

WORKING FOR MORE THAN A LIVING

Elevate: Increasing in the things that matter most



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1. Work is a _____ from God not just a necessary _____.

a. We were _____ to work

Genesis 1:28 (NIV)

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

b. We were created to be _____ with God

Genesis 2:15 (NIV)

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

c. Work is a _____ of God

Ecclesiastes 5:18-19 (NIV)

This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God.

2. To find meaning in your work, you must break down the _____ vs. _____ barrier in your life.

2 Chronicles 29:11 (NIV)

Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The secular view of work (Doug Sherman and William Hendricks)

1. The ultimate purpose of work is to fulfill yourself.
2. Success in life means success in work.
3. You can tell how successful someone is by his material wealth, his professional recognition, or his positional status.
4. You've got to do whatever it takes to get the job done.
5. "I just go to work to earn a living"

Evaluation of the Secular View

1. The secular view of work expects more of work and self than work and self can deliver.
2. The secular view of work tends to make an idol of career.
3. The secular view of work leaves God out of its system.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV)

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

3. You serve _____ and _____ through work.

1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV)

Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Psalms 37:25-26 (NIV)

I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.

Luke 16:9 (NIV)

I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

I Thessalonians 4:11-12 (NIV)

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

II Thessalonians 3:10-12 (GNT)

10 While we were with you, we used to tell you, “Whoever refuses to work is not allowed to eat.” 11 We say this because we hear that there are some people among you who live lazy lives and who do nothing except meddle in other people's business. 12 In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we command these people and warn them to lead orderly lives and work to earn their own living.

God values work - Proverbs

Proverbs 6:6 (GNT)

Lazy people should learn a lesson from the way ants live.

Proverbs 10:4 (NLT)

Lazy people are soon poor; hard workers get rich.

Proverbs 10:26 (NLT)

Lazy people irritate their employers, like vinegar to the teeth or smoke in the eyes.

Proverbs 12:11 (NIV)

Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense.

Proverbs 12:14 (NIV)

From the fruit of their lips people are filled with good things, and the work of their hands brings them reward.

Proverbs 12:27 (GNT)

If you are lazy, you will never get what you are after, but if you work hard, you will get a fortune.

Proverbs 13:4 (GNT)

No matter how much a lazy person may want something, he will never get it. A hard worker will get everything he wants.

Proverbs 14:23 (Message)

Hard work always pays off; mere talk puts no bread on the table.

Proverbs 15:19 (NIV)

The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.

Proverbs 16:26 (GNT)

A laborer's appetite makes him work harder, because he wants to satisfy his hunger.

Proverbs 17:2 (NIV)

A prudent servant will rule over a disgraceful son and will share the inheritance as one of the family.

Proverbs 18:9 (NIV)

One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.

Proverbs 19:24 (NIV)

The sluggard buries his hand in the dish. He will not even bring it back to his mouth.

Proverbs 20:4 (ESV)

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

Proverbs 20:13 (GNT)

If you spend your time sleeping, you will be poor. Keep busy and you will have plenty to eat.

Proverbs 21:5 (NIV)

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Proverbs 21:17 (NIV)

He who loves pleasure will become poor. Whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.

Proverbs 21:25 (NIV)

The sluggard's craving will be the death of him because his hands refuse to work.

All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.

Proverbs 22:13 (GNT)

Lazy people stay at home; they say a lion might get them if they go outside.

Proverbs 22:29 (NIV)

Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings. He will not serve before obscure men.

Proverbs 24:27 (NIV)

Finish your outdoor work and get your fields ready. After that, build your house.

Proverbs 24:33-34 (NIV)

A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

Proverbs 26:14 (NIV)

As the door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed.

Proverbs 27:16 (NIV)

The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who answer discreetly.

Proverbs 27:18 (NIV)

The one who guards a fig tree will eat its fruit, and whoever protects their master will be honored.

Proverbs 27:23-24 (NIV)

Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations.

Proverbs 27:25-27 (NIV)

When the hay is removed and new growth appears and the grass from the hills is gathered in, the lambs will provide you with clothing, and the goats with the price of a field. You will have plenty of goats' milk to feed your family and to nourish your female servants.