

Education

Lesson #11 — The Christian and Work

Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV) *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

Work = the expenditure of effort to accomplish a task.

a: to perform or fulfill duties regularly for wages or salary.

b : to perform or carry through a task requiring sustained effort or continuous repeated operations.

c : to exert oneself physically or mentally especially in sustained effort for a purpose or under compulsion or necessity.

Ecclesiastes 1:5–8 (NKJV) *The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, And hastens to the place where it arose. ⁶ The wind goes toward the south, And turns around to the north; The wind whirls about continually, And comes again on its circuit. ⁷ All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again. ⁸ All things are full of labor; Man cannot express it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing.*

The Many Sides of Work

Genesis 2:15 *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.*

Ecclesiastes 3:12–13 *I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, ¹³ and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God.*

Genesis 3:17–19 (NKJV) *“Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground.”*

God made us in his image God is a creator and a worker.

John 5:17 (NKJV) *But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”*

Ecclesiastes 7:13 (NKJV) *Consider the work of God;*

God made us to be creative and productive.

There are 2 kinds of people in the world, producers and consumers.

Everybody consumes but some produce more than they consume and some consume more than they produce.

God is a constant worker. The angels are workers; they are ministers of God to the children of men. Those who look forward to a heaven of inactivity will be disappointed, for the economy of heaven provides no place for the gratification of indolence. But to the weary and heavy-laden rest is promised. It is the faithful servant who will be welcomed from his labors to the joy of his Lord. Maranatha pg. 350

Work and Nurture

Exodus 20:9 *Six days you shall labor and do all your work...*

Deuteronomy 16:15 (NKJV) *Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the Lord your God in the place which the Lord chooses, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice.*

Proverbs 21:25 (NKJV) *The desire of the lazy man kills him, For his hands refuse to labor.*

Ecclesiastes 5:12 *The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, Whether he eats little or much; But the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep.*

Jeremiah 1:16 (NKJV) *I will utter My judgments Against them concerning all their wickedness, Because they have forsaken Me, Burned incense to other gods, And worshiped the works of their own hands.*

John 9:4 *"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. *(Read EGW Work is a blessing)*

Work and Excellence

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NKJV) *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.*

Colossians 3:23–24 (NKJV) *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

Exodus 25:40 (NKJV) *And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.*

Exodus 31:2–6 *“See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri... And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, ⁴ to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, ⁵ in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship. ⁶ “And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab ...of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you:*

John 20:6–8 (NKJV) *Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there,⁷ and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.⁸ Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.*

Work and Spirituality

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Acts 20:33-35 *"I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. "Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

- The farmer had been pestered by a carload of people who delighted in daily climbing an orchard fence and eating his apples without asking permission. One day, as he walked up to them, one of them smiled sheepishly and said, "We hope you don't mind that we took a few of your apples." "No, not at all," said the farmer, "and I'm sure you don't mind that I took some of the air out of your tires."

Galatians 5:22–26 (NKJV) *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

However humble the occupation may be, if only honorable, if the humble duties are done faithfully, he will not lose his reward. Industry is essential to health. If habits of industry were encouraged, a door would be closed against a thousand temptations. Those who lounge away their days, having no aim or object in life, are troubled with dejection and tempted to seek amusement in forbidden indulgences which enervate the system and tax the physical powers tenfold more than the most taxing labor. Indolence destroys more than hard labor. Many die because they have not the ability or inclination to set themselves to work. "Nothing to do" has killed its thousands. Our High Calling – p. 222

Work and Stewardship

2 Thessalonians 3:7-13 *but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we not be a burden...*

Proverbs 31:10-29 *Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.*

A skilled carpenter worked for a millionaire for many years and was one-day asked to build a beautiful large vacation house on a beautiful new piece of property by a lake the millionaire had recently purchased. Ready to retire soon, and feeling like he had not been paid well enough over the years, the carpenter skimped, skimmed and pilfered money for himself the first time thinking the millionaire owed him. When the architect plans called for high quality lumber he bought cheap twisted lumber and charge the millionaire for the expensive stuff. The plans called for quality stone and fixtures but the carpenter bought junky ones but charged his boss full price. When the house was finished the millionaire surprised the carpenter and gave him the house as a retirement gift. And he deeply regretted he had used inferior materials.

1 Corinthians 3:9–13 (NKJV) *For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.*

Work Is A Blessing *

To the dwellers in Eden was committed the care of the garden, "to dress it and to keep it." Their occupation was not wearisome, but pleasant and invigorating. God appointed labor as a blessing to man, to occupy his mind, to strengthen his body, and to develop his faculties. In mental and physical activity Adam found one of the highest pleasures of his holy existence. And when, as a result of his disobedience, he was driven from his beautiful home, and forced to struggle with a stubborn soil to gain his daily bread, that very labor, although widely different from his pleasant occupation in the garden, was a safeguard against temptation and a source of happiness. Those who view work as a curse, attended though it be with weariness and pain, are cherishing an error... The true joy of life is found only by the working men and women. The angels are diligent workers; they are the ministers of God to the children of men. The Creator has prepared no place for the stagnating practice of indolence. P&P - pg: 50

When a nation's people learn that they can vote themselves money from the national treasury it is doomed to crumble. Our distorted Idea of success is to come to the place where we don't have to work.

- People generally live about as long as they feel useful and needed.

Ephesians 4:28 *Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.*

Ephesians 6:5-7 *Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,*

Acts 18:3 *So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.*

We Will Work In Heaven

Isaiah 65:21 *And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.*

Heaven is a place of interested activity; yet to the weary and heavy laden, to those who have fought the good fight of faith, it will be a glorious rest; for the youth and vigor of immortality will be theirs, and against sin and Satan they will no longer have to contend. To these energetic workers a state of eternal indolence would be irksome. It would be no heaven to them.

Those who regard work as a curse, attended though it be with weariness and pain, are cherishing an error. The rich often look down with contempt upon the working classes, but this is wholly at variance with God's purpose in creating man. What are the possessions of even the wealthiest in comparison with the heritage given to the lordly Adam? Yet Adam was not to be idle. Our Creator, who understands what is for man's happiness, appointed Adam his work. The true joy of life is found only by the working men and women. God designs that all shall be workers... Work is constantly being done in heaven. There are no idlers there. "My Father worketh hitherto," said Christ, "and I work." We cannot suppose that when the final triumph shall come, and we have the mansions prepared for us, idleness will be our portion--that we shall rest in a blissful, do-nothing state. Maranatha pg. 350

Rewarded By Our Works

Matthew 16:27 *"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.*

We will all be surprised when we get to heaven who has the highest position there will be the ones who served him here.

Revelation 14:13 *Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."*

Revelation 20:12,13 *. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their **works**, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his **works**.*

The Work Of Faith

John 6:28,29 *Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.***