

# “Unless the Lord...”

Sermon Series: **Singing with the Psalmist—Learning to Feel Our Faith**



## Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would not only have *informed minds* but *enflamed hearts!*



## Key Text

Psalm 127

→ “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” (v. 2).



## Big Idea

Christ’s life, death, and resurrection makes it possible for our work and family to be reconnected to God and reinvested with its cosmic significance!

### (1) Work (vv. 1-2)

Our work is *from* the Lord, *with* the Lord, *by* the Lord, and *for* the Lord, but we can often attempt to labor without reference to Him. Such labor is always in vain and always riddled with anxiety. We are told what working with Him is like at the end of v. 2, and it’s wonderful: “for He gives to His beloved sleep.” Here is an invitation to stop striving to be God and start being truly and fully human. If we find ourselves unable to rest, unable to sleep, it is possible we are attempting to work without the Lord.

### (2) Family (vv. 3-5)

Family also is *from* the Lord, *with* the Lord, *by* the Lord, and *for* the Lord. But again, we can remove it from its context and make it about us. When we handle family rightly, it is a blessing to every member. The particular emphasis in our text is on the protection that the family provides for one another. Instead of using family for selfish gain, turning on one another, competing with one another, they are helping, covering, and protecting one another.

### (3) Christ

In Christ, our work and family is reconnected back to God and reinvested with its cosmic significance. In Christ the commission given to Adam has been reclaimed. The Great Commission can be laid over the Adamic Commission—going into the world, making disciples, filling it with people renewed in His image! Now, in all our work, we are temple building, adding living stones unto the cornerstone. In all our families we are laboring to see our children and others adopted into His greater family.



## Principled Action

Rest in Christ’s finished work not only in “church” but in the office and in the home.



## Reflection Questions

- Have you ever tried to build something the Lord wasn’t building? Tell the story. What did it feel like? How did it end?
- What does *work* from, with, by, and for the Lord mean to you? Which do you have the hardest time with? Answer the same questions with regard to *family*.
- Read the Great Commission (Mat 28:18-20) against the Adamic Commission (Gen 1:28). How are they similar? How are they different? How has Christ’s death and resurrection changed things? How does this affect your view of work and family?
- How does your Sunday connect to your Monday? Do you feel they are more connected or disconnected in your life? How can the connection improve?