



Work

“ *whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Why we work

Why do we work? (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:3, 15)
What kind of work does God do? (Colossians 1:16-17)
How does knowing that we are reflecting the image of God when we work add dignity to our work?
What is the proper motivation for the Christian to work?
What are the two great commandments of God?
How can we love God if we separate our work life from our spiritual life?
How do we show love for our neighbor by the way we work?

Your job today is the will of God

How does it change your view of your job if you see it as the will of God for you?
What are the consequences of being in a job you hate?

Reference: Ephesians 6:5-9

What kind of change can Christians make as they look at their job? What kind of change is described in our text?
How do you change your attitude?
What difference does understanding that your job is the will of God for you make?
Whom did Paul tell the servants that they are serving?
Why is it that whoever we serve, ultimately we are serving the Lord?
If your job is the will of God for you, who is your boss?
What difference should it make if you know you are working for Jesus Christ?
Do you think the church has done a good job of reinforcing secular work as working for God?
What should we be telling people doing secular work?

Your Job is a calling

Do you enjoy your work?
What is a calling?
Look again at Ephesians 6:5-8, what is the attitude that comes when you are serving Jesus Christ on the job?

What does it mean we should do our work "*with fear and trembling*"?
We fear and tremble before whom?
What does it mean we do our work in "*sincerity of heart*"?
What picture comes to mind when you think of "eyeservice"?
What is wrong with working as men-pleasers?
What does it mean that when we see ourselves working directly for the Lord that we will do our work with goodwill?
What good should we be doing in our work (v.8)? Who should be benefiting from our work?
Have you been called to work where you are now?
Why is it important to have a calling?
Why don't we think of secular jobs in terms of a calling?
If we can see our work as a calling, no matter what that work is, how does that change what we do on the job?
If we have different work options, how do we know which job is the right one for us?

Adorning the doctrine of God

Reference: Titus 2:9-10

What do you know about Crete?
What ministry strategy did Paul give Titus for in Crete?
Who does Paul say should have good character in Titus 2?
Of all the things slaves are to do per Titus 2:9-10, what is the net effect that summarizes what they should do?
What is the doctrine of God?
What does it mean to "*adorn the doctrine of God*"?
What difference might wearing the doctrine of God have made in Crete?
Why is being truthful important?
How is Titus 2:9-10 applicable to us today?
What difference might wearing the doctrine of God mean for us today?

Reference: Titus 2:9-14

What five things should servants of God do as they work?
How do we "*adorn the doctrine of God*" in our work?
If you were to devise a strategy for Christianity so that it stands out in the modern world, what might you include?

What is our blessed hope?
When will the blessed hope occur?
How does looking for our blessed hope make us stand out in the world?
How do people dishonor the doctrine of God?

Serving other Christians

Should there be any difference in our service to Christ based on where we work?
Why is there is a tendency for Christians to give poorer service to a Christian employer than to a non-Christian?
Why should we actually give better service to a Christian employer?

Giving glory to the grind

Reference: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Why do people in general work?
Why do Christians work?
What does the Christian perspective bring to mundane tasks?
How does God supply our need for daily bread?
Why is idleness a problem?
How should we regard the way we work?

The Christian work ethic

Reference: Ephesians 6:5-8

What do we learn about work from this passage?
What is the Protestant or Puritan work ethic?
How important is it to give a good account to God in work?
What is the state of the Christian work ethic today?
What do the letters TGIF bring to your mind?

The value of work

Reference: Proverbs 6:6-8

What can we learn from ants?
When comes to mind by the words Puritan or puritanical?
Why are the intangible rewards that come from work more valuable than the money?
Can you take the Christian work ethic too far?
Why is too much work a bad thing?
What is a sluggard?
What does the ant teach about the self-discipline (v.7)?

What does the ant teach us about being industrious?
What does the ant teach us about preparing for the future?
Where is the line between covetousness and prudence?

Reference: Proverbs 26:14-16

What do you think of a person who opts not to work when they can work?
Have you ever met anyone who said, "I'm lazy"?
What does it mean that a lazy man turns on his bed like a door on its hinges?
What is the problem with not getting started?
What does it mean that a lazy man puts his hand in the bowl but it wearies him to bring it back to his mouth?
How does God expect us to use Proverbs 26:14-16?

Reference: Proverbs 12:27

What does Proverbs 12:27 tell us about the benefits of bringing a project to fruition?
What kind of a perspective does the lazy person have?
How does a lazy person view reality?
What does the lazy person spend more time doing rather than actually working?
What is the difference between being a sluggard and taking a break from work?

Character

Why is a positive mental attitude a good thing?
Why is it a good thing to be in a position to influence others?
What is the problem with being manipulative in human relationships?
Which is better in work, character or techniques?
Which is easier to develop, character or techniques?
What does God care more about, what we get done or how we get done what we do?
What do these verses tell about how to have success in business? (Proverbs 11:1, 15:27, 20:17, 21:8, 13:11)

God delights in honesty

Do most Christians see a connection between faith & work?
Does the Bible see a connection between faith & work?
How does wisdom benefit people?
What work characteristic is in Proverbs 20:10, 11:1, 20:23?
How did merchants in Old Testament times cheat customers?
Is the advice, "honesty is the best policy," good advice?
How do you feel about bargaining in the marketplace?

Does God care about what goes on in the marketplace?
What are the contrasts in Proverbs 11:1?
What does abomination mean?
What does God delight in?
What kind of sacrifices do we make at work?
How do our sacrifices at work please God?
How can the way we do our work be an abomination to God?
How may God be delighted with businessmen?

God hates dishonesty

Reference: Proverbs 20:10, 23

Why does God hate cheating in the marketplace?
Why did God give us Proverbs 10:10, 23?
Why do people in business sometimes cheat customers?
How do you think people who cheat rationalize to themselves what they do?
Why does God hate cheating in the marketplace?
What example does God give us for how we should work?
How should God's character effect the way Christians work?
How does cheating affect other people?
What does God think of under-the-table business dealings?
How do you feel compromised in a society allowing bribery?
Why do people make bribes?
Why is "bribe" translated "present" in Proverbs 17:8?
Why do people receive bribes?
How does the taker of bribes hurt himself and his family?
How do bribes undermine a society?

The value of truth

Reference: Proverbs 20:14, 17

What picture comes to your mind in Proverbs 20:14, 17?
What do you gather about love for neighbor in this scene?
Do you think that both buyer and seller seek a fair price?
What role does truth have in the transaction of this verse?
What is the problem with lying in the marketplace?
How might Proverbs 20:17 apply to business today?

Lying is destructive

Reference: Proverbs 21:6

What is that picture when the writer says "the fleeting bubble or vapor of those who seek death"?
How can lying be a kind of death wish for those who practice it in the marketplace?

Get-rich-quick schemes

Reference: Proverbs 20:21

What "get rich quick" schemes have been pitched to you?
What is an inheritance?
What does "gained hastily" imply?
What do you think it means when it says, it "will not be blessed in the end"?
What wider application beyond an inheritance does Proverbs 20:21 have?
Have you ever wished that you could win the lottery?
What makes it so attractive?
Would the lottery solve all of your problems?
What could be a downside to winning the lottery?
How could an inheritance gained hastily or a quick buck become a curse?

Reference: Proverbs 10:22

Do the Proverbs criticize riches?
What is the blessing of the Lord in Proverbs 10:22?
What is the sorrow that comes with wealth that is not a blessing from the Lord?
How do bunco-artists thrive on the gullible?
What kind of blessing from the Lord could make us rich?
How does hard work have rewards beyond the salary?
What are two guiding traits of godly character that every Christian should bring to the workplace?

The skills to do the work

References: Ephesians 6:5-8, Exodus 35:30-36

What difference might it make for Christians to look at their work again for the first time?
How may we add a touch of glory to the daily grind?
Is there a fundamental difference between the secular and the sacred?
When Christians think of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, what comes to mind?
God ordained His people to work but will any work do?
How does quality matter in our work?