

## *Work or Labour*

Some people work for the weekend and hope to retire from their jobs as soon as possible. For them, their job is labour, not work. It is only a means to an end. Work however, is not the bane of our existence. It is used by God to demonstrate to us that we are made in His image. We work because God works.

Jesus taught this when He was accused of working after He healed people on the Sabbath day. He defended Himself by saying "My Father is always at His work to this very day and I too am working."

The beautiful and complex character of the world around us tells us what God is like. He delights in the variety that makes every leaf and snowflake subtly different. He loves beauty – look at His sunsets and the incredible displays in the colours of fall. God enjoys expressing Himself on a massive scale. The stars we see are only a vanishing fraction of the stunning and complex universe whose farthest galaxies are beyond the range of our best telescopes. God also revels in the intricacies of the micro world. When we look into a microscope we see that there are intricate and incredibly complex systems, many of which are indispensable to our existence.

God and His work is the model for what it means to work. Our work is not intended to be a daily drudgery to be endured. Instead it is meant to express our creativity and care for both humanity and the world around us. In this, there are no "simple" jobs. Every job we do paints a picture of who we are.

Man was created for the purpose of sharing God's nature and His work.

Creative work and the capacity to bring order and beauty into our world is part of God's intention for us. His plan has always been to have His people share His power and capacity to work creatively in a new heaven and a new earth. God's people do not graduate from earth into a boring celestial eternity of harp strumming. God's work expresses His character and His people are called to join with Him in work that expresses their own.