

A dirt road in a dry, hazy landscape with mountains in the background. The road is the central focus, leading the eye into the distance. The sky is overcast and the ground is covered in dry, yellowish-brown vegetation.

# PROVERBS

*The Way of Wisdom*

# Proverbs - Work

## BIG IDEA

The Person and Work of Jesus Christ gives meaning to our work and sets us free to avoid the various pitfalls surrounding our work.

## RoadMap

The Purpose of Work - Genesis 1-3

The Pitfalls of Work - Proverbs

The Person and Work of Jesus Christ



# Proverbs - The Purpose of Work

## Genesis 2 - The Seventh Day, God Rests

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his **work (melakah)** that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his **work** that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his **work** that he had done in creation.



# Proverbs - The Purpose of Work

## Genesis 1:26-28

**26** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

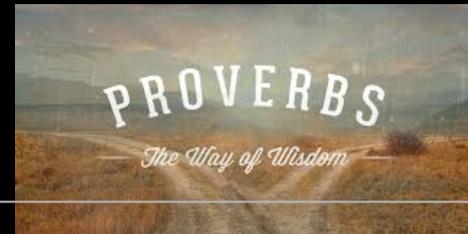
**27** So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

**28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

# Proverbs - Work



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# Proverbs - The Purpose of Work

## The Purpose of Work

God has invited YOU to join HIM.... in cultivating the Earth, bringing order from chaos, caring for the environment and the animals, using ALL of your God-given talents, insight, and knowledge to help humans flourish...



# Proverbs - The Pitfalls of Work



# Proverbs - The Pitfalls of Work

**GOD**

**Creation: harnessed  
People: flourish**



# Proverbs - The Pitfalls of Work

## GOD

**Creation: harnessed**  
**People: flourish**

## MAN

**Creation: abused**  
**People: exploited**

# Proverbs - The Pitfalls of Work

Tim Keller - Every Good Endeavor

“The effects of sin touch ALL of creation; no created thing is untouched by the corrosive effects of the fall. Whether we look at societal structures such as the state or family, or cultural pursuits such as art or technology, or bodily functions such as sexuality or eating, or anything at all within the wide scope of creation, we discover that the good handiwork of God has been drawn into the sphere of mutiny against God....



Work as a vehicle for God's Blessing 6 Scriptures	Greed vs. Contentment 7 Scriptures	Unjust Gain (At least) 20 Scriptures	The Sluggard (At least) 21 Scriptures
Prov 11:10**	Prov 15:27 **	Prov 1:10-19	Prov 6:9-11**
Prov 11:26**	Prov 16:8 **	Prov 10:2 **	Prov 10:4-5**
Prov 27:25-27	Prov 23:4-5 **	(Prov 10:9)	Prov 14:23**
Prov 28:22	Prov 28:20	Prov 11:1 **	Prov 16:26**
Prov 22:29**	Prov 28:25 **	Prov 16:11	Prov 18:9**
Prov 31:20, 24	Prov 30:8-9**	Prov 20:10**	Prov 19:15**
	Prov 30:14-15	Prov 20:17**	Prov 19:24**
		Prov 20:23**	Prov 20:4**
		Prov 21:6**	Prov 20:13
		Prov 22:16**	Prov 21:25-26**
		Prov 28:8**	Prov 22:13
			Prov 24:30-34
			Prov 26:16**
			Prov 28:19**

# Proverbs Scriptures - Work

Prov 11:10\*\*\*

*n*When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness.

Prov 11:26

*o*The people curse him who holds back grain, but *p*a blessing is on the head of him who *q*sells it.

Prov. 22:29\*\*\*

Do you see a man skillful in his work?  
He will *b*stand before kings;  
he will not stand before obscure men.

Prov 15:27

Whoever is *v*greedy for unjust gain *w*troubles his own household, but he who hates *x*bribes will live.

Prov. 23:4-5\*\*\*

*d*Do not toil to acquire wealth;  
*e*be discerning enough to desist.  
<sup>5</sup> When your eyes light on it, it is gone,  
*f*for suddenly it sprouts wings,  
flying like an eagle toward heaven.



# Proverbs Scriptures - Work

Prov. 28:25\*\*\*

A greedy man *s*stirs up strife,  
but the one who trusts in the LORD will *t*be enriched.

Prov. 30:8-9\*\*\*

Remove far from me falsehood and lying;  
give me neither poverty nor riches;  
feed me with the food that is *x*needful for me,  
9 lest I be *y*full and *z*deny you  
and say, *a*“Who is the LORD?”  
or lest I be poor and steal  
*b*and profane the name of my God.

Prov. 10:2

Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,  
*g*but righteousness delivers from death.

Prov. 11:1

*a*A false balance is an abomination to the  
LORD,  
*b*but a just weight is his delight.

Prov. 20:10

*o*Unequal<sup>2</sup> weights and unequal measures  
are both alike an abomination to the LORD.



# Proverbs Scriptures - Work

Prov. 22:16

Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth,  
or gives to the rich, *o*will only come to poverty.

Prov. 14:23

In all toil there is profit,  
but mere talk *k*tends only to poverty.

Prov. 16:26

A worker's appetite works for him;  
his *x*mouth urges him on.

Prov. 18:9

Whoever is slack in his work  
is a *h*brother to him who destroys.

Prov. 6:9-11

*r*How long will you lie there, *l*O sluggard?  
When will you arise from your sleep?  
<sup>10</sup> *s*A little sleep, a little slumber,  
*t*a little *s*folding of the hands to rest, and  
poverty will come upon you like a robber,  
and want like an armed man.



# Proverbs - Pitfalls of Work - Unjust Gain



Milton Friedman

“The Social Responsibility of Business is to make profit.”



# Proverbs - Pitfalls of Work - Unjust Gain



**Proverbs 11:1**

**A false balance is an abomination  
to the Lord...**



# Proverbs - Pitfalls of Work - Unjust Gain



## What should we do?

1. Pray and ask the Lord to expose our hearts.
2. Pray and ask the Lord to reveal injustice around us.
3. Learn about these issues (Christian and non-Christians)
4. Be Obedient



# Proverbs - Pitfalls of Work - The Sluggard

Proverbs 24:30-34 English Standard Version (ESV)

**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.



# Proverbs - Pitfalls of Work - The Sluggard

Keller's Book - "Acedia is a life driven by mere cost-benefit analysis of 'what's in it for me?' Acedia is the sin which believes in nothing, cares for nothing, enjoys nothing, loves nothing, hates nothing, finds purpose in nothing, lives for nothing and only remains alive because there is nothing for which it will die."





# Proverbs - The Work of Jesus Christ

1 Cor. 15:22-24

<sup>22</sup> For *j*as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then *k*at his coming *l*those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he delivers *m*the kingdom to God the Father after destroying *n*every rule and every authority and power.





Mark Noll writes,

Who, after all, made the world of nature, and then made possible the development of sciences through which we find out more about nature? Who formed the universe of human interactions, and so provided the raw material for politics, economics, sociology, and history? Who is the source of harmony, form, and narrative pattern, and so lies behind all artistic and literary possibilities? Who created the human mind in such a way that it could grasp the endless realities of nature, human interactions and beauty.. Who moment by moment sustains the natural world?... The answer in every case is the same -

**God did it. And God does it.**

## 1 Timothy 6:6-8 English Standard Version (ESV)

**6** But godliness with contentment is great gain, **7** for we brought nothing into the world, and[[a](#)] we cannot take anything out of the world. **8** But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

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## Colossians 3:23-24 English Standard Version (ESV)

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