

The Corona Chronicle

West Worthing Evangelical Church Rugby Road.

Sunday September 6th

www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

Being Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on

IT IS IN VAIN THAT YOU RISE UP
EARLY AND GO LATE TO REST,
EATING THE BREAD OF ANXIOUS
TOIL; FOR HE GIVES TO HIS
BELOVED **SLEEP.**

PSALM 127:2

The bread of Sorrows Psalm 127v2

In the first two verses Of Psalm 127 the writer is reminding the

Pilgrims that although the temple was built by workers the design of the temple was given by God. This was to remind them that beside the worship in the temple, there was the fact that the people were sinful and God was giving them a way of atonement. This through the death of an animal onto which their guilt was transferred, foreshadowing the Cross and Calvary where Jesus died for our sin.

The Watchmen that the Pilgrims saw in the walls and the towers of Jerusalem was a reminder that Israel had to be obedient to God. If they were obedient God would protect Jerusalem but there were times when the city was overrun by their enemies.

In verse two we come across this phrase 'To eat the bread of sorrows'. To understand this we need to go right

back to Genesis. Before the fall God gave Adam a beautiful garden to tend or cultivate and keep. After the fall Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden, they were cursed and they were called to toil for their bread.

17 "Cursed is the ground for your sake;

In toil you shall eat of it

All the days of your life.

18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,

And you shall eat the herb of the field.

19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread

Till you return to the ground,

For out of it you were taken; For dust you are,

And to dust you shall return." Genesis 3 NKJV

But right from the beginnings in Genesis there is Crimson line of grace of God bringing restoration to those who trust in Him. It brought the first death, the death of an animal so that the first human beings could be clothed, but out of Eden man must toil to eat his bread.

Although as believers we have to work hard, Psalm 127 verse 2 is a reminder about how we work rather than work itself.

Verse 1 makes the point that unless we ultimately depend on God our efforts are vain. Being solely dependent on ourselves doesn't work it is not enough to just do our part. We will only experience safety and security by reliance on God.

Verse 2 continues that thought. If we see ourselves solely responsible for our financial and material security it will create pressures in our lives.

As the verse says if we get up early and stay up late "eating the bread of sorrows" or as another version puts it "eating the bread of anxious toil", thus we are robbed of sleep.

This verse is not against work. It's against anxious toil.

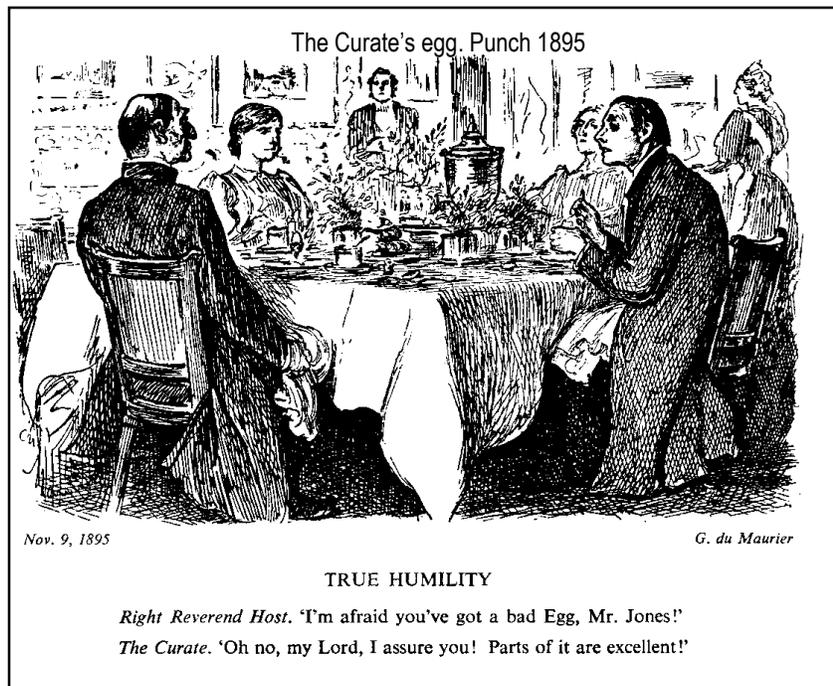
It's against being driven in our work, because we believe ourselves to be the ultimate source of provision, rather than God.

God calls us to work, guiding us how much work to do in partnership with Him. Knowing that as we do our smaller, lesser part He does the larger part giving us the strength, ability and opportunity.

He motivates us to provide for our needs rather than being driven to provide for all that culture and society say we need.

Working in partnership with God is a very different experience to working alone. With God we "eat the bread of...." rest and peace, on our own we "eat the bread of sorrows" ...bringing anxiety and fretting associated with our work. We may have more but we live less, driven by a relentless pressure to work.

The bread of sorrows is the pressure when we trust only in ourselves to provide. There is a better way that as we live in the 21st Century we need to remember.



What is their New Name?

List the letters of the new name for each person.

A B R A M

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S A R A I

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J A C O B

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S I M O N

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M I S H A E L

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M I S H A E L M E S H A C H
 A Z A R I A H A B E D N E G O
 H A N A N I A H S H A D R A C H
 D A N I E L B E L T E S H A Z A R
 S A U L P A U L
 S I M O N P E T E R
 J A C O B I S R A E L
 S A R A I S A R A H
 A B R A M A B R A H A M

List the letters of the new name for each person.

What is their New Name?

Hymns, Prayers and Bible Readings.

Eating the bread of Sorrows
Psalm 127v2

Father in heaven, whose will it is that all should worship you in the fellowship of the church and serve you in the life of the world, send down upon our nation a true spirit of repentance for the sinfulness which passes as broadmindedness, the apathy which calls itself tolerance, the materialism which glories in its prosperity and grasps for more. And with this sorrow, O Lord God, let faith and obedience go hand in hand, that men's lives may be transformed, that integrity and godliness may characterize our people, to your praise and honour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYING FOR OUR HOMES AND OUR WORK From Psalm 127

Lord,
Help us build our homes,
Because if You are not with us
Our toil is useless;
Help us protect our families,
Because if You do not guard them
We waste our efforts.
Help us in our work -
Save us from working for Your blessing
Because You can bless us equally
When we are asleep!

Bible Reading Genesis 3

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it':
"Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.
18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.
19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; For dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

Hymn

1 Forth in Your name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labour to pursue,
You only, Lord, resolved to know
In all I think or speak or do.

2 The task Your wisdom has assigned
Here let me cheerfully fulfil;
In all my work Your presence find,
And prove Your good and perfect will.

3 You may I set at my right hand,
Whose eyes my inmost secrets view,
And labour on at Your command
And offer all my work to You.

4 Help me to bear Your easy yoke,
In ev'ry moment watch and pray,
And still to things eternal look
And hasten to that glorious day.

5 Then with delight may I employ
All that Your bounteous grace has given,
And run my earthly course with joy,
And closely walk with You in heaven.

Charles Wesley.

