

Working for the Lord - Workshop

For many, their “work life” is the most disconnected aspect of their life from their Christian faith

2nd Chronicles 31:20 – 21

Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God.

And every work that he undertook in the service of the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandments, seeking his God, he did with all his heart, and prospered.

- Our work should be wholehearted: being fully present in the moment and working with every part of our being: our physical body; our minds, will, and emotions; and our spirit.
 - Our work is always an expression of who we are and who we worship.

The Highest Form of Joy for The Believer Is to Bring Glory to God - Work is a Means for that Expression

Ecclesiastes 5:18 – 20

Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God.

For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

- This joyful man sees his work, his wealth, his possessions, and the power to enjoy them as a gift from God.

God Did Not Offer Adam and Eve Wages for Dressing and Keeping the Garden:

The Work Itself Was the Reward.

Genesis 2:1 - 2

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

- God’s work was to create creation from nothing.
 - Man's ongoing work is to create out of his creation.

The Fall Made this Glorious Thing Become Burdensome and Frustrating

Genesis 3:17 – 19

In pain you shall eat of [the earth] all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you... By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground.

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How can a Christian redeem what others see as necessary obligation? Labor for your Lord!

Colossians 3:23 - 24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Christian Work Is *Any* Good Work Done Wholeheartedly by A Follower of Christ

Ephesians 6:5 - 8

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.

- In Western culture we are encouraged to pursue a career for something that is our “passion.”
 - “Do something you love, and you’ll never work a day in your life.”
- But remember work itself is the reward. Consider the potential joys of a first century slave in Ephesus redeeming their work (certainly not what their high school career counselor encouraged them in) as an opportunity to show their love for their Lord.

Remember, What You Do Is Not Who You Are

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Colossians 3:3 - 4

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Be just and honest in all your dealings with resources, money, and time

Proverbs 11:1 A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight.

Titus 2:9 - 10

Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

Work For your Lord and Not for Men

Colossians 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

1st Peter 2:18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

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Beware The Temptations of Laziness and Sloth

Proverbs 6:6 - 11

Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.

Without having any chief, officer, or ruler,

she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.

How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?

A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,

and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

- A sluggard is a habitually inactive person. The sluggard lacks motivation to work hard and sees little need, to put forth his best effort.
 - This makes not only for a poor employee, but a poor parent, spouse, student, neighbor, and church member.

Proverbs 6:9 How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?

Proverbs 10:26 Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him.

Proverbs 13:4 The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

Proverbs 15:19 The way of a sluggard is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a level highway.

Proverbs 19:24 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and will not even bring it back to his mouth.

Proverbs 20:4 The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.

Proverbs 21:25 The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.

Proverbs 22:13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!"

Proverbs 24:30 I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense,

Proverbs 26:13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!"

Proverbs 26:14 As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed.

Proverbs 26:15 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth.

Proverbs 26:16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.

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Good and Honest Christian Work is a Strong Witness

Genesis 39:2 - 5

The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master.

His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.

So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.

From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field.

Don't work for money, work for the glory of God and the opportunity to give

Proverbs 23:4 - 5

Do not toil(work) to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist.

When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.

1st Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Ephesians 4:28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

- Both the thief and the covetous worker have the same motivation... they want money.

Grow In Your Skillset and Develop Your Talents - Work Hard, And Strive for Excellence

Proverbs 22:29 Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

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

Proverbs 28:19 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

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Don't Get Caught Up in "Office Politics" or "Breakroom Drama"

Proverbs 30:10 Do not slander a servant to his master, lest he curse you, and you be held guilty.

Colossians 3:8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

Proverbs 29:27 An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, but one whose way is straight is an abomination to the wicked.

1st Corinthians 16:14 Let all that you do be done in love.

Plan ahead As You sincerely seek God's will for your Employment and Career

Proverbs 24:27 Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house.

James 4:13 – 15

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that"

- This also includes plans and timing regarding retirement.

Always Remember to Rely on God and Remember the Longview In Your Work

1st Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing,

Psalms 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

1st Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.