

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

(Godly Wisdom – Our Compass at the Crossroads of Life)

Part 19 – Working Responsibly

Pastor John Raymond

09-06-2026

1. Work brings _____ and _____.

Ecclesiastes 5:18-19 (NASB), “Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat, to drink and **enjoy oneself in all one's labor** in which he toils under the sun during the few years of his life which God has given him; for **this is his reward**. 19) Furthermore, as for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, He has also empowered him to eat from them and to **receive his reward and rejoice in his labor**; this is the **gift of God**.”

Deuteronomy 8:18 (NIV), “But remember the LORD your God, for **it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth**, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.”

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV), “Whatever you do, **work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men**, 24) since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. **It is the Lord Christ you are serving**.”

2. Work is _____ by God.

Proverbs 13:4 (NLT), “Lazy people want much but get little; but **those who work hard will prosper**.”

Proverbs 6:6-9 (NIV), “⁶ **Go to the ant**, you sluggard; **consider its ways and be wise!** ⁷ It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, ⁸ yet it **stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest**. ⁹ How long will you lie there, you **sluggard**? When will you **get up from your sleep**?”

Proverbs 24:30-34 (NLT), “³⁰ I walked by the field of a **lazy person**, the vineyard of one with no **common sense**. ³¹ I saw that it was overgrown with nettles. It was covered with weeds, and its walls were broken down. ³² Then, as I looked and thought about it, I **learned this lesson**: ³³ A little **extra sleep**, a little more **slumber**, a little **folding of the hands to rest**, ³⁴ then **poverty** will pounce on you like a **bandit**; **scarcity** will attack you like an **armed robber**.”

3. Work displays _____.

1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV), “⁸ Anyone who **does not provide** for their relatives,

and especially for their own household, has **denied the faith** and is **worse** than an **unbeliever**.”

Proverbs 26:13-16 (NLT), “¹³ The **lazy person** claims, “There’s a **lion** on the road! Yes, I’m sure there’s a **lion** out there!” ¹⁴ As a door swings back and forth on its hinges, so the **lazy person** turns over in bed. ¹⁵ Lazy people take food in their hand but don’t even lift it to their mouth. ¹⁶ Lazy people **consider themselves smarter** than seven wise counselors.”

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 (NLT), “¹¹ Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and **working with your hands**, just as we instructed you before. ¹² Then people who are not believers will **respect the way you live**, and you will **not need to depend on others**.”

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12 (NLT), “⁶ 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**.”

4. Your purpose is in your _____.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV), “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 4:28 (NIV), “Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but **must work, doing something useful with their own hands**, that they may have **something to share with those in need**.”

Matthew 5:16 ESV, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, **so that they may see your good works** and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NLT), “**Whatever you do, do well**. For when you go to the grave, there will be **no work or planning or knowledge or wisdom**.”