

# YOUR WORK MATTERS: Monday through Saturday Faith Why do you work?

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

Genesis 2:15 ESV

**July 11, 2021 | Eric Smith**

---

## Sermon Summary

Here's the second message in a series of four messages about work. Last week we looked at our work as worship as we answered the question, "Who do you work for?" In this message, we will answer the question, "Why do you work?" In the opening pages of the scripture we see God at work. We also see God putting Adam to work. (Before sin entered the world!) Jesus had this to say about God, "*My Father is always working, and so am I.*" **John 5:17 (NLT)**

Work is a blessing. A quick survey of scripture reveals that most of the heroes mentioned are workplace followers of God. Consider Jesus; ninety percent of his life on earth was invested in growing up and working in the family construction business. Most of the parables Jesus told depict workplace settings.

For the average Westerner, work occupies fully one-third of life. One-third of life equals 90,000 hours! Our work takes up a significant chunk of our time and energy. The "WHY" of our work matters. In this study we will discover three biblical reasons to work.

## Diving Into The Message

### WE WORK TO . . .

#### **1. PROVIDE FOR OUR PERSONAL NEEDS & experience the Satisfaction of a job well done.**

*And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stay away from all believers who live idle lives and don't follow the tradition they received from us. 7 For you know that you ought to imitate us. We were not idle when we were with you. 8 We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you. 9 We certainly had the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow. 10 Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: "Those unwilling to work will not get to eat." 11 Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people's business. 12 We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living. 13 As for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good.*

**2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 (NLT)**

Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper and be satisfied.

**Proverbs 13:4 (NLT)**

- 2. UNLEASH CHEERFUL GENEROSITY & reveal God’s goodness as we trust Him and advance the Good News.**  
(2 Corinthians 9:6&7, 10&11, 13)

- 3. SHARE WITH THOSE IN NEED & encourage expressions of joyful thanks to God.**  
(2 Corinthians 9:8&9,11&12)

*6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 9 As the Scriptures say, “They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.”*

*10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.*

*11 Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. 12 So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.*

*13 As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. 14 And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. 15 Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!*  
**2 Corinthians 9:6-15 NLT**

### **Living Sent**

#### **How should I approach the work I do?**

*Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.*  
**Colossians 3:23 NLT**

# YOUR WORK MATTERS: Monday through Saturday Faith Who do you work for?

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

**Genesis 2:15 ESV**

**July 11, 2021 | Eric Smith**

---

## Life Application Questions

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

**Genesis 2:15 (ESV)**

1. Genesis 2:15 indicates that work has always been part of God's plan. The result of sin is that work is harder; the fall brought difficulty, drudgery, and disappointment. How do you think work was better originally?

*Jesus: "My Father is always working, and so am I. John 5:17 (NLT)*

2. What does John 5:17 above tell us about God, and what are the implications of this for us?
3. Since we're instructed by scripture to work, which of these three purposes for work seem most important to you? Offer an explanation.
  - Providing for my needs and experiencing the satisfaction of a job well done,
  - Unleashing generosity to share God's goodness and advance the Good News
  - Sharing with those in need and encouraging joyful expressions of thanks to God.
4. Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper and be satisfied. Proverbs 13:4 (NLT) In light of this verse, what are some examples of satisfaction you think work should provide?

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**JULY 18<sup>TH</sup>**  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY | K-5 PROMOTION  
**CAMP BIG ENOUGH**

**PROMOTION  
SUNDAY**

STUDENT MINISTRY | 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PROMOTION  
**ORIENTATION &  
CELEBRATION**  
**JULY 18<sup>TH</sup>**



**REACH KIDS FOR CHRIST!  
BE A LEADER!**

JUST TEXT **LEADAWANA** TO (228) 265-5020!

NOMINATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE **AT ALL ENTRANCES** UNTIL JULY 18

**DEACON NOMINATIONS**  
DUE BACK **MONDAY, JULY 19 | 5PM**

