

Some Meaningful Work, part 1
Useless, Becoming Useful

Since sin entered the world, the basis of life has been tragic- some loss or another is working on us all the time.

Proverbs 14:23

²³ In all labor there is profit, But mere talk *leads* only to poverty.

This means that the improvement of society or ourselves requires persistent and painstaking effort.

No man is neutral: if we live, we require resources to do so- we must eat, live somewhere, and prevail upon others for assistance.

Proverbs 26:13-14

¹³ The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road! A lion is in the open square!" ¹⁴ As the door turns on its hinges, So *does* the sluggard on his bed.

Man in his idleness is not truly idle; by refusing to contribute, he personally contributes to the moral, spiritual, and material decline of his environment.

The avoidance of work as a lifestyle makes a man useless to society and to God; it can be painful just to watch him!

Ecclesiastes 10:3, 12-15

³ Even when the fool walks along the road, his sense is lacking and he demonstrates to everyone *that* he is a fool.

¹² Words from the mouth of a wise man are gracious, while the lips of a fool consume him; ¹³ the beginning of his talking is folly and the end of it is wicked madness. ¹⁴ Yet the fool multiplies words. No man knows what will happen, and who can tell him what will come after him? ¹⁵ The toil of a fool so wearies him that he does not *even* know how to go to a city.

Philemon 10-11

¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment, ¹¹ who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.

The gospel of Jesus takes useless people- people who live only for themselves- and makes us useful people.

Since Jesus conquered sin and death, through faith in Him, the basis of life in the Spirit is powerfully redemptive.

The work of God in our hearts makes us the most thoughtful, creative, and productive people in the world.

Acts 10:38

³⁸ *You know* of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and *how* He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

John 5:17

¹⁷ But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."

Ephesians 4:28

²⁸ He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.

2 Thessalonians 3:10

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

Poor work ethic among Christians can be linked directly to some corruption of the doctrines of grace.

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹² instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Because of the gospel we profess, we are considerate, clear-thinkers, hard workers, faithful and respectful in all things.

Colossians 3:23-24

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.

Who do you work for?