



God's Word on Employment

Work is God's plan from the beginning:

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

God calls us to commitment, not comfort.

He promises to be with us, not spare us:

Acts 9 ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.

God's promise: Jeremiah 29 ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

What does it really mean to "do your best"? Colossians 3 ²³Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

Work requires commitment, submission and obedience: Joshua 1 ¹⁶And they answered Joshua, "All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.

Dependability (dictionary) is capable of being depended on, worthy of trust, reliable: Matthew 25 ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.^[a] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

Diligence (dictionary) is careful, consistent, conscientious hard work: Proverbs 12 ²⁴The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

1 Corinthians 15 ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Proverbs 6 ⁶Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. ⁷Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, ⁸she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.

Ecclesiastes 9 ¹⁰Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

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

Proverbs 12 ¹¹Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

Integrity (dictionary) is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles: Titus 2 ⁹Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. ¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to

renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

Psalms 25 ²¹May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.

Nothing is too menial: Christ (Phil 2:5-11), the lives of Paul, David, Joseph

We are to honor and respect our boss:

Colossians 3 ²²Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Ephesians 6 ⁵Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.

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

1 Timothy 6 ¹Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

Romans 13 ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

Work is an expression of honor to God:

1 Corinthians 10 ³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

We must always keep our focus on the Lord:

Proverbs 16 ³ Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.

Colossians 3 ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Our attitude is our way of thinking that affects our behavior; our thoughts drive our feelings and our actions:

Proverbs 23 ⁷ for he is like one who is inwardly calculating. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, but his heart is not with you.

Philippians 2 ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Proverbs 17 ²² A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Employment is a gift:

Ecclesiastes 3 ¹³ Also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

Toil is profitable; talk is cheap:

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

We should work to give rather than take:

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.

Work challenge creates dependence on God:

Psalm 94 ¹⁹ When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.

2 Corinthians 4 ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

James 1 ² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Romans 8 ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Scripture points out evidences of neglect:

Proverbs 24 ³⁰ I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, ³¹ and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken

down. ³² Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. ³³ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, ³⁴ and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

We should not let the size of the task scare us when God is with us:

Psalm 90 ¹⁷ Let the favor^[a] of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

We must be conscious of task priorities:

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

Strong admonitions from Apostle Paul:

1 Thessalonians 5 ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

2 Thessalonians 3 ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. ¹⁴ If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed.

God's work in and through us:

Philippians 1 ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.