

The Biblical Responsibility Of Productivity

Good stewardship is not merely an occupation or a profession, rather it involves being productive. In Jesus' parable of the talents in Matthew 25, the stewards reported their earnings. One servant, however, merely hid his entrustment, and earned no increase – he lost his portion. The faithful ones not only had increases but also, received more because of their faithfulness. From the very beginning, God commanded creation to be fruitful. God is energetic, creative and imaginative, and is the life giver. Stewards are also to be concerned with productivity and so cultivate God's creation to be productive.

It is wonderful to live in a productive society. Productive societies are composed of many productive individuals. When my days are full of productive tasks I enjoy life. My normal going-to-sleep activity is to close my eyes and mentally survey all the productive things I accomplished during the day. If I have had an efficient and industrious day, I fall right to sleep.

A warning about being productive is seen in Jesus' story about the unfruitful branch of His kingdom, which He says will be cut off by the husbandman (John 15:1-5). God wants to have a productive kingdom and stewards who will be faithful.

As good stewards, we are required to work hard. If you work for someone else, you need to do it with everything you have. Give more than is required; go the second mile and the third and fourth. Proverbs 6:6-11 says, "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man."

Check out the ant. The ant has no one to tell it what to do – not supervisor, nor overseer, and yet it is a self-starter, a self-motivator. The ant works all summer long gathering food for the harvest season. The Scripture extends a wake-up call to the sluggard hoping for some kind of response. It says to the sluggard, "have you not slept enough?" "How long can you possibly sleep?" "Do you want to go hungry, do you want

to go through life looking for handouts because you have not the wherewithal to earn your own keep?”

Scriptures on Productivity

1 Thessalonians 4:11

“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.”

Proverbs 22:29

“Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.”

Ecclesiastes 9:10

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.”

Proverbs 20:4

“A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.”

According to the above scriptures, we should approach life and work like the ant. Although the ant has no boss, it still works extremely hard to provide for its needs. A lot of people today could learn a valuable lesson from the ant. Some today have the attitude that if I can get someone else to do the work for me, then why should I exert myself. Why not let someone else do the work; why not let the government provide for me? Many today have little or no initiative, are not able to put themselves to work, and must always have someone else instruct them and supervise them in order to keep them working. The biblical way is for each person to accept the personal responsibility to be a contributor to society and a person of productivity.

Learn the right way to live. Understand the responsibility of productivity!