



## Sermon Notes from 23 September

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### The Master At Work (*Psalms 127:1-2*)

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According to AsiaOne, a third of Singaporean workers are sleep deprived! *What does the Bible say to the anxious worker?*

**Psalms 127** is a song of ascent. The Jews sang this Psalm as they journeyed to Jerusalem for their annual festivals. It gave them a sense of unity and purpose as God's people. King Solomon, the probable writer of the Psalm, was gifted with wisdom and had answers to all kinds of questions, including work (**1 Kgs 4:29; 1 Kgs 10:3**).

4 truths for the anxious worker:

#### 1. God is at work

God worked as the Creator (**Gen 1**), and Provider (**Gen 2**). Work, as designed by God is inherently good - not the result of sin but was introduced before sin entered the world. God has entrusted work as a blessing to us.

God's work is deeply connected to ours! He works through us, elevating it to His work (**v1**). It is noted in *God at Work* by Gene E Veith that not only church work, but all work matters to God. Ethical, honest work is a sacred calling! God's work extends to all of humanity. Knowing this, our posture should be one of gratitude and thankfulness (**1 Thess 5:18**).

#### 2. God's work is what brings success

**Ps 127:1-2** The repetition of *in vain* means that it is possible for one to put in all the effort, and for all the work to be futile and empty. Solomon writes out of experience. "House" refers to any dwelling place, including the temple.

**1 Chron 28:20** God has to be with us in our labour for us to complete our work and succeed. The *Tower of Babel* (**Gen 11**), the story of human greed and pride (an example of work in vain where success is denied), also shows God's redemptive grace (the people are not destroyed). Anxiety is self-focused.

The burden of success rests on God!

#### 3. God works out of love for us

**v2; Prov 6** The key issue is the posture of the heart. Having the right motivation with God in the picture keeps us from toiling in vain (**Ecc 2:11**).

**v2; Matt 6** God loves us. He gives us in our sleep. He is Jehovah Jireh our Provider! We too are God's *beloved-Jedidiah* (**2 Sam 12:25**).

**1 Cor 13:1-3** Love fits all profession! There is a deeper success that is tied to our loving people through our work. Anxiety is outcome focused and not love focused.

**Esth 4** Queen Esther broke free from the fear of a negative outcome only when she stepped out in love for the people. Seek to serve out of love for people!

#### 4. God's work invites us to rest

**V2** It is specifically during our rest (sleep) that God provides for us! Sleep is God's reminder to us that He alone is God and we are not! Biblical characters received from God in their sleep! Spiritual rest can only be found in Jesus Christ (**Matt 11:28**) because of his work on the cross - his act of love for us (**1 Jn 3:16**). His work invites us to rest (**Heb 4:9**) for he gives us all things (**Rom 8:32**).