

**WORK
MATTERS**




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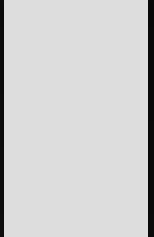


What Went Wrong With Work?

GENESIS 3



And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.



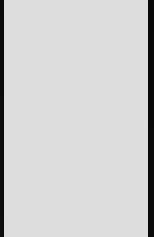
By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Genesis 3:17–19 (ESV)



The curse guarantees pain will be part of my work

...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life... Genesis 3:17 (ESV)



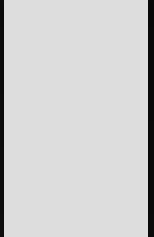
By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Genesis 3:19 (ESV)

The curse guarantees problems will
be part of my work

...thorns and thistles, it shall bring
forth for you...

Genesis 3:18 (ESV)



For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

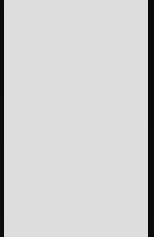
Romans 8:22–23 (ESV)

The curse guarantees I will struggle
to find purpose in my work.

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I came to hate all my hard work here on earth, for I must leave to others everything I have earned. And who can tell whether my successors will be wise or foolish? Yet they will control everything I have gained by my skill and hard work under the sun. How meaningless! So I gave up in despair, questioning the value of all my hard work in this world.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-20

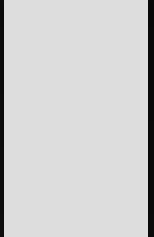


So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 2:22-23

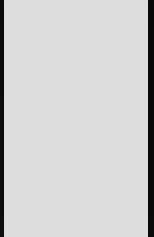
The curse tempts me to make
an idol of my work





Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”’



“But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’

“Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”

Luke 12:15-21



The curse tempts me to be idle in work

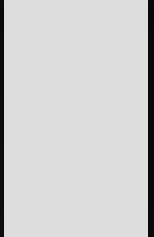






Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men...

Colossians 3:23 (ESV)



I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

Proverbs 24:30–34 (ESV)



A sluggard doesn't plan ahead...

The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.

Proverbs 20:4 (ESV)

A sluggard is a couch potato-

How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?

Proverbs 6:9 (ESV)

A sluggard is all talk and no action

The desire of the sluggard kills him,
for his hands refuse to labor.

Proverbs 21:25 (ESV)



A sluggard makes excuses to avoid work

The sluggard says, “There is a lion
outside! I shall be killed in the streets!”

Proverbs 22:13 (ESV)



A sluggard is unreliable

Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him.

Proverbs 10:26 (ESV)



A sluggard doesn't accomplish much...

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

Proverbs 13:4 (ESV)

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