

God's Words of Life on
WORK

For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

2 Thessalonians 3:10

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.

Genesis 3:19

Do not take advantage of a hired man who is poor and needy, whether he is a brother Israelite or an alien living in one of your towns. Pay him his wages each day before sunset, because he is poor and is counting on it. Otherwise he may cry to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin.

Deuteronomy 24:14-15

The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more." His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

Matthew 25:20-21

Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation.

Romans 4:4

Devotional Thought on
WORK

Many workers today are sacrificing themselves on the altar of work. They tolerate immensely harmful symptoms such as anger, chemical dependencies and loneliness in a blind pursuit of self-fulfillment through career success. This may be pathological—but it is also idolatrous! Such a person *worships* his career as though it were a god.

But like all idols, work is impotent in the face of true human need. I have sat with grown men, exceptionally powerful men in business, and watched them weep as they told me their tragic stories, some with personal lives shattered, others with families in shambles, perhaps their character debased or their circumstances out of control. None of their professional accomplishments, none of the machinery of their companies, none of their wealth is of the slightest help. They are in deep trouble and their god is impotent.

I grieve with such men. I also respect the fact that the same thing could happen to me as to anyone. It happens when we take God's gift of work and begin to worship and serve it rather than Christ.

*Doug Sherman and
William Hendricks*

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Six days do your work, but on the seventh day do not work, so that your ox and your donkey may rest and the slave born in your household, and the alien as well, may be refreshed.

Exodus 23:12

From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him.

Proverbs 12:14

May the favor of the LORD our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

Psalms 90:17

Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.

Proverbs 10:4

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions.

Proverbs 12:27

The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

Proverbs 13:4

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All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

Proverbs 14:23

The laborer's appetite works for him; his hunger drives him on.

Proverbs 16:26

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

Proverbs 21:5

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

Proverbs 22:29

My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor.

Ecclesiastes 2:10

Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

Ecclesiastes 11:6

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.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12