

ORDER OF SERVICE

April 3, 2022

Worship in Fellowship
Worship in Music
Worship in Baptisms
Worship in Message
Worship in Giving

Jeremy Mikeska
Wayne Braudrick

Staying Power In Business

Selected Scriptures

Staying Power Series

Life Change: we stay the course in rest and labor.

God is the Original Worker!

Gen 2:1-2

God has 7 core values regarding all work:

He makes work to include rest and ongoing effort.

He does not countenance worker mistreatment.

Deu 24:14-15
Prov 20:10

He hates cronyism.

Is 1:23-24

He expects work done fairly, openly, and to benefit all.

Lev 19:15-18

He notes that problems are not solved by laws.

Gal 3:19
Col 2:22-23

He hates inflation.

Amos 8:4-5

God has 7 core values regarding all work: (continued)

He rewards excellence.

Col 3:22-24

In response, wise humans:

Appreciate the gift of work.

1 Cor 10:31

Work the problems that come with it.

Gen 3:19

Serve workers without promoting idleness.

2 Th 3:10-13

Refuse to compromise values for money.

Mark 8:34-36

Give first fruits to the Lord.

Mal 3:8-10

Stay the course in rest and labor.

Acts 18:2-4
2 Tim 4:7

Some hard questions:

Do I keep treating work as a gift? [Hint: check your complaints.]

Do I fight the good fight, working the problems? [Hint: check your frustrations.]

Do I serve workers without promoting idleness? [Hint: check your productivity.]

Do I compromise values for money? [Hint: check your rationalizations.]

Do I give first fruits to the Lord? [Hint: check your giving.]

Do I stay the course in rest and labor? [Hint: check your excuses to avoid work/the regularity of your time off.]



Staying
POWER

a sustainable life of stewardship

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



courtesy Conductive Electronic – a rather obvious name



That sounds nice and all, but it's not for me. No offense, but I'm a working man. God doesn't seem to care about workers like me or labor like mine.

Doesn't like work or workers? You must have fried your brain! The first thing God reveals about Himself is that He created all work. God is the original worker!



That sounds nice and all, but it's not for me. No offense, but I'm a working man. God doesn't seem to care about workers like me or labor like mine.

Genesis 2

¹ So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. ² On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ^{CSB}

Genesis

Ex

Lev

Num

Deu

Genesis 2

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7 core values:

- He makes work to include rest & ongoing effort.**

Genesis

Ex

Lev

Num

Deu

7 core values:

- **He makes work to include rest & ongoing effort.**

We assume that rest includes being tired. It doesn't have to, often shouldn't, and certainly doesn't for God. He rests as a disciplined part of creating.

We assume completion means one is finished with the work. That isn't true for God or humans made in His image. Completion is merely the end of the beginning of labor.

Genesis 2

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Deuteronomy 24

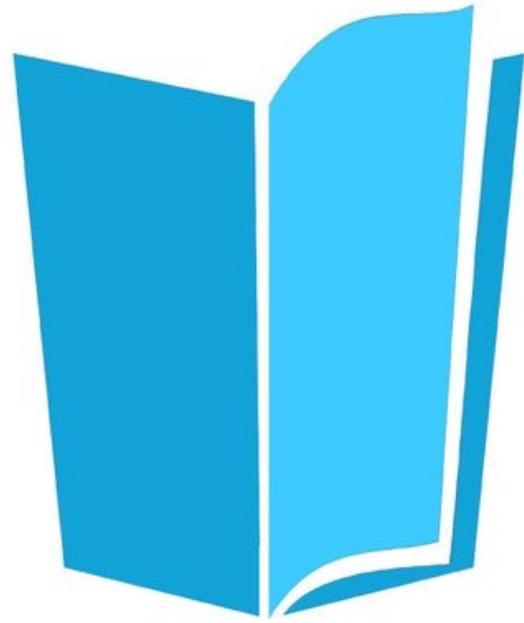
14 “Do not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether one of your Israelite brothers or one of the resident aliens in a town in your land. 15 You are to pay him his wages each day before the sun sets, because he is poor and depends on them. Otherwise he will cry out to the LORD against you, and you will be held guilty.” CSB

7 core values:

- He makes work to include rest & ongoing effort.**
- He does not countenance worker mistreatment.**

Proverbs 20

**¹⁰ Differing weights
and varying
measures—
both are detestable
to the LORD. ^{CSB}**



courtesy the warped genius of Jared Coe

Proverbs 20

**¹⁰ Differing weights
and varying
measures—
both are detestable
to the LORD. ^{CSB}**

Isaiah 1

**²³ Your rulers are rebels,
friends of thieves.**

**They all love graft
and chase after bribes.**

**They do not defend the rights of the fatherless,
and the widow's case never comes before them. ^{CSB}**



COINTELEGRAPH



Isaiah 1

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They all love graft
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They do not defend the rights of the fatherless,
and the widow's case never comes before them.**



Isaiah 1

**23 Your rulers are rebels,
friends of thieves.**

**They all love graft
and chase after bribes.**

**They do not defend the rights of the fatherless,
and the widow's case never comes before them.**

**24 Therefore the Lord GOD of Armies,
the Mighty One of Israel, declares:**

"Ah, I will get even with my foes;

I will take revenge against my enemies." CSB

God on work

7 core values:

- **He makes work to include rest & ongoing effort.**
- **He does not countenance worker mistreatment.**
- **He hates cronyism.**
- **He expects work conducted fairly, openly, & to benefit all.**

Leviticus 19

15 “Do not act unjustly when deciding a case. Do not be partial to the poor or give preference to the rich; judge your neighbor fairly. 16 Do not go about spreading slander among your people; do not jeopardize your neighbor’s life; I am the LORD. 17 Do not harbor hatred against your brother. Rebuke your neighbor directly, and you will not incur guilt because of him. 18 Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community, but love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.” CSB

Modern enterprise

Fake moral superiority

Race & class hatred

Trolling & spamming that puts people in peril

Human-to-human

solutions not allowed

Cancel instead of dialogue

Grudges expected to be

borne forever

Leviticus 19

Do not act unjustly

Do not be partial

Do not go about spreading slander

Do not jeopardize your neighbor

Do not harbor hatred

Do not take revenge or

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Modern enterprise



Defined by being against
an expanding list of things.

Leviticus 19

¹⁸ Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community, but love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

Defined by being for the
common good.

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Galatians 3

19 Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. ^{NLT}

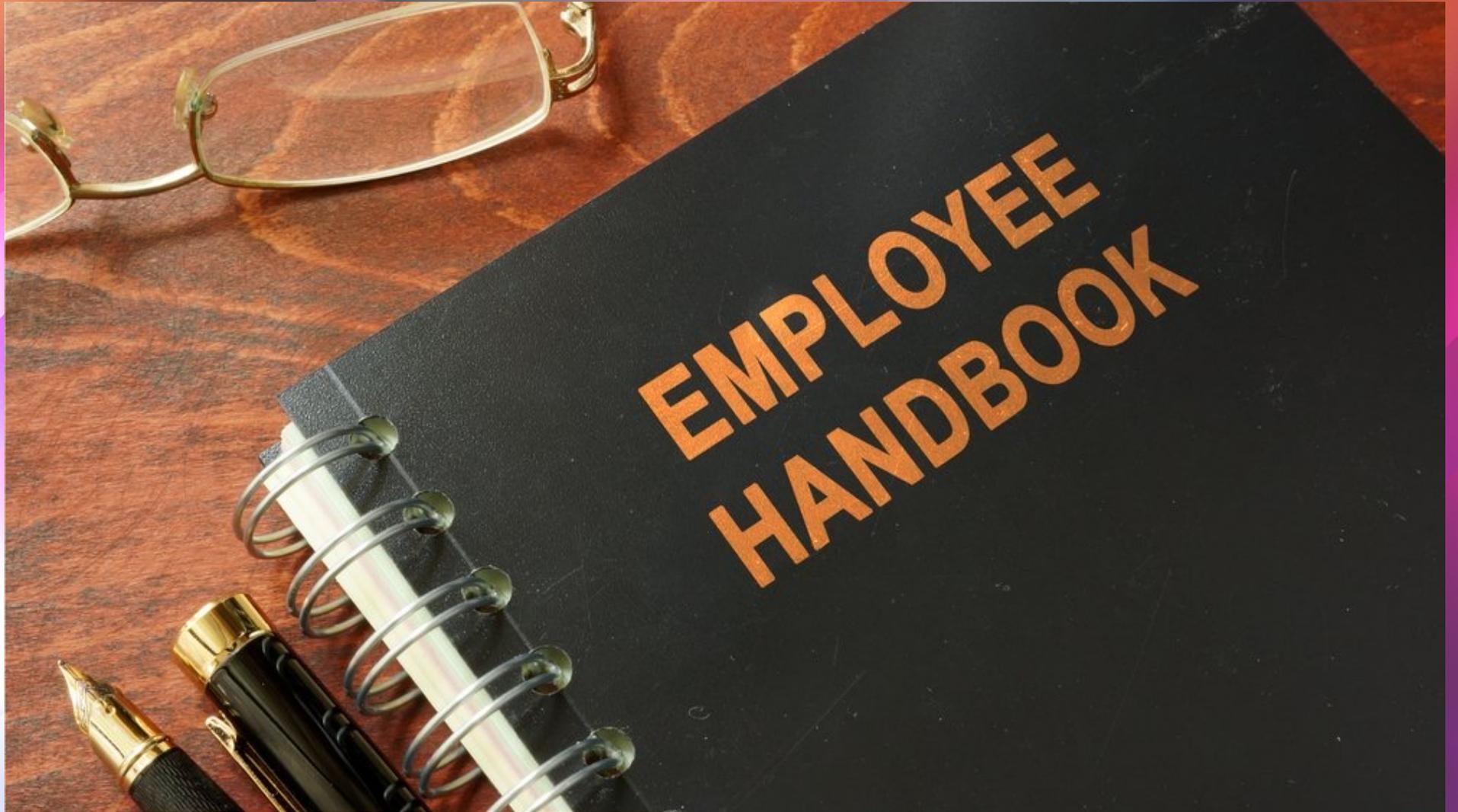
Galatians 3

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The two purposes of law are to show that humans need God and to describe what to avoid. No law can solve problems – not even economic ones.

The USA has at least 5199 listed federal crimes created by Congress. That doesn't include the 175,000 pages in the Code of Federal Regulations which contains an unknown number of crimes created by executive branch authority.





Colossians 2

²² All these regulations refer to what is destined to perish by being used up; they are human commands and doctrines. ²³ Although these have a reputation for wisdom by promoting self-made religion, false humility, and severe treatment of the body, they are not of any value in curbing self-indulgence. ^{CSB}

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- **He notes that human problems are not solved by laws.**
- **He hates inflation.**

Amos 8

**⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and do away with the poor of the land,
⁵ ...[You] reduce the measure
while increasing the price
and cheat with dishonest scales. ^{CSB}**

Inflation is a moral wrong. What's behind [inflation]? The short answer—a moral crisis. Late-medieval theologians... rightly saw that currency debasement and inflation are a form of robbery. Sound currency was seen as a moral imperative and was firmly established primarily in Protestant nations such as the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and later the United States. Under these stable monetary regimes, the world prospered as never before. Since debasement was forbidden, government spending capacity was limited to the revenues gotten through taxation or borrowing.

THE
MAKER

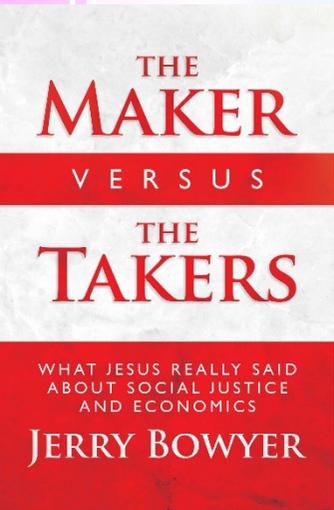
VERSUS

THE
TAKERS

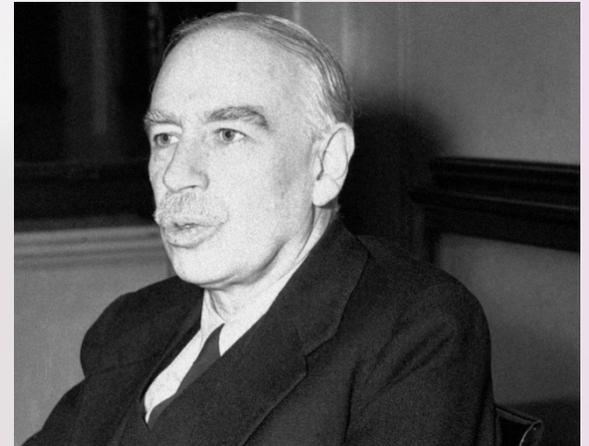
WHAT JESUS REALLY SAID
ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND ECONOMICS

JERRY BOWYER

Prices remained stable for centuries. The poor were protected from a loss of purchasing power. Savers were protected from the erosion of the value of their savings. This rewarded them for saving their wealth, creating the enormous pools of capital that built the industrial infrastructure of the modern world. Sound money encouraged thrift, thrift built a constituency for sound money, and together they constructed a virtuous cycle of deferred gratification.



But in the early 20th century, there came a moral revolution. A young group of Edwardian intellectuals, who ironically appropriated for themselves the name the “Cambridge Apostles,” led by John Maynard Keynes, revolted against deferred gratification. They rejected belief in God, adherence to the traditional moral code, [and] the virtues of thrift and sound money.



As inflation skyrockets again, it's time to remember and to rebuild the theological foundations of sound money. Inflation is an affront to our Creator because it is an affront to his image-bearers. It arrogantly sets aside the commandment "Thou shalt not steal!" It gives divine prerogatives to the state. Christians must oppose it, not as part of political point-scoring, but as part of our prophetic witness against social evil. – Jerry Bowyer, *The Maker Versus the Takers: What Jesus Really Said About Social Justice and Economics*

Colossians 3

²² Don't work only while being watched, as people-pleasers, but work wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord.

²³ Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, ²⁴ knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ. ^{CSB}

Colossians 3

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CSB

Satisfaction = perceived benefits \geq perceived costs

Excellence = benefits $>$ costs

The one who did not create more capital was satisfied because he perceived that his benefits outweighed the costs. But that was merely his inaccurate perception based on flawed data. The truly productive sextons were rewarded because they actually increased benefits beyond their effort cost.

Parable of the talents
Willem de Poorter
ca. 1650



God on work 7 core values

- He makes work to include rest & ongoing effort.
- He does not countenance worker mistreatment.
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- He expects work conducted fairly, openly, & to benefit all.
- He notes that human problems are not solved by laws.
- He hates inflation.
- He rewards excellence.

1 Corinthians 10

**31 So, whether you
eat or drink,
or whatever you do,
do everything for
the glory of God.** ^{CSB}



courtesy Laderach

Appreciate work

Gen 2:15 **The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.** ^{CSB}

Ecc 9:10 **Whatever you find to do with your hands, do it with all your might** ^{NET}

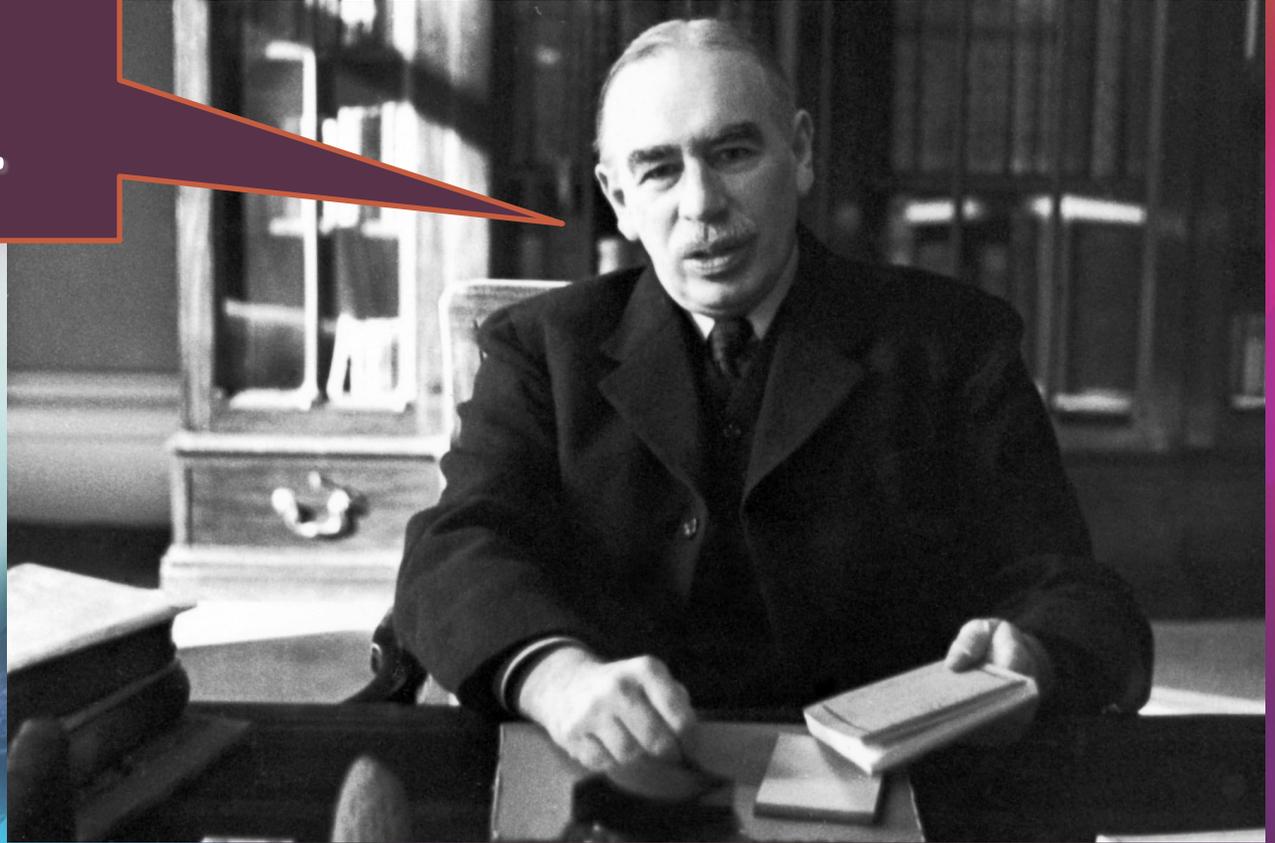
Col 3:22 **Don't work only while being watched, as people-pleasers, but work wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord.**

²³ **Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people** ^{CSB}

Genesis 3

**¹⁹ You will eat
bread by the sweat
of your brow
until you return
to the ground, since
you were taken
from it. ^{CSB}**

I work alone. There isn't anyone with whom to conflict.





courtesy Psychology Today

Genesis 3

**¹⁹ You will eat
bread by the sweat
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THE #1 INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER
CHRIS HADFIELD

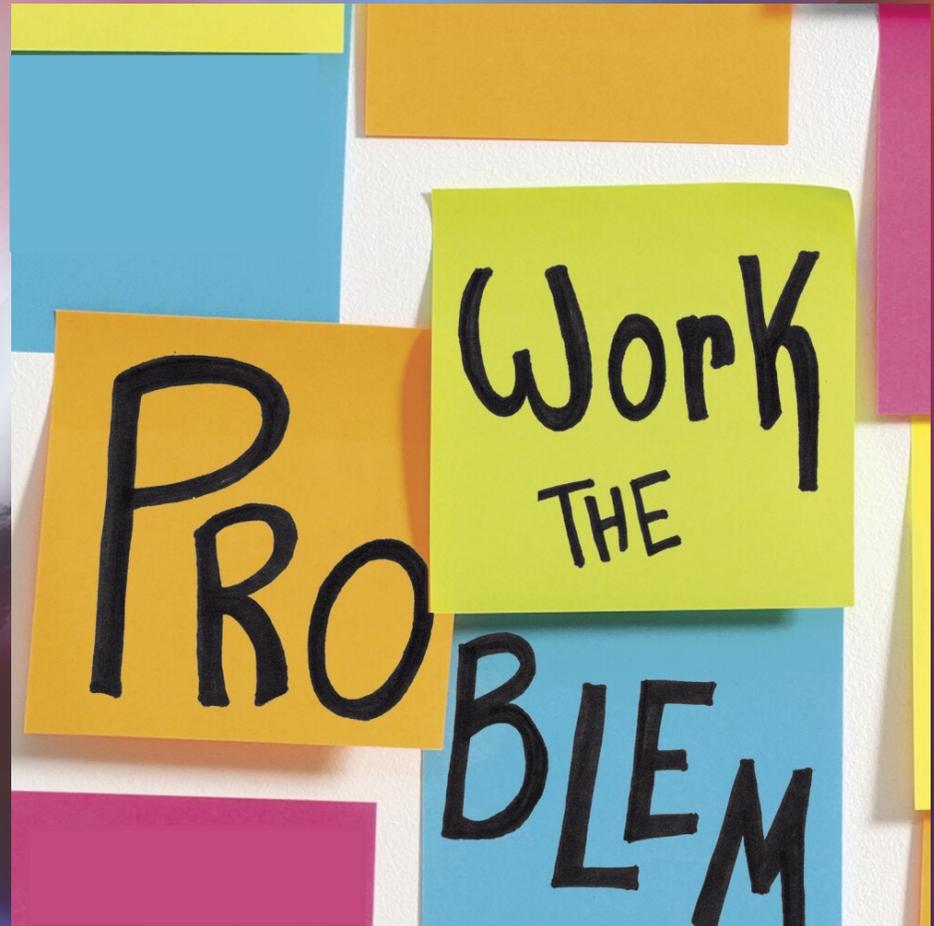


'Houston, we
have a superstar'
Washington Post

'A one-man mission to
make space cool again'
Independent

AN
**ASTRONAUT'S
GUIDE TO
LIFE ON EARTH**

LIFE LESSONS FROM SPACE



courtesy Laderach

Working as a test pilot in the “out of control” program [Pax River, where test pilots put F-18s out of control in order to determine best ways to regain control] reinforced my ability to focus on the essentials even in the midst of chaos. I learned never to give up on a problem and...how to focus and work the problem. – Chris Hadfield, *An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth*



In response to God's work

Wise humans who desire economic staying power:

- **Appreciate the gift of work.**
- **Work the problems that come with it.**
- **Serve workers without promoting idleness.**

2 Thessalonians 3

¹⁰ When we were with you, this is what we commanded you: “If anyone isn’t willing to work, he should not eat.” ¹¹ For we hear that there are some among you who are idle. They are not busy but busybodies. ¹² Now we command and exhort such people by the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly and provide for themselves. ¹³ But as for you, brothers and sisters, do not grow weary in doing good. ^{CSB}

3
DODAN
8.31.15



NON-FAT VENTI
SOY CHAI LATTE
W/ 1/2 SHOT OF
ESPRESSO, NO FOAM

MODERN
PANHANDLER

2 Thessalonians 3

¹⁰ In fact, when we were with you, this is what we commanded you: “If anyone isn’t willing to work, he should not eat.” ¹¹ For we hear that there are some among you who are idle. They are not busy but busybodies. ¹² Now we command and exhort such people by the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly and provide for themselves. ¹³ But as for you, brothers and sisters, do not grow weary in doing good. ^{CSB}

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- **Refuse to compromise values for money.**

Mark 8

³⁴ And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?” ESV

In the fall of 2021, during a dinner with the CEO, I was told that I was on track to become the next CEO of Levi's—the stock price had doubled under my leadership, and revenue had returned to pre-pandemic levels. The only thing standing in my way, he said, was me. All I had to do was stop talking about the school thing [Long an advocate for kids, Ms. Sey had repeatedly spoken out against pandemic practices of the San Francisco Public Schools.]

And the calls kept coming. From legal. From HR. From a board member. I explained why I felt so strongly about the issue, citing data on the safety of schools and the harms caused by virtual learning. While they didn't try to muzzle me outright, I was told repeatedly to "think about what I was saying." Meantime, colleagues posted nonstop about the need to oust Trump in the November election. I also shared my support for Elizabeth Warren in the Democratic primary. No one at the company objected to any of that.

Every day, a dossier of my tweets and all of my online interactions were sent to the CEO by the head of corporate communications. In the last month, the CEO told me that it was “untenable” for me to stay. I was offered a \$1 million severance package, but I knew I’d have to sign a nondisclosure agreement about why I’d been pushed out.



The money would be very nice. But I just can't do it. Sorry, Levi's.
– Jennifer Sey, “Yesterday I Was Levi's Brand President. I Quit So I Could Be Free.”

Mark 8

36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ^{ESV}



Malachi 3

⁸ “Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!”

“How do we rob you?” you ask.

“By not making the payments of the tenth and the contributions. ⁹ You are suffering under a curse, yet you—the whole nation—are still robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this way,” says the LORD of Armies. “See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.” ^{CSB}

Why would you do that? The church won't stand by you when you are in need.



Mark 8

First, that's very likely not true. We have many examples to the contrary from our experience. Second, it doesn't matter. It's all God's. I don't need to care for myself. Be wise, yes, as a steward. But to give nothing is now what it was back in Judah – robbing God of gratitude, honor, and trust.

Malachi 3

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**But isn't that a
verse those
creepy prosperity
gospel nuts
abuse?**

So what? They are wrong to manipulate the text, turning God into a pagan genie who fills their greedy desires. But that doesn't make the text wrong!



**But isn't that a
verse those
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In response to God's work

Wise humans who desire economic staying power:

- **Appreciate the gift of work.**
- **Work the problems that come with it.**
- **Serve workers without promoting idleness.**
- **Refuse to compromise values for money.**
- **Give first fruits to the Lord.**
- **Stay the course in rest and labor.**

Genesis 2

1 So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. **2** On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ^{CSB}

7 core values:

- **He makes work to include rest & ongoing effort.**



Stay the course in rest & labor

Gen 2:1 So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. ² On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

Acts 18:2 Paul came to them, ³ and since they were of the same occupation, tentmakers by trade, he stayed with them and worked. ⁴ He reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and tried to persuade both Jews and Greeks. ^{CSB}

2 Timothy 4

**⁷ I have fought the
good fight, I have
finished the race, I
have kept the faith. ^{CSB}**

Do I keep treating work as a gift? [Hint: check your complaints.]

Do I fight the good fight, working the problems? [Hint: check your frustrations.]

Do I serve workers without promoting idleness? [Hint: check your productivity.]

Do I compromise values for money? [Hint: check your rationalizations.]

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Do I stay the course in rest and labor? [Hint: check your excuses to avoid work/the regularity of time off.]

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