this room has a different sleep schedule, a time when you go to bed and rise in the morning. For some, this may be voluntary. And for others of us, we may have no choice in the matter.

As I mentioned a few weeks ago, some of us feel like we don’t need as much sleep as others (mainly our kids). I’m still taking my stand on the fact that you do, especially if you are one of my kids!

But it is important to recognize that God designed us to need sleep. For our bodies to need rest. We see this in God’s own work in creation. Does God sleep? No. But he modeled for us what rest from our work looks like in the seventh day of creation. This was a pattern that he then commanded the Israelites to follow by having a Sabbath rest. Rest and sleep are a good thing. Proverbs 3:21 tells us:

### Proverbs 3:21, 24

<sup>21</sup> My son, do not lose sight of these—  
keep sound wisdom and discretion...

<sup>24</sup> If you lie down, you will not be afraid;  
when you lie down, **your sleep will be sweet.**

Those who cling to wisdom will sleep securely, and as it says, “your sleep will be sweet.” But just like all of God’s blessings he gives us, we can turn them into sinful habits and behaviors and idols.

There is a real lure to sleep, wouldn't you agree? There can be a real temptation with sleep. It feels good to sleep. And the more we sleep, the more of it we seem to want. It feels like you can never get enough sleep. Anyone else feel this way? Maybe this is just a tired parent talking. There are days that the alarm clock goes off and all you want to do is just shut it off and roll back over. As Proverbs 26:14 says:

**Proverbs 26:14**

<sup>14</sup> As a door turns on its hinges,  
so does a sluggard on his bed.

The only movement a sluggard who idolizes sleep does is the movement to roll over to the other side for more sleep. What results from this idolatry of sleep is financial ruin or poverty. This is what we saw in our opening text of Proverbs 6:

**Proverbs 6:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber,  
a little folding of the hands to rest,  
<sup>11</sup> and poverty will come upon you like a robber,  
and want like an armed man.

What this proverb is not saying is that if you sleep you might wake up and be in poverty or that everything you have will be gone. You can probably confirm this in your own life, right? Anybody wake up today with everything missing? No. Because the point is not that you got some sleep but that you continue to give into sleep. As we give into sleep and convince ourselves, "just a little more, just a little more," we will come into poverty from our laziness. To the sluggard, it will seem like poverty just came out of nowhere and stole everything away as they tell themselves, "I was just resting a little."

What happens is that this laziness and love of sleep, this idolatry, causes us to be unproductive when we should be productive. Proverbs 10:5 says:

### Proverbs 10:5

<sup>5</sup> He who gathers in summer is a prudent son,  
but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.

This again shows how “a little sleep, a little slumber...and poverty” because a love of sleep keeps one from being productive and working during the times it is important. If you are sleeping during the harvest, you are not going to have anything for the winter, showing a lack of prudence and wisdom.

Is this the way laziness reveals itself in your life? I know as a teenager, with very limited responsibility in my life, this was a major temptation. Stay up late and sleep all day. I didn't want to get up and start the day. I didn't want to apply myself. For our teenagers and kids in the room, is this you?

### [ILLUSTRATION]

I can remember early in high school before I was able to drive, my friend who lived just around the corner from me in the same neighborhood and his mom would pick me up every day to take me to school in the morning. My mom left early in the morning for work and my dad slept in because he got home from work late at night. So, it was all on me to get up and get ready in time.

And just about every day, I would wake up to the sound of a car honking, 3 missed calls, and a few text messages from my friend. I'd wake up in a mad hurry, call him back and say, “Sorry, I'm just looking for my shoes. I'll be right out.” Dazed and confused, I'd get dressed and run out the door. Do you think he believed me? Not a chance. This was like every day the same thing happened. There is only so many times you can lose your shoes and people believe you.

I had no motivation to get out of bed. I stayed up way too late at night and was exhausted the next morning. I turned off my alarm and decided that sleep was going to be my plan for the day. So, I get it! But here's what Proverbs is telling us,

what God is saying to us...don't do that! Don't become an idolater of sleep. It will ruin your life. And I know that sounds a lot like the old guy coming down on the young kids. But that's exactly what the book of Proverbs is. Solomon is telling his sons, "Pay attention to these words, they will be your life!" Set good and wise patterns for your life now to be better prepared for the future.

But what about other "sleep-like" activities that reveal slothfulness? What about the mind-numbing things we engage in that keep us from being productive? For instance, social media. Do you find yourself spending hours a day scrolling mindlessly through social media? Or how about binge watching your favorite shows on TV? What is keeping you from being engaged and productive? From being productive in your work or productive in your home?

We need to heed the warning of Proverbs that loving sleep or these "sleep-like" activities will ultimately bring us ruin. God has given us a new day to glorify him. He calls us to be good stewards of our time. Let's wake up from our slumber and start the day. Let us be engaged in the task God has given us for that day, not be a lover of sleep.

The first way laziness can reveal itself is the Idolater. Now, let's consider the second way: **The Idler.**

In Proverbs, we see mention of a lazy person who has idle or slack hands. While the idolater of sleep never leaves their bed, this person seems to go to work but is not a hard worker. They have a poor work ethic and are not concerned about the quality of their work. However, the result is the same:

**Proverbs 10:4**

<sup>4</sup> A **slack hand** causes poverty,  
but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

A slack or idle worker will find the same result as the one who never leaves his bed...poverty. And this is because an idler does not apply themselves to the task at hand. Look at Proverbs 12:27:

**Proverbs 12:27**

<sup>27</sup> **Whoever is slothful will not roast his game,**  
but the diligent man will get precious wealth.

It could be that this person captured game but will not take the necessary means of preparing it to roast it and eat it. They are too lazy to finish the task. Anyone else struggle with this? Anyone else have projects they have started yet never finished? How could you benefit from putting in the hard work? Of planning and following through with your plans? Maybe it's with your budget. Maybe it's with your commitments to the relationships you have. Or maybe it is following through in your spiritual growth with your disciplines or with your involvement in the church.

Someone who is idle does not want to put in the work necessary. They see it as too hard or too much work. Rather than thinking ahead and working hard, their laziness gains them nothing. Proverbs 20:4 says:

**Proverbs 20:4**

<sup>4</sup> The sluggard does not plow in the autumn;  
he will seek at harvest and have nothing.

As one commentator said: "Foolishness only labors when the stomach grows. Wisdom labors because it knows the stomach will growl."

Do you find this to be your particular struggle with laziness? You might say, "I'm not lazy. I go to work" or, "I go to school." How does laziness show up in your job? What does your work ethic look like? Are you are concerned about the quality of



your work? Are you only doing a halfway job? Are you only trying to get by with the bare minimum or are you applying yourself?

What about in your home? How has laziness revealed itself in your marriage? Are you putting in the hard work of cultivating your marriage relationship? Or what about your parenting? Is laziness affecting how you parent your kids? Are you putting in the hard work of connecting with them emotionally and leading and guiding them spiritually?

For the idler, there is no initiative, no self-motivation, no desire to do more than expected. When new opportunities come to them, they don't take it for fear of it being too much work or too hard. So, instead, they pass on it and give in to the temptation of laziness.

If this is your struggle, hear again the warning of Proverbs. Don't be idle! In fact, Proverbs warns that the result of the idler and the sluggard will be worse than just poverty. Proverbs 21:25 says:

**Proverbs 21:25**

<sup>25</sup> The desire of the sluggard **kills him**,  
for his hands refuse to labor.

The true end result of the sluggard and idler is death from his own desire to be lazy. Never putting in an honest day's work.

Now that we have looked at the Idolater and the Idler, let's look at the third way laziness can reveal itself: **The Idealist.**

What do I mean by this? I mean someone who fantasizes about what could be but does not put in the work to make it a reality. Someone who fantasizes about a

quicker and easier way to get rich, rather than working for their keep. Look at Proverbs 28:19-20:

#### Proverbs 28:19-20

- <sup>19</sup> Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread,  
but he who **follows worthless pursuits** will have plenty of poverty.  
<sup>20</sup> A faithful man will abound with blessings,  
but whoever **hastens to be rich** will not go unpunished.

Notice how this proverb talks about the one who “follows worthless pursuits.” The words “worthless pursuits” could also be this idea of delusions or fantasies. Compare that with verse 20 and this person is looking for a get-rich-quick scheme. It’s not as if this person is not working. It says, “who follows” which means someone diligently pursuing. They are just following and pursuing the wrong things. This is almost identical to Proverbs 12:11:

#### Proverbs 12:11

- <sup>11</sup> Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread,  
but he who **follows worthless pursuits** lacks sense.

Again, we see that Proverbs warns us against this kind of laziness. It tells us that following after vain things, worthless pursuits, delusions, or fantasies will bring us to poverty. This longing after an easier way will end up in ruin. Proverbs 13:4 says:

#### Proverbs 13:4

- <sup>4</sup> The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing,  
while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

What does the idealist look like today? I think in one sense, it’s the person who is hoping to win it all on the lottery. Rather than putting in the work at their job, working hard, they constantly dream about what could be if they won. So, they invest their time and their money on hoping to get rich quick through the lottery. Or even through gambling or betting. Just holding out that one good bet will be

their ticket to wealth. We've already heard about wisdom and money just a few weeks ago, about being good stewards of the resources God has given us.

Or maybe it's the person hoping to become Instagram famous. Our world is littered with "influencers" on social media. Many people see these influencers who have hundreds of thousands or even millions of followers, and they desire to become like them. I see this especially in our students and young people who would love for this to be their life. How can I make a lot of money without having to work hard to get it? Now, am I saying that influencers are evil? No. Am I saying they don't work hard? That's questionable. I'm just kidding. They probably work very hard. What I am getting at is the appearance of easy wealth. Desiring to get rich quick, avoiding labor, seeking the easy way out.

#### [ILLUSTRATION]

I remember growing up, I wanted to be a famous musician, traveling the world, playing in stadiums, and get paid to do it. I had this dream early on when I first started playing guitar seriously around 7<sup>th</sup> grade. My friend had a drum set, I had my electric guitar, and we would jam like we were in a stadium, all in a 10x12 room. I would hear stories of these musicians and artists "getting discovered." Just a random producer walking the street liked what they heard and boom. They are on the radio and playing at sold-out shows. Let's just say I was flying high in the sky with my dreams, and nothing could bring me down.

Then along comes my mother. She sought to bring a little more practicality and rationality to the situation. I used to call her the "dream crusher" growing up. Well, there went my dream of being a rock star. Thankfully, my mom really did know better. That would be no life for me and would definitely not be a great way to raise a family. Instead, she led me toward a better pursuit, going to college and following the Lord's will in my life. Which ultimately led me here. So, you can thank my mom I'm not out playing a world tour.

Would I really have made it big? We'll never know. But I don't think I understood how many people out there are trying to accomplish that same

goal. And most of those people are way more talented than I will ever be. What seems like people getting rich quick and living the easy life of being famous is actually the result of many people working hard and grinding it out through the difficult times. And their lives are far from easy.

Is it wrong to have dreams? That's not what I'm saying. But Proverbs makes it clear that when we allow our dreams and fantasies and get-rich-quick schemes to keep us from the real work at hand, we can end up in poverty and ruin. Proverbs warns us about setting our sights on just accumulating wealth:

#### **Proverbs 23:4-5**

- <sup>4</sup> Do not toil to acquire wealth;  
be discerning enough to desist.  
<sup>5</sup> When your eyes light on it, it is gone,  
for suddenly it sprouts wings,  
flying like an eagle toward heaven.

Don't follow after worthless pursuits, hoping to strike gold and get rich. In the end, it will vanish quicker than it arrived. Proverbs 13:11 says:

#### **Proverbs 13:11**

- <sup>11</sup> Wealth gained hastily will dwindle,  
but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

Proverbs warns us about the idealist who pursues these worthless things. Who hopes to gain it all with little labor. Who wants to take the shortcuts in life rather than putting in the hard work and earning it. But there is another kind of fantasizing that can happen as well. Proverbs 22:13 says:

#### **Proverbs 22:13**

- <sup>13</sup> The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside!  
I shall be killed in the streets!"

Now this was an absurd statement even at the time it was written. What Solomon is exaggerating here is the person who dreams up or convinces themselves of danger so as to not put in the work. There is no real threat, there is no real danger, but they use this as an excuse to get out of work. They always have an excuse for why working hard should be avoided. But here's the thing. Wisdom is not some mysterious thing or some kind of mystical aura you have, it is (as one commentator said) "practical success in the real world." Wisdom is practical living. You don't get wisdom from hiding away. You gain it through living in the world.

Is this how laziness reveals itself in your life? Are you following after worthless pursuits? Are you looking for a get-rich-quick scheme, hoping that it will save you from having to work? Are you spending all your money on the lottery or gambling, hoping to win it all? Are you focused on the work God has given you to do or are you fantasizing about things that could be? Or do you think of every possible reason why you should avoid working? Do you always have an excuse for why you shouldn't work hard?

Laziness can be deceptive and reveal itself as the Idolater, the Idler, and the Idealist.

## BECOME THE WISE

If we are to beware the sluggard, we need to learn from Proverbs how to **Become the Wise**. What does Solomon say on how the wise person works? Proverbs tells us that the wise worker is **diligent, hard-working, and plans accordingly.**

Let's look back at some of the passages we have looked at this morning and focus on the wise worker:

### **Proverbs 10:4**

<sup>4</sup>A slack hand causes poverty,  
but the **hand of the diligent** makes rich.

#### Proverbs 13:4

<sup>4</sup>The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing,  
while the soul of **the diligent** is richly supplied.

Diligence means someone who is steady or earnest in their work. This is the person who is persistent in doing something and hard-working. They do not stop when it gets tough, and they are sure to see their work through to the end. We see this hard work in Proverbs 12:11:

#### Proverbs 12:11

<sup>11</sup>**Whoever works** his land will have plenty of bread,  
but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

It's the one who puts in the work that will have food. This is could not be more removed from the sluggard who only sleeps, works half-heartedly, or fantasizes to get rich quick. However, it is through the diligent, hard-working efforts of the wise that brings financial stability.

#### Proverbs 12:27

<sup>27</sup>Whoever is slothful will not roast his game,  
but **the diligent man** will get precious wealth.

Now, we must remember that the Proverbs are not promises or guarantees, but rather observations about how the world typically operates. Someone who works hard and is diligent will typically be financially secure. We recognize this. Those who work hard and go above and beyond are often noticed by their companies, and they keep their jobs because of their work ethic. Other times, those who are hardworking and excellent in their work are promoted or given greater responsibility. Solomon noticed this as well and says in Proverbs 22:29:

#### Proverbs 22:29

<sup>29</sup>Do you see a man skillful in his work?  
He will stand before kings;

he will not stand before obscure men.

The wise worker is diligent, hard-working, and skillful in what they do. They apply themselves and pursue excellence in their work. But they also plan accordingly. As we saw earlier in Proverbs 10:5:

**Proverbs 10:5**

<sup>5</sup>**He who gathers in summer is a prudent son,**  
but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.

A wise worker thinks ahead and plans accordingly. They are prudent, giving care or thought to the future. They know that they must work and gather now to have something for later. They don't wait until they are in a crisis to work and gather. They have the foresight and knowledge to prepare for the future. We saw this in our opening text of Proverbs 6:

**Proverbs 6:6-8**

<sup>6</sup>Go to the ant, O sluggard;  
consider her ways, and be wise.  
<sup>7</sup>Without having any chief,  
officer, or ruler,  
<sup>8</sup>**she prepares her bread in summer**  
**and gathers her food in harvest.**

The ant is considered wise because they are diligent, work hard, and plan accordingly for the future.

Does this characterize your work ethic? Are you diligent in what you do? Are you a hard worker or lazy? Do you seek to bring excellence to all that you do? Paul reminds us in Colossians 3:

**Colossians 3:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. <sup>23</sup> **Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,** <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. **You are serving the Lord Christ.**

Why does this matter? Why should we be diligent and hard-working? Well, Paul tells us that we are serving Jesus in whatever we do. But I think there is another reason it is important to be wise in how we work. There is often a strong correlation between our work ethic and our spiritual disciplines. I don't think it's a stretch to say that those who are lazy in their work are often lazy in their spiritual lives. How many of us want to take "shortcuts" in our spiritual disciplines rather than putting in the hard work? Who wouldn't love to just take that one class or read that one book or hear that one sermon that will make us holy. But holiness takes hard work. And while we can't earn our salvation through our efforts and work, James reminds us that a true faith is a working faith. He says in James 2:

#### **James 2:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

A true, saving faith is one that works and is obedient to God. One that works out the good deeds that God prepared beforehand as Ephesians 2 tells us. Paul even says in Philippians 3:

#### **Philippians 3:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I **press on** to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and **straining forward** to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I **press on** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



Paul understands the Christian faith to require diligence and hard work. Straining forward. Pressing on. We don't just sit back or lay around now that we have been saved. We get to work glorifying God, pursuing holiness, and killing sin. We work diligently. Not to earn our salvation, but to work out our salvation.

## CONCLUSION

We've look at how laziness can show itself in several ways. We've heard the warnings of Proverbs about giving into laziness and the damaging results that come from it. And what we see is a lazy person or a sluggard desiring rest, to the point that it overtakes them. Maybe you are burdened by all the stresses of the world. Maybe it seems easier to just ignore your troubles and be like the sluggard to rest from it all.

But the rest that the sluggard desires will not be satisfied with sleep. It won't be satisfied by half-hearted working. And it won't be satisfied with get-rich-quick schemes. The true rest that their souls long for can only be found through Jesus. Jesus brings the true rest our heart desires. As he tells us in Matthew 11:

### **Matthew 11:28-30**

<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest.** <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls.** <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Are you burdened by the cares of the world? Have you been searching and longing for something to satisfy your soul? Something to bring you rest? If you have never placed your faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, this is Jesus' call to you. He is the only one who can bring rest to your soul and satisfy the longings of your heart. Through his life, death, and resurrection, you can find forgiveness for your sins and a new life in him. If you have questions about this, please talk with one of us pastors or something in the room today. We would love

to show you from God's Word how you can have a relationship with him. How you can find rest in Jesus.

For those of us who are Christians, let us be diligent and hard working in our work, knowing that true rest comes from Christ. What excuses do you use to run from the hard things in life? Whether that's with your health through eating and exercise, dealing with emotional trauma or things from your past, building deep and lasting friendships. Maybe it's putting in the hard work of reorienting your schedule and your life to create margins. To allow for times of rest. To steward well the time you are given for work, but to trust God in the times of rest, knowing that you are limited.

But even more so, may we not give into laziness in our spiritual lives, like being disciplined in our reading of God's Word, praying, memorizing Scripture, and sharing the gospel. Hebrews 4 tells us:

**Hebrews 4:11**

<sup>11</sup> Let us therefore **strive to enter that rest**, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

So may we take care as to how we work in this world, both in our jobs and in our spiritual lives. And as we do so to the glory of God, may we be found to be wise in how we work, being diligent, hard-working, and planning accordingly for the future. May we recognize that we work unto the Lord. And may we be found diligent in striving for holiness, knowing that the true rest for our souls is found in Jesus.

Would you pray with me?...

## COMMUNION

I'm going to invite the band and the deacons to come up. This morning we have the opportunity to partake of the Lord's Supper together. As we think about work this morning, we recognize that our efforts and our strivings could never earn or merit us favor with God. It was only through the work of one Person, Jesus Christ. His life, death, and resurrection accomplished all that was needed for our salvation. It is by his work and his merit that we are saved, and why we can find our rest in him. So, as we take the Lord's Supper together this morning, let us remember the work of Christ and rest in the fact that "It is finished."

At Cornerstone, we invite everyone who professes faith in Christ to participate in communion. Scripture warns us against taking communion in an unworthy manner. And so, if you have not placed your faith in Christ for your salvation, then we would ask that you heed the warnings of Scripture and please refrain from participating. But we urge you to consider your own need for salvation, for the forgiveness of your sins.

In a moment I will pray, and the band will begin playing. We have tables here at the front with both elements. All of the bread is gluten free if that is a concern for you. Each row will be dismissed by one of our deacons and you will come to the table, take both the bread and the cup, and return to your seat. *If you are sitting in the back section, there is a table in the back that you can freely take those elements and return to your seats.*

Please wait until everyone has received the elements and we will take them together as a sign of our unity in Christ.

