

Off To Work

Ponder: The Wisdom of Work

Scripture: “Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways, and be wise” (Prov. 6:6, NKJV).

“Heigh-ho, Heigh-ho, it’s . . .” Did you say, “off to work we go”? I thought so, too; but the song actually says, “It’s home from work we go.” Snow White’s dwarf friends worked all day digging diamonds and rubies from their mine. When the day was done, they whistled and sang their happy song as they walked home from work.

Work is a good thing. It’s a blessing! God Himself worked as He created all things in six days. He has continued working, “upholding all things by the word of His power” (Heb. 1:3). He gave Adam work to do in the paradise garden, tending and keeping it (Gen, 2:15).

Solomon commends to us the example of the ant. Though she has “no captain, overseer, or ruler,” still she “provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest” (Prov. 6:6-8). Skeptics used to rail against this text, claiming that ants do, indeed, have a ruler (the queen ant), and that ants do not store food. However, many species of ants do store food. And what we humans term the “queen” ant is no ruler, but simply a producer of an endless quantity of eggs.

Be they queens or workers, ants are self-starters. Nobody has to tell them what to do. God made them that way; what they do, they do by instinct.

We, on the other hand, have been blessed with the capacity to think and decide whether and how to work. Solomon urges us to observe the industry of the ant and be wise by imitating it. That certainly includes being self-starters. We should not have to be told to go to work!

By contrast, the sluggard stays in bed rather than going to work. “How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?” (Prov. 6:9). His laziness may feel good for the moment, but Solomon warns, “your poverty shall come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man” (v. 11).

When you go to work, you’re acting wisely. Keep up the good work!

Song: “We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes”

Prayer: “Father, we thank You for the blessing of work. We praise You for the examples You have given us in Your creation such as the ant. Please help us not to be lazy and foolish, but to be wise. In Jesus’ name, Amen.