



## GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion

### 10 – Well, Which One Is It?

#### Announcements:

3/27 @7:30 -

Prayer

3/28 @6:30 -

Grace Group

3/31 @8:30 -

Sunday School

3/31 After Service -

EASTER

POTLUCK

**ICE BREAKER:** If someone were to plan you a party for you, would you prefer they invite 3 people, 30 people or 300 people?

**READ:** Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 and 4:4-6

One thing that I like to do that often annoys my wife (always a dangerous game to play, but I guess I like to live dangerously!) is to answer NON “yes or no” questions with a yes or a no answer. So she will ask me: “Do you want mac and cheese or chicken for dinner?” And I will answer “Yes” Because in all honesty, I would like either mac and cheese or chicken for dinner. Even as I write this I can see her eyes rolling! Well I can see Solomon trying to do the same thing if we asked him a similar question: Is it better to be diligent and work or is it better to rest? Yes! He might answer.

Work is definitely better. We should be diligent. Solomon has said this not just once, but multiple times. (the passage we read, but also 2:24 and 3:22) Scripture also praises the hard worker while laziness or sloth are not just bad, but sinful. For just a few quick highlights:

Colossians 3:23 - “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,”

Proverbs 14:23 - “In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.”

2 Thessalonians 3:10 - “For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.”

So why is it better to work? Because It is good and right to work hard and there is a reward for all of our toil - not just here “under the sun” (if anyone does not work let him not eat!) but also in eternity (for we work for the Lord and we are storing treasures in heaven).

**DISCUSS:** In what ways do you see working hard as good? Is there a limit to this thought (i.e. can we work *too* hard)?

But what about 4:6 where Solomon says that a handful of quietness (rest and contentment) is better than two handfuls of work? So is it better to rest? Yes, rest is also definitely better! Rest is what we long for, and not just in a “I don’t want to do anything” sort of way, but in a “I am run down, I have been going and going and going and desperately need rest”. Again, we can think here under the sun, but also should remember that heaven is often described as simply that -- “rest”. It is good and right to take a quiet break from all our laboring too. The classic biblical example here is the story of Jesus with Mary and Martha, one is toiling and working, the other sitting at the feet of Jesus, and the one not working (Mary) has “chosen better” (see Luke 10:38-42).

**DISCUSS:** In what ways do you see rest as good? Is there a limit to this thought (i.e. can we rest *too* much)?

Here is ultimately the answer to which is better: It is both and neither because truly we need both. WE can remember back to the beginning of chapter 3 and the “time” poem. There is a time for toil and a time for rest, and both of these come in the times that God has ordained. So in times of toil it is better to toil, and in times of rest it is better to rest, but in both resting and toiling we do all things for the glory of God!

**DISCUSS:** What does it mean to work for the glory of God? How do we do that? What does it mean to rest for the glory of God? How do we do that?