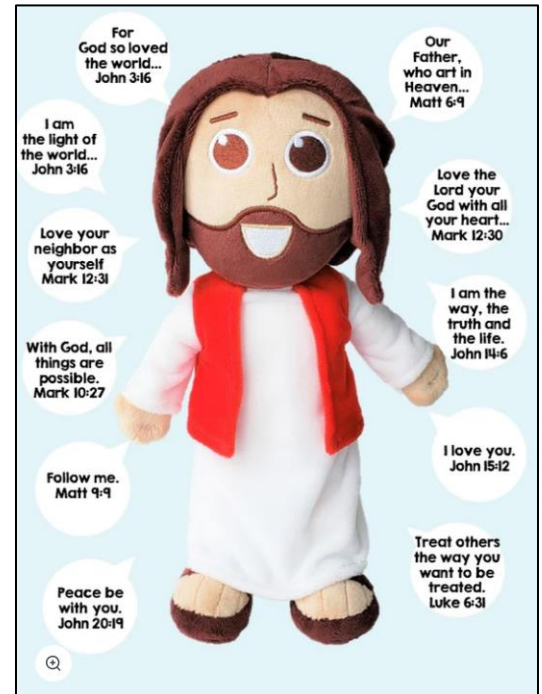


Sermon to the Saints of God assembled at Topeka, KS: Sunday, January 29, 2023

Proverbs 6 – Part 1: Go to the Ant Thou Sluggard

But first ... the news:

- **Thus saith the false-prophet-Pope, via Fox News:** Pope Francis said during an interview Tuesday homosexual relations are "not a crime" and called laws that penalize homosexuality "unjust." At the Vatican, the Pontiff said that God loves everyone as they are and called on Catholics to do more to welcome people from the LGBTQ community into the church. He also encouraged them to support laws allowing homosexual practices. "Being homosexual isn't a crime," Francis told The Associated Press. Amid his remarks, Francis said there needed to be a distinction between a legal crime and a religious sin with regard to homosexual practices: "It's not a crime. Yes, but it's a sin. Fine, but first, let's distinguish between a sin and a crime." The Pope added: "It's also a sin to lack charity with one another." The Pope also addressed how some Catholic bishops support laws criminalizing homosexuality in some parts of the world. He, too, has referred to the issue in terms of "sin" but said bishops and others should undergo a process to change their thinking to recognize the dignity of all people. "These bishops have to have a process of conversion," he said, saying the bishops should observe the same "tenderness, as God has for each one of us." ... Francis called these laws "unjust," and said the Catholic Church could and should work to put an end to them. "It must do this. It must do this," he emphasized. Francis also said gays must be welcomed and respected: "We are all children of God, and God loves us as we are and for the strength that each of us fights for our dignity."
- **Thus saith "Plushy Jesus" via the phony "Christian" moneychangers:**
- **Thus saith the Lord of Hosts via Jeremiah the Prophet:**



- **Jeremiah 23** "1 ¶ Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. 2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD. 3 And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds;

and they shall be fruitful and increase. 4 And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD. 5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. 7 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; 8 But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land. 9 ¶ Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness. 10 For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right. 11 For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD. 12 Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, even the year of their visitation, saith the LORD. 13 And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err. 14 I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah. 15 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land. 16 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Harken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD. 17 They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you. 18 For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard it? 19 Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked. 20 The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly. 21 I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not

spoken to them, yet they prophesied. 22 But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings. 23 Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? 24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD. 25 I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. 26 How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart; 27 Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal. 28 The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD. 29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? 30 Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour. 31 Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. 32 Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD. 33 ¶ And when this people, or the prophet, or a priest, shall ask thee, saying, What is the burden of the LORD? thou shalt then say unto them, What burden? I will even forsake you, saith the LORD. 34 And as for the prophet, and the priest, and the people, that shall say, The burden of the LORD, I will even punish that man and his house. 35 Thus shall ye say every one to his neighbour, and every one to his brother, What hath the LORD answered? and, What hath the LORD spoken? 36 And the burden of the LORD shall ye mention no more: for every man's word shall be his burden; for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God. 37 Thus shalt thou say to the prophet, What hath the LORD answered thee? and, What hath the LORD spoken? 38 But since ye say, The burden of the LORD; therefore thus saith the LORD; Because ye say this word, The burden of the LORD, and I have sent unto you, saying, Ye shall not say, The burden of the LORD; 39 Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and cast you out of my presence: 40 And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten."

My friends, we can see the extreme doctrinal error of the phony Christian world around us; we can see the terrifying consequence of institutionalized sin falling out daily in the

world around us; we can see this selfish, greedy, godless society crumbling as the long work of spiritual decay breaks through the surface bringing forth God-promised, irreversible destruction; we can see the ways that God has pickled this generation in sin, and now they are caught in their own snares; we can see the very earth revolting – groaning and travailing to bring forth the day of the Lord. We see all of this, and know with great anticipation that it must be so; the Day of the Lord will not come, except these things (and more) come to pass. Yet, we are still watching and waiting; The Day has not yet dawned. We must keep our hearts focused on the Lord, and our hands tending to all things that He has appointed for us – raising up our families; ministering to the saints; preaching the Gospel of Christ. Our work is not done. To that end, Proverbs 6 is full of excellent, practical instruction, which I would like to explore over the next two or three sermons.

Proverbs 6:1-5

“1 My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger, 2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth. 3 Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend. 4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids. 5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.”

- What is it to “be surety”? Surety is a promise that you will fulfill an obligation for someone else if they fail to fulfill it themselves. For instance, I can make surety for someone’s debt by promising to pay it myself if they fail; in doing so, I might be putting my assets on the line, ex: my house.
- Jesus Christ has made himself surety for His people. We owe a debt that we are unable to pay; before the foundation of the world, He promised the Father that He would make that payment in His own blood. (**Hebrews 7:22**) Without that surety, we are left with a debt that we cannot ever overcome. Herein we see the love and mercy of God.
- As such, there are times and circumstances where we ought to emulate our Lord, and should therefore make surety for another. Mostly, we don’t need to be making surety, we simply need to minister to the needs of the saints with the resources that the Lord loans to us. When we do such a thing, we should do it simply, freely, and sincerely, expecting nothing in return, but we should also do it prudently, and within the bounds of the resources that we have at our disposal. We ought not carelessly go beyond that, and rashly swear oaths, particularly in a circumstance that puts our ability to live, provide for our family, or minister to the saints in jeopardy. Consider these further verses on the subject of rash suretyship:
 - **Proverbs 26:17** *“He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.”*

- **Proverbs 11:14,15** “14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety. 15 He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretiship is sure.”
- **Proverbs 17:17,18** “17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. 18 A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend.”
- **Proverbs 22:26,27** “26 Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts. 27 If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?”
- We can be lured into this trap by a misguided view of charity, or a sincere, yet faulty notion that we can “help” or “fix” a person or situation that is beyond our scope or ability. There are certainly times when a person falls into the need for surety by no fault of their own. More often, someone is in this spot because of their misbehavior (ex: see “sluggard” in verse 6). If we take on surety for a person whose misbehavior has brought them to ruin, without any expectation that there is a real change of heart and behavior, then we have played the fool, and will surely be accountable to pay every dime.
- What do we do if we find ourselves having fallen into this trap? The way of the world is to casually enter into such agreements, and to then treat them like they are not binding. Faithless swearing of oaths is a thing that is offensive to God. As such, the instruction here is to make it the focus of your days to fulfill the debt as quickly as possible. Indeed, “the borrower is servant to the lender”. (**Proverbs 22:7**) Clearly the primary instruction here is to avoid putting yourself into this spot in the first place.

Proverbs 6:6-11

“6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, 8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. 9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? 10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: 11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.”

- From the beginning, the omniscient, omnipotent God established His law in this earth; He wrote it upon the hearts of men, and He intricately taught it by the very nature of His vast creation. All around us, we see the instruction of the Lord in the earth itself, and in the wondrous creatures that populate it. No wonder then, that the Lord sends us to observe His creation to get wisdom. Consider the words of Job:
 - **Job 12:7-10** “7 But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: 8 Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. 9 Who knoweth not in all

these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this? 10 In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.”

- We are instructed to consider the ways of the ant so that we can “be wise”. It is fascinating to learn about the animals that God has created, but knowledge itself isn’t the goal. We look for the knowledge, and then ask the Lord to sanctify us in that knowledge; put that knowledge to good use, so that we walk in godly wisdom and prudence. It’s not enough to know something – that knowledge must become understanding, and then action.
- This consideration of the ant is a particular warning against being a sluggard. The dictionary defines sluggard as “a habitually lazy person”. I think we should be careful that we don’t define sluggard simply as someone that sleeps too much; that would be an easy way to skip past this lesson and not apply it meaningfully to our own selves. We can be habitually lazy in so many ways, including this: we can work really hard for the purpose of supporting and protecting the rest and ease that we desire. In other words, participating in activity doesn’t necessarily mean you aren’t a sluggard. If your thoughts and efforts are employed to ensure that you protect your own interests, resources, down time, etc., then you are being a sluggard. If you are putting your primary efforts to caring for yourself, while hoarding your excess strength and resources that could be helping others, then you are a sluggard.
 - **Proverbs 26:11-16** *“11 As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly. 12 Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him. 13 The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets. 14 As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed. 15 The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth. 16 The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.”*
 - Why do we find such a tight connection between being a sluggard and being wise in our own conceit? Because the nature of slothful, selfish behavior is that you must excuse it so that you can quiet your own conscience. You know you’re being selfish and lazy, but in order to keep doing it every day, you have to build up thoughts and words to make it seem appropriate. When the behavior of a slothful man is challenged, he is ready to fight; words that have churned around in his belly come pouring out to defend and excuse. In my experience, I have found people behaving that way are ready to not only justify themselves, but are ready to be contentious accusers of the person provoking them to good works. By that device, no one will want to challenge their slothful behavior, because the process is so painful! God forbid, my friends! What a shameful state of affairs!

- So let us now “go to the ant”, “consider her ways, and be wise”. As we observe these amazing creatures, we should be looking to apply the lesson to our practical daily affairs, to our individual spiritual work, and to the body of Christ.
- Ants:
 - **Prolific:** There are roughly 12,000 species of ants in the world. They are so abundant that they have the same aggregate biomass as humans. One acre of rainforest contains roughly 3.5 million ants.
 - **Ordered:** From birth, every ant has a distinct function:
 - Queen: While the queen is central to the colony, her name is a bit of a misnomer. The queen doesn’t “rule” over the colony. “Mother” is more descriptive of her role, as her primary function is to reproduce. Most colonies of most species of ants have only one queen. Once that queen dies, all of the members of the colony continue to perform their role, right up until each of them dies, and then the colony is gone. The queen can live upwards to 30 years, while all other ants only live for about one year.
 - Drone: These are the only male ants. They only live for a few months. Just long enough to come to maturity and mate, then they die.
 - Worker / Soldier: These are all sterile females that live approximately one year. Virtually every ant that you have seen in your life is in this category. They build and renovate the nest, scout, forage, defend, care for the larvae, etc.
 - **Lifecycle:** Queen ants spend their lives laying eggs. They mate one time, and then lay several thousand eggs over the course of many years. The queen regulates which type of ant she brings forth depending upon the needs of the colony. If she lays an unfertilized egg, then it will bring forth a male (drone). That drone will grow to maturity, including a set of wings. If the queen lays a fertilized egg, then it will be a female. Then the queen has to decide whether that female should be a worker, or a “virgin queen”. If a worker (vast majority of eggs), then the queen secretes a hormone onto the egg that will keep the ant from developing wings or ovaries, thus a sterile female worker. If she leaves the egg alone, then it will produce a reproductive female, who will develop ovaries and wings. In the right season, the mature drones and virgin queens will take flight in a swarm, looking for opportunities to create new colonies. This is referred to as their “nuptial flight”. Most of those ants will die in the process. The few that find a suitable and safe place for a nest will mate. Directly after mating they lose their wings. The males go off to die, and the now fertile queen will bring forth and provide for the first brood,

which she will make entirely workers. From there, the young colony will begin to build their nest.

- **Strong:** Ants can lift between 10 and 50 times their body weight. That would be like a human lifting a car above their head. They do heavy work for tiny, largely defenseless creatures.
- **Industrious:** Ants are continual workers. They sleep in tiny bursts about 250 micro-naps per day which add up to 4 hours of sleep. Outside of that, they are in continual motion serving their function.



- **Cooperative:** If something is too heavy to carry, then they lift it as a team, helping one another with their burden. If something is unreachable, then they make a ladder of their bodies. If something is not spannable, then they make a bridge of their bodies.
- **Undeterred:** Whatever obstacle gets in their way, they find a way around it. If their colony is flooded out, then they gather the queen and the babies, and link up legs to make a raft upon which they can float for months. The moment they hit dry ground, they resume their functions. Scouting, foraging, nesting, etc. as they establish their new home.
- **Prepared / Patient:** Ants have the foresight to understand that if they don't patiently prepare for the coming winter, then they will die. They endure the difficulty of the rainy spring, and the hardness of the hot summer to stay on task in preparation for the winter. Here are some things that they do to prepare:
 - Dig deep tunnels and caverns within their nest to store food, and for retreating deeper into the ground as the hard cold sets in.
 - Collect and store food.
 - Ensure that everyone is well fed before winter starts, paying particular attention to the young, who will be less able to manage the lean time; plus older ants will be more able to venture out to forage when there are warmer winter days.
 - Build up mud and other materials inside the nest for insulation.
 - Pack the entrance tunnels with dirt to seal them off for winter.

- They huddle to conserve warmth, with the queen and young at the center, knowing how important they are to the survival of the colony.
- **Focused / Purposeful:** All of their activity supports the primary objective – the survival of the colony, which centers around the reproductive activity of the queen. If the queen dies, then the colony dies.
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- **Communicators/ Teachers:** Ants communicate and teach each other with the use of pheromones. The older, more experienced ants are the ones venturing farther from the nest, setting the course for the others. Each of them is able to lead, but equally able to follow. They communicate good and bad paths to the others.
- **Reliable:** Ants have no ruler. They are intrinsically obedient to the purpose for which God framed them. Oh that it were so amongst the sons of men!
- **Resourceful:** They use whatever resources are at hand. Typically, you think of ants foraging for their needs. However there are some ants that herd other insects. There are some that farm fungus within their nests.
- **Committed:** They are dedicated in obedience to the role that has been appointed for them. They will stay faithful to their work, even to the death.
- **Selfless:** You don't see ants fighting their brethren for supremacy. Pride and ego are not a thing in an ant colony. Each ant performs their function faithfully with no thought to usurp another's role. Each ant has two stomachs: one for their own nourishment, and one to store provisions for the needs of the colony.
- **Superorganism:** Each individual ant is obscure and humble, but collectively they are mighty. While they are individual creatures, they are a part of a larger, continual organism. They are highly connected, working toward the same mission, moving in unison like a well drilled army.



- Having considered the ways of the ant, let us **be wise** ...

- If we behave ourselves as selfish, lazy, sluggards, then the promise here is that poverty will come upon us as one that travelleth. The sluggard sets the course and takes the long foolish journey step by step, until the day comes when he arrives at the destination. The outcome is certain. Our want will come upon us as an armed man. The sluggard will have no way to resist the outcome when it comes suddenly upon him as an armed thief in the night. The outcome is sudden and irresistible.
- Similarly, if we refuse to diligently invest ourselves in spiritual work, then we will look up and be spiritual impoverished, and put to an open shame. Reading, praying, speaking often to one another - this is our work to do, and do it we must, or we will pay a dear price.
- Circle back to the first section of Proverbs 6 regarding surety. The proud, selfish, slothful behavior of the sluggard brings a person to a crisis, which often leads that person to shamelessly impose on the kindness of their faithful friends to escape their mess. That's how we might find ourselves foolishly making surety for someone. We don't have any business behaving this way, and we have even less business presuming upon the kind hearts around us to fix these messes. Go to the ant!
- Over the years, when I have given provocation or correction to a person behaving like a sluggard, I have often encountered strong contention as that person defends the righteousness of their behavior. The justification comes in many flavors, but three of them are consistent:
 - They have lowered the bar for the efforts of their work to a comical level. Often this is done in the face of continual provocation from those around them. Danger! It must be the opposite! Don't make yourself scarce when there are needs around you. Don't make yourself difficult to communicate with. When there's a call for help – be dependable! If you have ordered the affairs of your house such that you have little to no contribution to the needs of the body, then you have to ask yourself sincerely: am I a sluggard? Go to the ant!
 - It's someone else's fault. People don't like me. People don't want to spend time with me. I've created a crisis, and now I will assault the "charity" of those around me. Never mind that those around me are running at top speed to be of service wherever they can; let me just add this assault to their burdens. Shame on you! Let me suggest this: if you have time to sit and churn through your complaints and distresses and discontentment – cooking up cases against others, particularly your co-elect - it's time to get to work! What can you be doing to be of service? Go to the ant!

- “I don’t fret the future – I’m supposed to take no thought for tomorrow ... there’s more to life than chasing wealth ... etc.” A foolish, unscriptural excuse that comes loaded with a satanic accusation against the very people that you are leveraging to solve your crisis. The instruction of Christ in Matthew 6 is that we are not supposed to be fretting away our days in faithless pursuit of our needs and desires. The scriptures are also full of instruction that we are supposed to be forward focused and responsibly prepared within the circumstance that the Lord has placed us; prepared not just to provide our own needs, but to provide the needs of others. That’s what ants do. That’s what the Proverbs 31 virtuous woman does. That’s what the wise virgins do. (**Matthew 25**)
- I want to be very clear, because I know how seriously most of you take the words that the Spirit provides from the pulpit. I am not pushing for people to work themselves to death. Specifically, there are many older people in this body who have been a faithful example, and have shown the behavior of the ant for decades. I am not asking you to take on a workload that your bodies cannot take on. To the contrary, I am encouraging you to bring your experiential wisdom, more than your muscle, to the table. Ants have no guides, overseers, or rulers ... but we do! Guide and teach. Entrust work to younger people, and help them to grow in that work and be accountable.
 - Mark the paths, and encourage less experienced people to stick to them. I have no interest in the worldly notion that people need lots of freedom to plot their own course. Do you want to spread your wings and collect up worldly experiences, or do you want to hold fast to Christ and reach the finish line? Give me safety in the old paths that the Lord has established – the strait, narrow path that leads to salvation. Help me to see the ancient landmarks, and to avoid unnecessary danger.
 - Those who are younger in the faith ought to be following those paths. They ought not to be fighting to assert their own wisdom and prowess. They ought not to be making contention. They ought to be drinking in good counsel and wisdom, and then following it. They ought not to make it difficult to provoke to good things. They ought to have their sniffers out, searching for the marked trails. If you are hearing a consensus of danger from your co-elect, then forsake your desires and flee from it!
- I want to leave you with some thoughts about how the lesson of the ant applies to the body of Christ as a whole. The superorganism of the ant colony

is very much reflective of the nature of the Church. Many members, but one body. Consider:

- **Workers:** Here we see the bride of Christ. These female ants exhibit the attributes of the Proverbs 31 virtuous woman. Ordered, strong, industrious, cooperative, undeterred, prepared, patient, focused, purposeful, trustworthy, teachers, reliable, resourceful, committed, selfless (see sermons on 8/19/2018 and 8/26/2018). This is the work of our lives – this is the nature of the church. *“Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?” (Song of Solomon 6:10)*
- **Queen:** All of the activity of the ant colony is done in service to the prime directive: maintain and preserve the queen, as she is the entity that perpetuates the species. So it is in the church. Our work is in support of our prime directive: maintain and preserve the purity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Maintain it, live it, preach it. **(Matthew 28:19,20)** In doing so, by the work of the Spirit, we make disciples of Christ, and the church continues. If we stop maintaining, living, or preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, then the proverbial queen is dead, and the church is nothing more than an empty husk; a creature that doesn’t realize it has already died. The candlestick is gone, and all that is left is a social club bound together with some common behaviors.
- **Drones:** While much of the work of the church is teaching Christ to her members, and providing for their practical and spiritual needs, there will always be the need to preach the Gospel to the world, for the good of the sheep. The colony gives of itself in an effort that is largely lost. Most of the drones die. Likewise, most of the seed that we sow never takes root. But where it does, a soul is called to salvation, and in some instances, a church is born. In these male drones that fly to sow seed, I think we also see the ministers of the church. They fly to their work, but the work is not about them. Each minister has a short time to do his particular work, and then his days come to an end, while the church and her work continues in perpetuity.

I pray that the Lord blesses each of us with understanding, wisdom, and grace sufficient to faithfully labor in the work that He has appointed for each of us, with joyful anticipation of that time when our labor will be done.