Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Busyness has become a cultural symbol of our society. The contemporary thought is, "If you are busy, then you must be important!" People typically love to talk about how busy they are. It's validating, ego-boosting, and fashionable to tell others that we are busy (and a convenient excuse for not having to do the things we don't really want to do). Conversely, it is presumed that if you are not busy, then you must either be lazy or not that important. Busyness, however, is not necessarily a sign of importance any more than having a degree is necessarily a sign of intelligence. We are not called to master a great many things, but to be mastered by things that are very great.

However, busyness is not necessarily a bad thing, and it certainly is not always sinful. As Christians we are to be busy and not lazy (cf. Prov.6:6-11). Busyness becomes sinful when it delays, hinders or prevents us from doing God's will! In other words, if we are busy doing God's will then that busyness is far from sinful, but if we are too busy to do God's will then that busyness is sinful. Simply put, ***the sin of busyness appears when obedience to God disappears***.

As Christ-followers, we cannot afford to allow our lives to be distracted by anything in this world (Eph.2:1-2; Col.3:1-2; 1Jn.2:15-17). We must fervently keep our eyes on Jesus Christ and our minds on the eternal things of God, and not on the temporal things of this world. Not only does the Bible warn us against the sin of busyness, but it also exhorts us to stop being so busy that we fail to recognize and revere God as God! In the Psalms, God sovereignly declares, *"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations I will be exalted in the earth" (Ps.46:10).*

Notice that the Psalmist does not say, "Be still and watch TV" or "Be still and take a nap" or "Be still and read a good novel." Through the divinely inspired Psalmist, God is calling us to "Be still and know that I am God." This is not a command that should cause us to be lazy or unproductive, but a command that should compel us to contemplate, worship and follow God! When we fail to be busy doing the Lord's work in the Lord's way we have sinned against Him – no matter how busy we are doing other "good" things. The truth is, not only can busyness be evidence of sin, but the wrong kind of busyness can be evidence that one is not saved (cf. Matt.13:22).

To be sure, there are many examples in the Bible of men and women who were very busy – very busy doing the Lord's work. Once, Jesus was so diligently working that He had no time to eat. When His disciples voiced their concern, Jesus replied, *"My food … is to do the will of Him who sent me to finish His work"* (Jn.4:34). In His "High Priestly Prayer" Jesus declared to the Father, *"I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do"* (Jn.17:4). The apostle Paul often exhausted himself in the Lord's work. To the Corinthian church he wrote, *"I have worked harder than all of them"* (1Cor.15:10), and *"I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep"* (2Cor.11:27); to the church at Thessalonica he wrote, *"Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you"* (1Thess.2:9); to the saints at Colossae he wrote, *"To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me"* (Col.1:29).

Clearly, busyness is not always sinful. But what are we busy doing? How do we know if our busyness is sinful or godly? How can we genuinely examine our lives to see if we are busy doing the will of the Lord, or busy in the things of this world? Lord willing, we'll look at this next week.

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(9/29/25)

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #39):
Numbers 25-28; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Psalm 114-116; Proverbs 26-27; Obadiah; Acts 1-2; Hebrews 1-4
Recommended Reading*:*
"Can I Have Joy in my Life?" by R.C. Sproul