

## A Study in Psalms, Week 7 Handout Psalm 127: A Word for Workaholics

*“Because all his days his task is painful and grievous; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is vanity.”*

Ecclesiastes 2:23

### Introduction

1. One of the most **practical** passages in the Bible
2. Written by Solomon in about 970 B.C.
3. Teaches us that we must put God at the center of all we do
4. Deals with two aspects of our lives that are in tension—**work** and **family**
5. In our “workaholic” society, it is easy for Christians to have **misplaced priorities**
6. This psalm helps us properly **prioritize** the demands of life

### When Work is Worthless

1. <**Read Psalm 127:1-2**>
2. This is NOT a warning against work
3. Rather, this is about those who cannot stop working
4. God has called us to **build**—our **lives**, our **homes**, our **churches**, the **Kingdom**
5. Two examples where such labor can be vain or futile—building **houses** and seeking **security**
6. Why does God need to be a part of house-building? Is it really all that important?
  - a. Problems arise when we place **too much emphasis** on house-building
  - b. When is house-building vain?
  - c. God cares about what we do—all the more if it’s endangering us!
7. We’re all interested in **security**, but without God in the picture, our efforts are in **vain** (v.1b)
  - a. When is God not part of our efforts at security?
8. Burning the midnight oil

### Children—A Gift from God

1. <**Read Psalm 127:3-5**>
2. Notice the **progression of thought** between vv. 1-2 and vv. 3-5
3. Children are a **gift from God**—a **reward**, not earned by toil or work
4. They provide the things for which we strive
5. The city gate is a place of **business** and **justice**
6. And while not everyone is supposed to be married and have children, we all have a responsibility to **pray** for children, be good **examples** for them, and **encourage** their spiritual upbringing.

*“And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”*

Matt 18:5-6

### Conclusion

1. Men who put too much stock in their own labor fail to understand God’s **grace**
2. Our activity on earth must leave time for **rest, worship, reflection, and family matters**
3. Are you spending too much time on work? Just ask your spouse!