

Work

1A Beginnings

1B Work was a part of the creation for mankind:

1C Yahweh, the original gardener, Genesis 2:8–9, “8 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. “

2C Man’s responsibility, Genesis 2:15, “Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. “

1D The two verbs are “serve” and “guard.”

2D Obviously, this constituted work.

3D Note: wilderness is not according to divine intent.

3C Reflection: the original work was to be in the character image of God: Genesis 1:26, “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” “

2B Fall:

1C The curse of Adam because of his disobedience, Genesis 3:17–19, "17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.” "

1D ‘izzabhon is pain-wracking toil.

2D The same word is employed in Genesis 3:16 for the woman’s childbirth pains.

3D The curse of the ground in thorns and thistles is meant to cause hard work.

4D Cultivation is still required to get food, but it became much more difficult.

2C God’s refusal to increase this discipline, Genesis 8:21, "21 And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, “I will not again increase the cursing of the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done."

3C The restatement: Genesis 8:22–9:1, "22 “While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.” 1 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.”

4C The original curse is not removed until Jesus comes in His millennial Kingdom.

2A Work

1B The need to work hard as responsibility:

1C The example of the ant, Proverbs 6:6–11, "6 Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, 7 Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, 8 Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers her food in the harvest. 9 How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep— 11 So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man. "

2C The wealthy soul, Proverbs 13:4, "4 The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich. "

3C The ultimate nature of the lazy, Proverbs 18:9, "9 He who is slothful in his work Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer. "

4C The result of laziness:

1D Proverbs 19:15, "15 Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, And an idle person will suffer hunger. "

2D Proverbs 24:30–34, "30 I went by the field of the lazy man, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; 31 And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. 32 When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: 33 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; 34 So shall your poverty come like a prowler, And your need like an armed man. "

3D Ecclesiastes 10:18, "18 Because of laziness the building decays, And through idleness of hands the house leaks. "

5C A church rule, 2 Thessalonians 3:7–12, "7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, 9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. 10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. "

2B "...as to the Lord," a work ethic visualization.

1C Ephesians 5:22, "22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. "

2C Ephesians 6:5–8, "5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6

not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. "

3C Colossians 3:23–24, "23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. "

4C And if slaves to masters, how much more in a free society?

3B The satisfying nature of the work

1C A soul satisfaction, Ecclesiastes 2:24, "24 Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God. "

2C The sufficiency for logistics, Proverbs 27:23–27, "23 Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, And attend to your herds; 24 For riches are not forever, Nor does a crown endure to all generations. 25 When the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself, And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in, 26 The lambs will provide your clothing, And the goats the price of a field; 27 You shall have enough goats' milk for your food, For the food of your household, And the nourishment of your maidservants. "

4B The vain nature of the work

1C Ecclesiastes 2:4–11:

1D The many and great works of Solomon, vv.4-8: "4 I made my works great, I built myself houses, and planted myself vineyards. 5 I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. 6 I made myself water pools from which to water the growing trees of the grove. 7 I acquired male and female servants, and had servants born in my house. Yes, I had greater possessions of herds and flocks than all who were in Jerusalem before me. 8 I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the special treasures of kings and of the provinces. I acquired male and female singers, the delights of the sons of men, and musical instruments of all kinds.

2D The cumulative result, 9: So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me.

3D The pleasures of a prosperous man, 10: Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, For my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor.

4D The emptiness, 11: Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun."

2C Ecclesiastes 2:17–23:

1D A hatred of life, vv.17-19: "17 Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind. 18 Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. 19 And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.

2D The despair of departure, vv.20-23: 20 Therefore I turned my heart and despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun. 21 For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. 22 For what has man for all his labor, and for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun? 23 For all his days are sorrowful, and his work burdensome; even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity. "

3C A conclusion, Ecclesiastes 12:13–14, "13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil."

5B A woman's work

1C Because labor in childbirth is described in equal terms with the man's labor through the thorns and thistles of this life, a woman might think she is exempt from any other chore.

2C As helpmate: Genesis 2:18–23, "18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." 19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper corresponding to him. 21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." "

3C Work outside the home, Proverbs 31:10-31.

3A Principles of Loss

1B Matthew 6:19–21, "19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "

2B Persecution, Luke 9:23–26, "23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. 25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? 26 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels. "

3B Ultimately, death: Job 1:21, "21 And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." "

4A Work yes, but wealth?

1B The Mammon principle, Matthew 6:24, "24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. "

1C Mammon is both property and the world's way of obtaining it by cheating, cutting corners, stealing, compromising one's principles.

2C The thorns and thistles of this life cause a constant temptation toward mammon.

3C Jesus makes it plain that we cannot serve both, and that one master must be chosen.

4C See also Luke 16:1-14

2B The wicked prosper (but only through mammon):

1C Job 21:7–14: "7 Why do the wicked live and become old, Yes, become mighty in power? 8 Their descendants are established with them in their sight, And their offspring before their eyes. 9 Their houses are safe from fear, Neither is the rod of God upon them. 10 Their bull breeds without failure; Their cow calves without miscarriage. 11 They send forth their little ones like a flock, And their children dance. 12 They sing to the tambourine and harp, And rejoice to the sound of the flute. 13 They spend their days in wealth, And in a moment go down to the grave. 14 Yet they say to God, 'Depart from us, For we do not desire the knowledge of Your ways. "

2C Psalm 73:1–4, "1 Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. 3 For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 For there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm. "

3C Jeremiah 12:1–2, "1 Righteous are You, O LORD, when I plead with You; Yet let me talk with You about Your judgments. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously? 2 You have planted them, yes, they have taken root; They grow, yes, they bear fruit. You are near in their mouth But far from their mind. "

5A Wealth may come as a blessing...

1B Genesis 26:12–14, "12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him. 13 The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; 14 for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him. "

2B Psalm 112:1–3, "1 Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who delights greatly in His commandments. 2 His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed. 3 Wealth and riches will be in his house, And his righteousness endures forever. "

6A ...or wealth may come to destroy.

1B Matthew 4:8–10, "8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' " "

7A Endings

1B The removal of the curse Romans 8:19–22, "19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. "

2B The curse is reversed, Isaiah 55:12–13, "12 "For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the LORD for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off." "

3B The binding of Satan and the cessation of his deceit of nations, Revelation 20:1–3, "1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. "

4B Habakkuk 2:14, "14 For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea. "

5B Wealth in the millennium:

1C No loss to inordinate taxation;

2C No significant or uncompensated loss to crime;

3C No famine or pestilence;

4C No warfare;

6B In the Kingdom of Christ, and not before, is the promise of faithful prosperity to all the diligent.

8A Concluding principles.

1B We are to work, and work well, yet not seek to be rich in this world. 1 Timothy 6:9–10, "9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. "

2B We are to be rich toward God. Luke 12:21, "21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

3B And whether God blesses us with wealth or chooses some other form, that is entirely up to Him.

4B We have the promise of logistical provision right up to our dying day.

5B And finally, the thorns and thistles curse, and the presence of evil in this world, will not allow us wealth apart from compromise of our relationship with God.

1C Mammon compromise;

2C Walk with God compromise.