



The Goodness of Work

August 31, 2025

From Work to Labor

“Work” and “labor” synonyms?

Work: jobs and economic survival

Work: the loss of freedom, and exploitation

Work: meaning and purpose

Five Insights on Human Work from Genesis 1-3

God works by creating the world: **Genesis 1**

God rests on the seventh day: **Genesis 2:1-3**

- **Principle one:** working from rest, not resting from work

Humans created last on the sixth day: **Genesis 1:26-31**

Implication: their first day in the world was a sabbath

- **Principle two:** work is intrinsic and essential to human well being

The word play of human (adam) and ground (adama): **Genesis 2:5, 7, 19; 3:17-19**

Adam works the adama from which he came

- **Principle three:** God doesn't need our work: also see **Acts 17:24-25**

There was no one to work the ground: **Genesis 2:5**

A mist and river watering the ground: **Genesis 2:6,10**

God brought up plants from the ground: **Genesis 2:9**

- **Principle four:** Human work echoes, responds to, and extends God's work

Adam's purpose to work it (serve it) and keep it (watch it, protect it): **Genesis 2:15**

Naming the animals: **Genesis 2:19-20**

Humans made in the image of God: **Genesis 1:26-28**

- **Principle five:** Human work post-fall is regathering flotsam

The cursed ground cursed the work: **Genesis 3:17-19**

Thorns, thistles and sweat of the brow: work becomes “labor”: **Genesis 3:17-19**

The vanity of toil: **Ecclesiastes 1:2-3; 2:22**

From Labor to Work

Noble work is still the kernel of survival work

Joy in work: serve God in a “principle four” mindset: **Colossians 3:23-24**

Pursuing work congruent to you!

Laziness is not an option, even in retirement: **2 Thessalonians 3:10**

Work in the next age: reigning with Christ! **2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 20:4-6**