



SERIES: July Series “OFF ROADING”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 3:10 / Proverbs 13:4 / 1 Timothy 5:8 / Colossians 3:23-24

TITLE: The Reward in Fulfillment

“God helps those who help themselves”. Have you ever heard that? I have. And I often hear it attributed to the Bible. In 2017, Barna discovered that 52% of practicing Christians said this was taught in Scripture. But you won’t find that verse in the Bible. But what you do find, is a call to ownership and responsibility.

Here’s what the Bible does actually say:

2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NLT), “[Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: “Those unwilling to work will not get to eat.”](#)”

Proverbs 13:4, “[Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.](#)”

1 Timothy 5:8, “[But those who won’t care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers.](#)”

The Bible is clear that we are called not to laziness, but to God-honoring production. We know from the feedback you provide that many of you are struggling with laziness. You know you have projects to do, but it’s easier to surf social media. You know you’ve got to steward your body better, but Netflix is calling. You know you’re watching YouTube at work when you’ve got tasks to complete. Your struggle is common and real, but God calls us for more.

God does not help those who help themselves, especially when it comes to our Salvation. There’s nothing we can do in that department. And in the realm of practical living, God does give us the opportunity to be faithful in our tasks.

So today, if you’re struggling to be productive, know you’re not alone. And know that what you sow is what you reap. And remember what Paul told slaves in Colossians 3:23-24, “[Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. ²⁴Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward and that the Master you are serving is Christ.](#)”

When we remember that all we do is to glorify God, it motivates us to manage our time and our attention well. Is it okay to take time to rest? Absolutely. God tells us to. But God also tells us to be faithful in our stewardship and in our productivity.

So here’s my challenge for you today: Cut out 1 distraction. Is it social media? Uninstall the app on your phone, and then celebrate. If it’s binge-watching Netflix or Hulu, each time you want to

turn it on, say “No” and then tell yourself, “Good job for standing strong.” If it’s YouTube or texting, shut off your phone until your job is done, and celebrate the completion of your task.

What gets rewarded gets repeated. Remember that God will give you a heavenly inheritance for your faithful work on Earth. So reward yourself for being a faithful steward and saying “No” to laziness.

When we maximize our time for God’s glory, we all win the day.