

A. SERMON SLIDES

SLIDE 1

Proverb 28:19

Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread,
but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

SLIDE 2

Proverb 6:6–11

Go to the ant, O sluggard;
consider her ways, and be wise.
Without having any chief, officer, or ruler,
she prepares her bread in summer
and gathers her food in harvest.
How long will you lie there, O sluggard?
When will you arise from your sleep?
A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest
and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

SLIDE 3

"The Law and the Prophets lay their stress on the covenant people as a whole, called to show the world what humanity can be; Proverbs focuses on what such restoration should look like in day-to-day behavior and personal character." (ESV Study Bible, 1130)

SLIDE 4

WORKERS VS. SLACKERS

SLIDE 5

- 1) The Blessing of Work
- 2) The Breakdown of Work
- 3) Belief in Work

SLIDE 6

Genesis 2:1-3

“1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work 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.”

SLIDE 7

Genesis 2

"15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it."

SLIDE 8

Adam, mankind, ground = אדמ

SLIDE 9

TWO MAJOR BREAKDOWNS OF WORK:

1. The Resistance
2. The Reliance

SLIDE 10

- The Resistance – “The Sluggard, The Slack Hand, The Sloth”

SLIDE 11

- Reliance – “The Workaholic”

SLIDE 12

"Work without prayer is atheism; and prayer without work is presumption." ~R.W. Dale *

RELIANCE

RESISTENCE

SLIDE 13

Proverb 14:21

Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner,
but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.

Proverb 28:27

Whoever gives to the poor will not want,
but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.

Proverbs 11:25, 19:17, 22:9

SLIDE 14

“Exodus20:8-11

8Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

SLIDE 15

My greatest struggle in this sermon series has been reconciling the Old Covenant wisdom of Proverbs with the New Covenant grace of Jesus Christ.

SLIDE 16

Romans 3:20

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

SLIDE 17

Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

SLIDE 18

Philippians 2:12-13

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

SLIDE 19

How our Creator sees us; a work, working good works, empowered by God working in us.

SLIDE 20

Colossians 3:23-24

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.

B. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you practically experienced work as a blessing?
2. How have you practically experienced the breakdown of work?
3. When you get distracted and work breaks down, which direction do you tend toward?
 1. **The Resistance** – anything but what I'm supposed to be doing
 2. **The Reliance** – work as a counterfeit identity/significance
4. Can you modify your behavior in order to have a wise view of work? Why/why not?
5. How does the New Covenant (Jesus as personified wisdom) affect how we read Old Testament wisdom?
6. "We are works (of God) created to do works (for God) empowered to work (by God in us)."
 1. How does this change what you will "do" this week?
 2. If you celebrate a holiday, how does this change the way you see a day off?
7. Prayer and Praise.