

The Reset: A Renewal in Our Attitude Toward Work

Man was created upon the earth, and immediately, God had him engaged in industry and activity.

Genesis 2:8

⁸ The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.

Genesis 2:10-12

¹⁰ Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there.

Genesis 2:15

¹⁵ Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

Work before money: The man would keep the garden, and the garden would keep him.

Work before sin: not an emotional stressor, but a simple, symbiotic engagement with his environment.

Genesis 2:18

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

The man's wife and his family were given, in part, to help the man to be as successful as he was industrious.

Proverbs 10:1-5

10 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish son is a grief to his mother.
² Ill-gotten gains do not profit, But righteousness delivers from death. ³ The Lord will not allow the righteous to hunger, But He will reject the craving of the wicked. ⁴ Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, But the hand of the diligent makes rich. ⁵ He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely, *But* he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully.

Proverbs 31:16-17

¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; From her earnings she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷ She girds herself with strength And makes her arms strong.

Men and women alike were made by God as an example of diligence to the world, and to be rewarded with honor and compensation.

Proverbs 10:4: ⁴ Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Proverbs 10:26: ²⁶ Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, So is the lazy one to those who send him.

Proverbs 12:27: ²⁷ A lazy man does not roast his prey, But the precious possession of a man *is* diligence.

Proverbs 15:19: ¹⁹ The way of the lazy is as a hedge of thorns, But the path of the upright is a highway.

Innovation and Industry belong to the children of God, who share their father's creative nature.

Genesis 4:2: ² Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

Immediately, within one family, there is diversity of vocation: crops for Cain, and livestock for Abel.

Genesis 4:12

¹² When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.”

Here is the formation of a new lifestyle: vocationally nomadic- a wanderer who would not have a home, per se.

Genesis 4:17-22

¹⁷ Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city Enoch, after the name of his son. ¹⁸ Now to Enoch was born Irad, and Irad became the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael became the father of Methushael, and Methushael became the father of Lamech. ¹⁹ Lamech took to himself two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah. ²⁰ Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and *have* livestock. ²¹ His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. ²² As for Zillah, she also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of all implements of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

Genesis 4:26

²⁶ To Seth, to him also a son was born; and he called his name Enosh. Then *men* began to call upon the name of the Lord.

Finally, we have the religious, or the clergy: Men who would lead others to call on God.

Have we lost sight of the meaningful, God-given value of our work?

At heart, we are all trying to get back to the garden, and have come to think of work as a curse.

What if we came to see work as God intended, as our witness in the world to the diligence and creativity of our Father?

Tend the garden and the garden will tend you. Whatever you put in, God gives back in kind.

Colossians 3:22-24

²² Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who *merely* please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Proverbs 22:29

²⁹ Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before obscure men.