

# WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT WORK

## 1) The Origin of Work

### a) God is a Worker

*Gen 2:2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Gen 2:3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. John 5:17 Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." Php 2:13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*

### b) Man was given Work before Sin

*Gen 1:26a (NKJV) "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...'" Gen 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Gen 1:28 (NKJV) "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"*

### c) Sin affected Work

*Gen 3 v17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. v18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. v19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." ... v23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.*

### d) We will Work in Heaven

*Rev 22:3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.*

## 2) The Sacredness of Work

### a) The Skill to Work is given by God

*(Exo 36:1) So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the LORD has commanded."*

### b) Work itself is a gift from God

*(Ecc 2:24) A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, (Ecc 3:22) So I saw that there is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his work, because that is his lot. For who can bring him to see what will happen after him?*

### **3) The Purpose of Work**

#### **a) To Glorify God**

*(1Ch 29:5) for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the LORD ?" (Joh 4:34) "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. (Joh 17:4) I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. (Col 3:23) Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,*

#### **b) To Meet Basic Needs**

*2Thess 3 v10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." v11 We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. v12 Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. v13 And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right.*

#### **c) To Give As God Directs**

*(Act 20:35) In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " (Eph 4:28) He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.*

### **4) The Attitude Toward Work**

#### **a) To Display a Christian Work Ethic**

*Colossians 3 "23 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."*

#### **b) Work must not Dominate our Lives**

*Exodus 20 v9 Six days you shall labour and do all your work, v10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.*

### **5) The Value of Work in relation to Salvation**

#### **a) Our Works can achieve NOTHING GOOD for us**

*Romans 7:18-20 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. v19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. v20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.*

#### **b) WE CAN ONLY BE SAVED BY GRACE**

*Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- v9 not by works, so that no one can boast.*