

A hammer with a wooden handle and a metal head is crossed with a metal wrench. The background is a textured red surface.

God's Gift of Work


Labor Day 2017
Ecclesiastes 5:10-20
Anthony Grove Baptist Church
Dr. Dennis E. Bean
September 3, 2017




Ecclesiastes 5:10–20


Ecclesiastes 5:10–20¹⁰ Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!


¹¹ The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what good is wealth—except perhaps to watch it slip through your fingers!






¹² People who work hard sleep well, whether they eat little or much. But the rich seldom get a good night's sleep. ¹³ There is another serious problem I have seen under the sun. Hoarding riches harms the saver. ¹⁴ Money is put into risky investments that turn sour, and everything is lost. In the end, there is nothing left to pass on to one's children.







15 We all come to the end of our lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day we were born. We can't take our riches with us. 16


And this, too, is a very serious problem. People leave this world no better off than when they came. All their hard work is for nothing—like working for the wind.






¹⁷ Throughout their lives, they live under a cloud—frustrated, discouraged, and angry. ¹⁸ Even so, I have noticed one thing, at least, that is good. It is good for people to eat, drink, and enjoy their work under the sun during the short life God has given them, and to accept their lot in life.





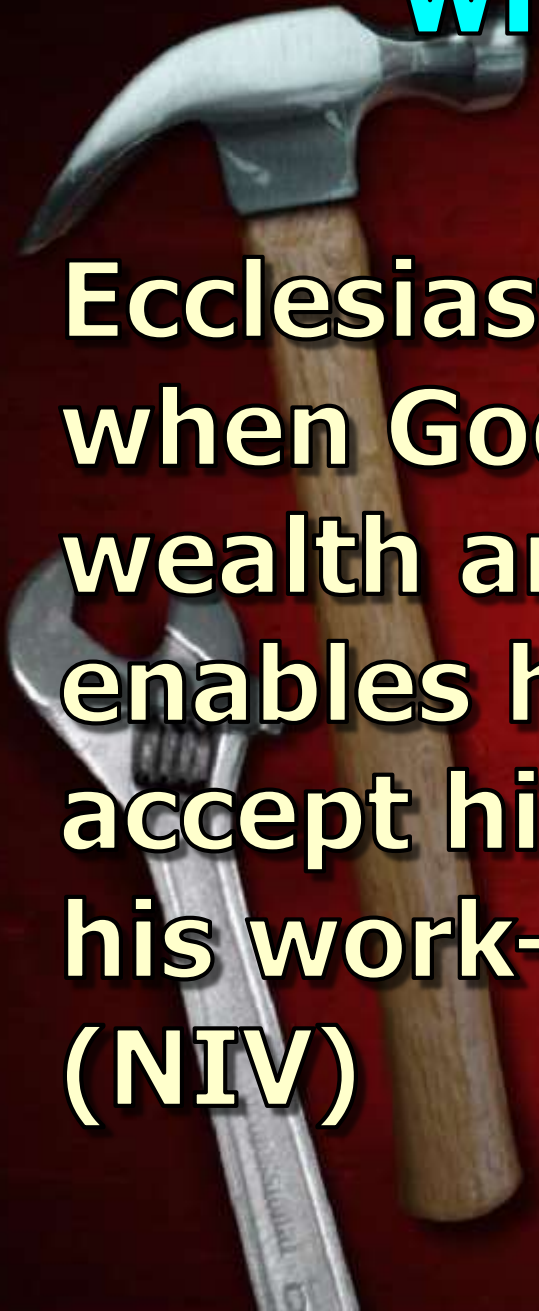
**19 And it is a good thing to receive
wealth from God and the good
health to enjoy it. To enjoy your
work and accept your lot in life—
this is indeed a gift from God. 20
God keeps such people so busy
enjoying life that they take no
time to brood over the past.--
(NLT)**





God's Gift of Work

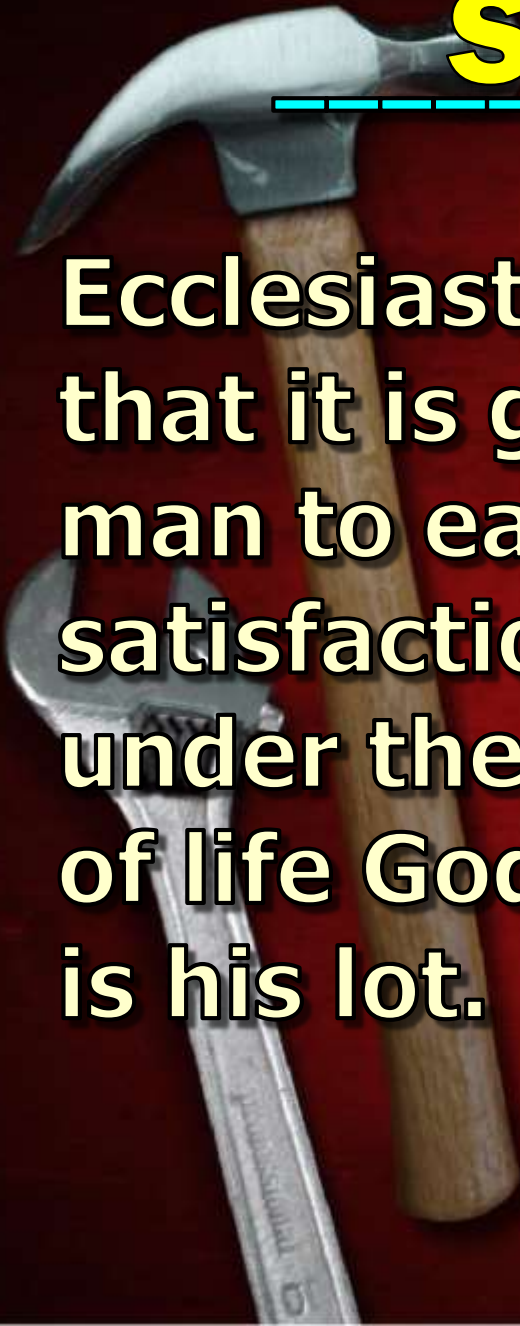
Why Is Work A Gift

A hammer with a wooden handle and a metal head, and a silver adjustable wrench, are positioned vertically on the left side of the image. The background is a solid, deep red color.

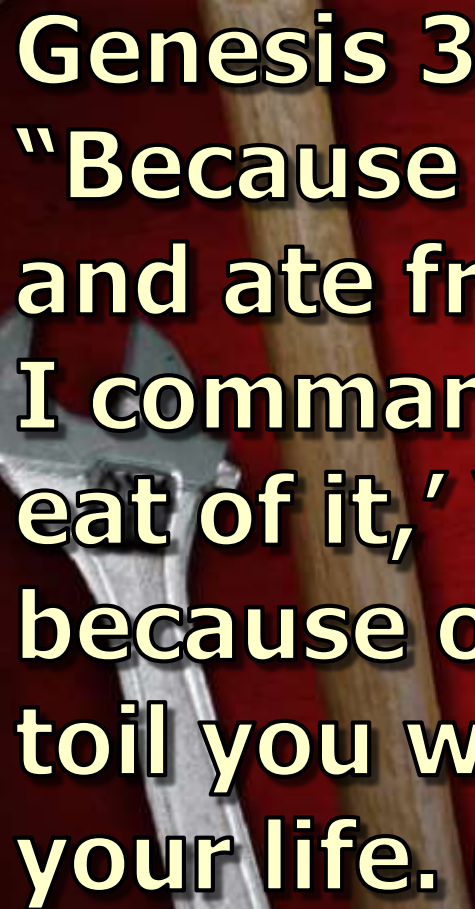
Ecclesiastes 5:19 Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God. (NIV)

1. Work Is A Source of Satisfaction

Ecclesiastes 5:18 Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him—for this is his lot. (NIV)

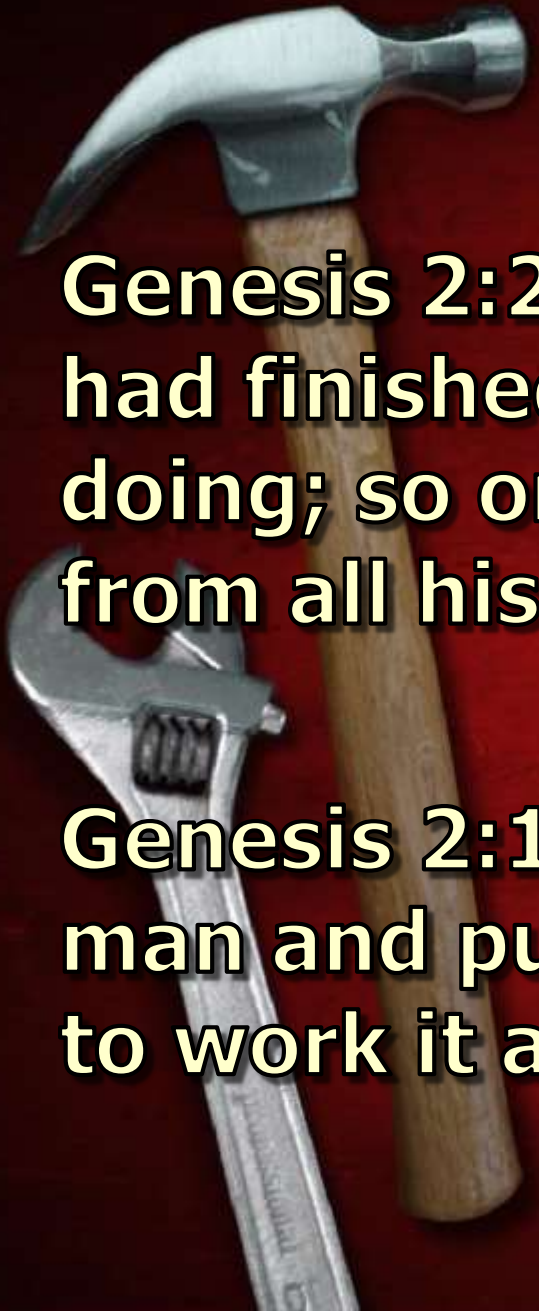


A. A Worldly View of Work Is Surviving_____.



**Genesis 3:17 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. (NIV)**

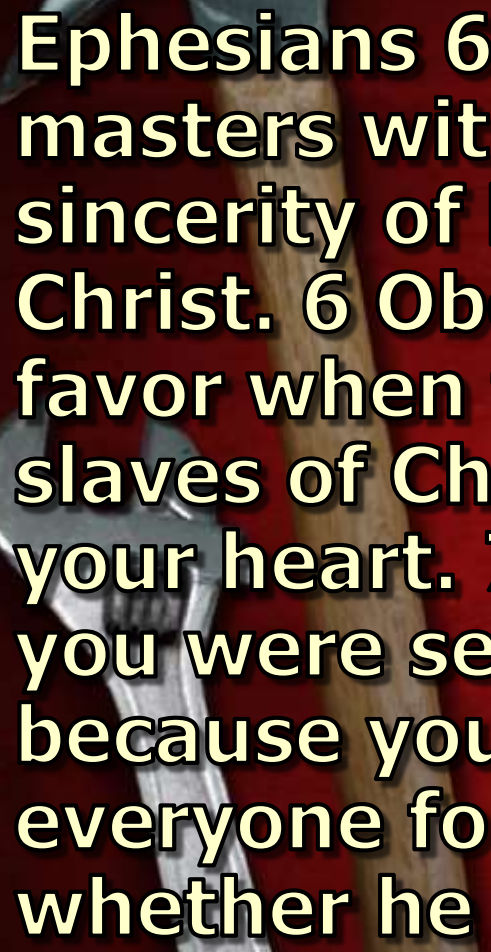
B. A Biblical View of Work Is Thriving.



Genesis 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. (NIV)

Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (NIV)

2. Work Is An Opportunity To Serve God



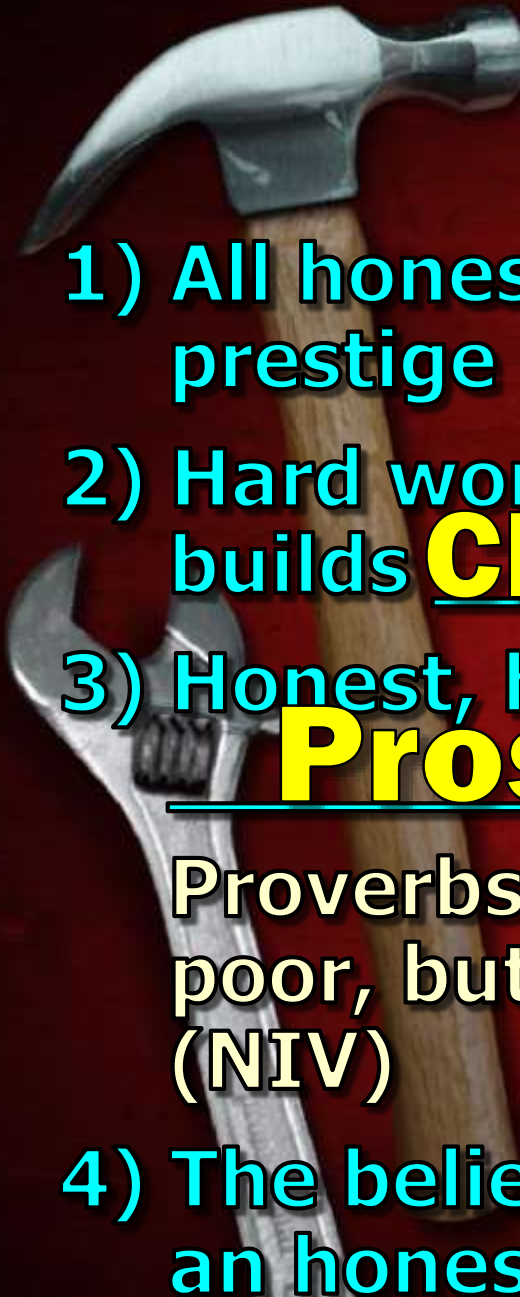
Ephesians 6:5-8 5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. (NIV)

3. Work Is An Opportunity To Glorify God.

**1 Corinthians 10:31 So
whether you eat or drink or
whatever you do, do it all for
the glory of God. (NIV)**



The Protestant Work Ethic Teaches

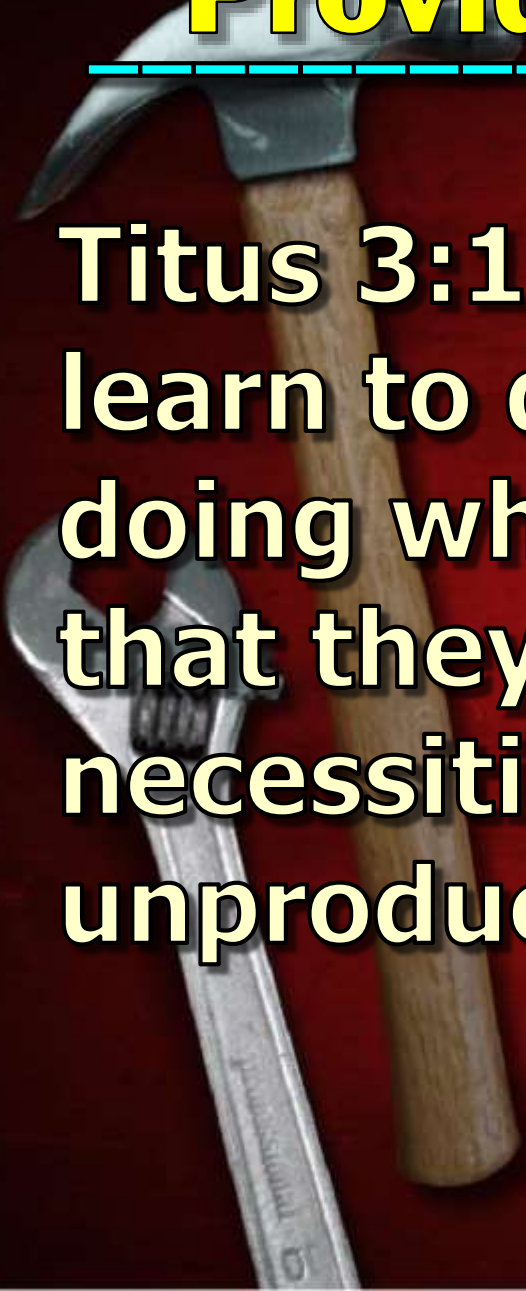
- 
- 1) All honest work is good regardless of its prestige or **Compensation**.
 - 2) Hard work is a blessing because it builds **Character** and inner strength.
 - 3) Honest, hard work provides the path to **Prosperity**.

Proverbs 10:4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.
(NIV)

- 4) The believer **Honors** God in an honest job well done.

4. Work Is An Opportunity Provide For Your Family.

Titus 3:14 Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives. (NIV)



My Attitude Toward Work

1. I Will Work With An Attitude of Thanksgiving.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (NIV)

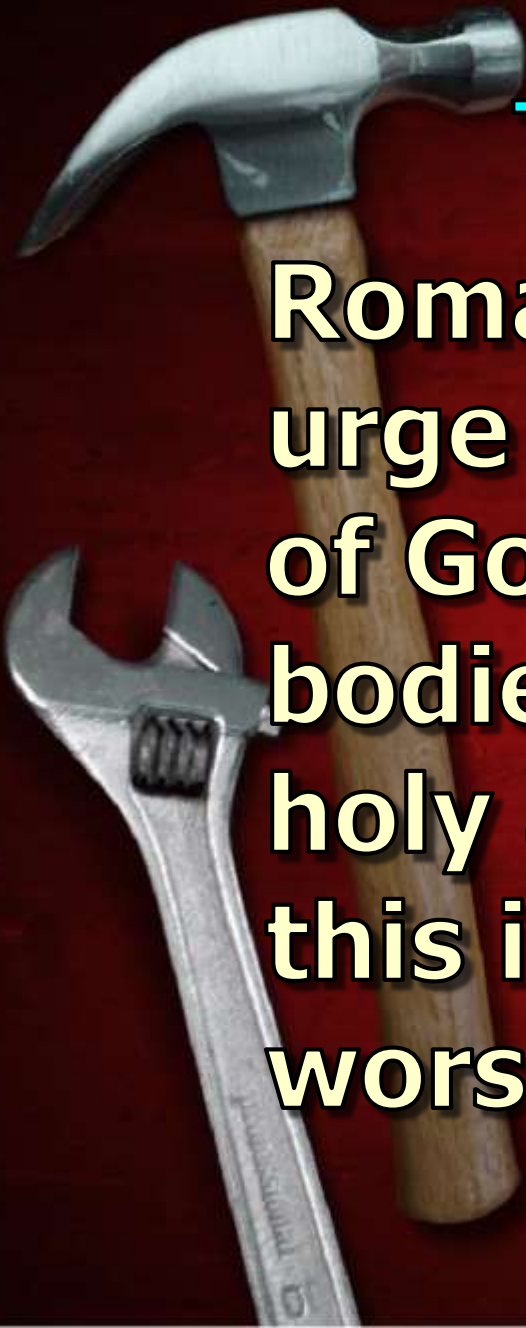
1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Give thanks in all
circumstances, for
this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus.
(NIV)**



2. I Will Work With An Attitude of Offering.

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. (NIV)



3. I Will Work With An Attitude of **Expectancy**

**Colossians 4:5 Be
wise in the way you
act toward outsiders;
make the most of
every opportunity.
(NIV)**





God's Gift of Work