

## A Brief Theology of Work

### Ephesians 4:28

“Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

Theodore Roosevelt

We are made by God to work but sin has given work a bad name.

The fall has tarnished work and made it more difficult.

#### **Stop Stealing**

Stop taking from others what you have not earned. (*Deuteronomy 5:19; Romans 13:9*)

The new man values earning more than merely having. He doesn't take, he makes.

So, stop stealing and work, work hard, work with your hands, to the point of exhaustion.

#### **Do Something Worthwhile**

What is work?

For most of His life, Jesus was a manual laborer.

What is the protestant work ethic?

Biblical principles of work

#### **Work is Good**

- God is glorified when we put our whole selves into our work, with a view toward pleasing God, not men. (*Colossians 3:23-24*)
- God is glorified when we are honest, even when it hurts us or prevents us from getting ahead. (*Psalms 15:1-2,4*)
- God is glorified when we honor our superiors and submit to their authority. (*1 Timothy 6:1; Romans 13:7*)
- God is glorified when we treat our work associates with kindness and respect. (*Luke 6:31; Romans 12:18*)
- God is glorified when we expose fraud or dishonesty or unethical behavior. (*Ephesians 5:11-13*)
- God is glorified when we approach our work prayerfully. (*1 Thessalonians 5:17*)
- God is glorified when we avoid complaining or grumbling, even in less-than ideal work situations. (*Philippians 2:14-15*)
- God is glorified when we refuse to make work and money our idols. (*Matthew 6:24, Ecclesiastes 5:10-12*)
- God is glorified when we plan diligently for the future. (*Proverbs 21:5*)
- God is glorified when we live simply and give generously. (*Proverbs 22:9; 1 Timothy 6:17-19*)
- God is glorified when we trust Him to provide today what we need for today. (*Matthew 6:11*)
- God is glorified when we rest from work. (*Deuteronomy 5:13-15; Psalm 46:10*)

Some work is unpleasant, do it now.

#### **The Why of Work**

From thief to philanthropist

To provide for yourself and your family (*2 Thessalonians 3:10-13; 1 Timothy 5:8*)

Are you generous with your wealth? (*Romans 12:13; Acts 2:45*)

1. God created us to work.
2. Work itself is good.
3. We labor for the glory of God.