

WORK, WORK, WORK!

What about work?

Who Works?

Why Work?



Who works?

- God worked and works
- Jesus, too, worked and works
- We are to work:
 - To be a worker is to be GODLIKE
 - To be a worker is to be FULFILLED
 - Work a blessing or a curse?
 - To be a worker is to be BALANCED

Exodus 20 reminds us of the Sabbath - **the necessity for regular rest, worship and fellowship:**

"Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God."

God tells us to work six days, but generally our jobs are five days a week. The extra day, usually Saturday is to do that stuff around the house or yard.

These days we have a 35 or 40 hour week by legislation, yet many work 50 to 60 hours or more each week.

Steve Biddulph is a family therapist and author of a number of best-selling books including "Raising Boys" and "Manhood". He believes that any man who works more than 55 hours a week will find it difficult to have any positive influence on his family or to be relevant to his children. Those 55 hours include travelling time.

Work & Scripture

“The Bible is not a book about the church in gatherings ... It includes that ...it is a book for working men & women, written in large part by working men and women and written for working men & women”

“Dave Oliver” Love Work, Live Life

Perspectives on Work

- Work was a creation ordinance – it was our first responsibility.
- The first anointing in the scripture was for work:
 - Exodus 35:30-35 Then Moses told the people of Israel, "The Lord has specifically chosen Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 31 The Lord has filled Bezalel with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. 32 He is a master craftsman, expert in working with gold, silver, and bronze. 33 He is skilled in engraving and mounting gemstones and in carving wood. He is a master at every craft. 34 And the Lord has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach their skills to others. 35 The Lord has given them special skills as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple, and scarlet thread on fine linen cloth, and weavers. They excel as craftsmen and as designers. NLT

Proverbs and work!

Proverbs 12:14 Wise words bring many benefits, and hard work brings rewards. NLT

Proverbs 12:24 Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave. NLT

Proverbs 14:23 Work brings profit, but mere talk leads to poverty! NLT

Proverbs 18:9 A lazy person is as bad as someone who destroys things. NLT

Proverbs 19:15 Lazy people sleep soundly, but idleness leaves them hungry.

Proverbs 21:25 Despite their desires, the lazy will come to ruin, for their hands refuse to work.

Proverbs 22:29 Do you see any truly competent workers? They will serve kings rather than working for ordinary people. NLT



An Exhortation to Proper Living

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stay away from all believers who live idle lives and don't follow the tradition they received from us. 7 For you know that you ought to imitate us. We were not idle when we were with you. 8 We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you. 9 We certainly had the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow. 10 Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: "Those unwilling to work will not get to eat."

11 Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people's business. 12 We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living. 13 As for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good.

14 Take note of those who refuse to obey what we say in this letter. Stay away from them so they will be ashamed. 15 Don't think of them as enemies, but warn them as you would a brother or sister.

Purpose of Work

- **Work - Prison or destiny?**
 - It depends on what you believe about **why we work, how we work and who we work for!**
- **I hope we have seen God made us to work and he wants us to work!**
 - Ephesians 2:8-10 Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! 9 We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! 10 No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, **the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.** The Message Paraphrase

What are we working for?

- Ecclesiastes 2:22-23 So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? 23 Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless. NLT
- Back in 2007 Pew Research poll surveyed 579 young people between the ages of 18 & 25, and one of their findings was this: 81% of the young people said getting rich is their generation's most important life goal.
- Millennials and the workplace (Can be people in general)
- Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 So I decided there is nothing better than to enjoy food and drink and to find satisfaction in work. Then I realized that these pleasures are from the hand of God. 25 For who can eat or enjoy anything apart from him? 26 God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy to those who please him. But if a sinner becomes wealthy, God takes the wealth away and gives it to those who please him. This, too, is meaningless – like chasing the wind.

- Work to serve God.
 - Colossians 3:23-24 Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. 24 Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ. NLT
- Work to bring glory to God.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31-32 So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. NLT
- Work to support our families and ourselves.
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:12 We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living. NLT
- We work to help those who cannot help themselves.
 - Ephesians 4:28 If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. NLT

- We work to develop and demonstrate stewardship over what God has given us
 - Matthew 25:23 "The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!' NLT
- We work as witnesses to and for God
 - Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.
 - "The non-Christian people in the marketplaces of the world develop their opinions of Jesus Christ and His church by observing Christians as they perform their day-to-day responsibilities. They neither know nor care how we act on Sunday morning inside the four walls of the church building." (Management: A Biblical Approach by Myron Rush)



What do we work at? Sacred – Secular Divide

- One of the distinguishing features of the Reformation was the recognition of the sanctity of all legitimate work.
- Because we live in God's creation, and since this creation has value to God, then any work that we do, if it is not morally wrong has value to God.
- We don't need to segregate what we may consider to be sacred from secular employment since "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it".
- Every occupation, paid or unpaid, if we seek to serve, glorifies God.

Serve God at work (BIOY)

You do not need to leave your job in order to serve God wholeheartedly. In the life of Bezalel, we see an example of someone who made the most of his life by serving God in his place of work. His daily job was his primary ministry.

God fills his people with his Spirit for the workplace: 'I've filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him skill and know-how and expertise in every kind of craft to create designs... he's an all-around craftsman' (31:3-5, MSG).

Bezalel was a sculptor. He was chosen by God to build the tabernacle (37:1; see also 31:1-5). He responded to God's call and 'made everything the Lord commanded Moses' (38:22). He worked in a team, which included a designer called Oholiab (v.23) and accomplished great things for God. **The key to his success was that he was a man filled 'with the Spirit of God'** (31:3; 35:31).

It is possible to be a talented musician, writer, or artist without being filled with the Spirit. But when the Spirit of God fills people for these tasks their work often takes on a new dimension. It has a far greater spiritual impact. This can be true even where the natural ability of the musician or artist is not particularly outstanding. Hearts can be touched and lives changed. No doubt something like this happened through Bezalel.

But do different types of work have different values?

- In Christ we need to realize that neither money nor skills are measures of real worth.
- We are to define ourselves by who we are, not by what we do!
- All work is to be a collaborative effort between God and us –
 - Psalms 127:1 Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. NLT

WHAT IS YOUR WORK??

Conclusion

- Romans 12:1-2 So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life — your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life — and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. 2 Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. Message