

## **Godly People are Hard at Work**

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### *The Biblical Template*

1. **To work is to be like God.** Genesis 1 "God created...." When we create and produce we are like Him....we are Godly.
2. **Humans were intended to work from the beginning.** Genesis 2:15 "God took the man and put him in the garden to work and keep it"
3. **The results of work are good.** Genesis 1: 10,18,25 and 31 ("very good"). I hope you know what it feels like to review the results of work and see "that it is good." The fruit of work should lead us to worship.....there is no produce that is possible without his magnificent provision....NONE. The produce of my work should cause me to worship and the produce of your work should cause me to worship! It all reveals his grace and magnificence.
4. **Work is now often hard, wearisome and even painful because of sin.** Genesis 3:16-19. The ramifications of the fall on work are many: sinful man is selfish (laziness and more), he deceives, steals, and perverts the goodness of work and the glory God should receive from it.
5. **To not work is to sin.** Genesis 3:23 "therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken." God has assigned to us that we should work. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 "For when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat." \*The idea that we should strive to eliminate work from our life is a sinful one.
6. **It's common to see people work hard in a sinful way.** Exodus 31:15 "For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day, there is a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the Lord." God knew that some people in their greed and idolatry would do nothing but work. We are prone to this because we are prone to trusting in the fruit of work and not God.....we are prone to finding our identity in work and not our Heavenly Father and Lord.....we are prone to pursuing affirmation from work and it's fruit and not from our faithfulness to the Father

### **The Proverbs on Work**

Proverbs 10:4 "A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich"

Proverbs 10:5 "He who gathers in Summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame."

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

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

Proverbs 13:11 "Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it."

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

Proverbs 15:19 "The way of a sluggard is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a level highway."

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

*Proverbs 31:15 " She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens."*

*Proverbs 31:27 "She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness."*

*Proverbs 16:3 "Commit your work to the Lord and your plans will be established."*

**How do you commit your plan/work to the Lord?**

- a. Surrender yourself to the Lord.
- b. Ask him to give you good work. (PRAY)
  - Your plan will be established because you got it from him
  - Never reclaim ownership
- c. Give him the latitude to change the plan whenever he chooses
- d. Be willing to accept any outcome he brings to pass
- e. Always consider the fruit of your work as belonging to him
- f. Give him glory by acknowledging to all whose plan it was and where the fruit came from

**7. The greatest work ever accomplished was the death and resurrection of Jesus on our behalf.** John 19:30 "It is finished". What is finished? The hardest task ever undertaken. The task that was too great for any man.....he created a way for wretchedly sinful humans to know God and to enter heaven. In fact, John 1:51 tells us that He built a ladder between this broken messed up world and heaven "Truly, truly I say to you, you will see heaven opened , and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of man."