

## Work and Work Preparation

Work is God's idea; before the fall, Gen 1:26-28 and after the fall, Gen. 3:17-19

So we are not dependent on someone else, 2 Thess. 3:6-10

So we can earn a living and not be in any need, 1 Thess. 4:11-12 (Phil. 4:19)

So we can provide for our family, 1 Tim. 5:8

So we can impact the people at work for Christ, "A man skilled in his work will stand before kings, Prov. 22:29 (behave properly toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity 1 Thess. 4:12, Col. 4:5) "men judge other men by the kind of worker they are", Steve Moore.

Work is for everybody, and some are called to preach the gospel as their work, 1 Tim. 5:17-18, 1 Cor. 9:14, Gal. 6:6, (and will incur a stricter judgment, James 3:1) and Paul intentionally did not utilize this privilege for the sake of spreading the gospel "without charge", 1 Cor. 9:11-19 and to be an example for the majority of Christians who have not been called "to get their living from the gospel", 2 Thess. 3:7-9, Acts 20:34-35 and Phil. 4:9

Gaining a skill in something requires a time of preparation (college, technical school, apprenticeship) Prov. 1:5 and 7, Prov. 24:3-4 (house, "any enterprise"--Living), Prov. 5:23

Wisdom-intelligent, skillful, artful

Understanding-discretion, reasoning, skillfulness, to separate mentally, discerning, perceiving, skillful

Knowledge-awareness, observant, attentiveness

Preparation involves investing time, money, energy, and other resources as well as utilizing a period in one's life devoted to training (Jer. 12:5, Prov. 21:31) Prov. 12:11, Prov. 22:3 (Living), Prov. 24:30-34 in order to be able to eat in the future and not live in poverty

Deciding what kind of work you are to do requires considering what you want to do (Ps 37:4) what your strengths, abilities, and giftedness are (Rom. 12:3) and realizing it is God who has made you exactly like He wants, and you are wonderfully and fearfully made (Ps. 139:14-17) and He is the one in charge of preparing you for the purpose He has for you (Ps 18:32-34 David was a soldier, 1 Chron. 28:20 Solomon was a builder and wise leader of the people)

A caution: work and preparation for work are not to be idols. David served the purpose that God had for him in his generation, Acts 13:36. God has determined the times and boundaries of nations that they should seek Him, Acts 17:26-27. JB Phillips translates Eph 5:15 as "live life then with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life, but as those who do". Work can not be the source of fulfillment in our lives, Ecc 3:9-22. Jesus warns against focusing on the temporal rather than the eternal, John 6:27, Matt 6:25-33. And we are warned that life is fleeting-1Pet 1:24-25, Is 40:6-8. We have a limited amount of time, and as Paul did, we need to constantly have in mind the ministry the Lord has given us, "to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God", Acts 20:24 I am not to misuse 1 Tim 5:8 as an excuse to give my life to my work and making money and neglecting the priorities of my relationship with my wife, my children, the other people He brings into my life, and my walk with Him.

#### Qualities important in work and work preparation

1. Diligence not laziness      Prov. 13:4, Prov. 24:30-34, Prov.10:4
  
2. Faithfulness in the little things    Lk 16:10
  
3. Wholeheartedness as to the Lord      Col.3:23
  
4. Operating in integrity      Prov,10:9, Ps. 78:72
  
5. Relying on the Lord                      Prov. 10:22
  
6. Being attentive                          Prov. 27:23

## Biblical Truths Regarding Finances

God owns everything so we are to function as STEWARDS and be found trustworthy. 1 Cor. 10:26, Ps 24:1, Ps. 50:12, Haggai 2:8, and 1 Cor. 4:2

God gives power to make wealth "that He may confirm His covenant.", Deut. 8:17-18, as He did in the nation of Israel by 970 BC (1 Chron. 28-29) but around 1000 years after having reached that pinnacle the nation had unraveled to the point that they rejected their Messiah and in 70 AD, the nation was defeated by Rome, the temple was leveled as Jesus had prophesied it would be, and the people were disbursed throughout the world with no nation of their own.

In the New Testament, the rich in this present world are told they are to not be conceited and are not to put their hope in the uncertainty of riches and instead are to put their hope in God who richly supplies us with all good things to enjoy, 1 Tim. 6:17-19—they are to be rich in GOOD WORKS (Matt.6:19-20), GENEROUS and ready to share, fully supplying the needs of the saints and for the furtherance of the gospel, investing in a way that they will receive eternal returns (2 Cor. 9:6-12, 1 Cor. 9:14, Phil. 4:10-17) and in these practical ways the NEW Covenant is being confirmed as Christians are functioning as living stones being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5). And believers are able to do this because God supplies and multiplies their seed for sowing and increasing their harvest of righteousness (eternal fruit) and also having supplied seed for the sower and bread for (physical) food. The sower got his seed for sowing in those days from the bountiful harvest from the year before that the Lord provided. (2 Cor. 9:10) Proverbs 10:22 in the Living says, "The Lord's blessing is our greatest wealth, all our work adds nothing to it"

We are to work in order to EARN money, 1 Thess. 4:11-12, 2 Thess. 3:7-12, and Acts 20:34-35 avoiding "get rich quick" schemes, Proverbs 28:20

We are to SAVE, rather than spend everything we get, Prov.21:20, Prov. 6:6-11, and Proverbs 30:24-25.. and we are to operate with a BUDGET, Prov. 22:3 (Living) says "a prudent man foresees the difficulties ahead and prepares for them. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences", eg.

We are to GIVE as explained above in order to participate in what God is doing in the world in our generation for His glory, 1 Cor. 10:31, Phil. 4:9-20, Acts 16:36-37, 2 Cor. 9:6-8,, 1 Cor. 9:14, Gal/ 6:6-10, 1 Tim. 5:17-18

We are to live within our means and AVOID going into PERSONAL DEBT for depreciating items and avoid accumulating consumer (credit card) debt, Rom. 13:8, Prov.22:7, and 1 Cor. 7:23. eg. Going into debt for a house is, by some, considered safer because, historically, a house appreciates or grows in value over the years, however, recent events have demonstrated the importance of being truly able to afford the mortgage on a house before you start the process of buying a house. And in any case, making every effort to pay the mortgage off early saves one from paying a significant amount of interest over the life of the loan.

We are to avoid the ERROR OF PRESUMPTION, James 4:13-15. In Matt.4:5-7 the Scriptures revealed how Satan tempted Christ to jump off a pinnacle by quoting Scripture about angels catching him and preventing Him from getting hurt, and Christ responded by quoting Deut 6:16 that we are not to tempt God. Numbers 11 gives us the story of the people complaining in the wilderness because all they had to eat was manna and they wanted meat. They became so frantic Moses was fearful that they would stone him, and so God gave them meat to eat. Ps.106:13-15 says that they quickly forgot His works and did not wait for His counsel, but craved intensely and "put God to the test". Exodus 17:7 says they were saying "is the Lord among us or not". So they were arrogant and self absorbed and not grateful for what God had done for them and they were not content with what God was providing for them and they were demanding God do something to prove He was among them. They were quarreling with Him and, essentially, questioning God. Their actions and attitudes provoked God and many of them died. There is a big difference between coming to God humbly in prayer about our needs as opposed to demanding God do something.

Jesus recognized Satan's scheme and misuse of the verse of Scripture and was so in touch with what God's will was for Him that He knew the Father had not told Him to jump off the pinnacle. That was not God's will, but we are not as discerning as the Lord, of course, and so we can make decisions based on faulty interpretation of a Scripture. A common term for this is the health and wealth gospel which says that Christians can claim something they see in Scripture having to do with health and/or wealth and God is obligated to do it, and if it does not happen like they are expecting, they get mad at God. Prov. 19:3, "The foolishness of man ruins his affairs, but His heart is resentful toward the Lord" (Berkeley). We need to be careful about this.

## Biblical Truths Regarding Marriage, Family, and Marriage preparation

Marriage is good, Gen.2:18-“it is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper suitable (corresponding to) for him”

Prov. 18:22- “He who finds a wife, finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord”

Marriage is not easy. Eph.4:25-“Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her

Eph. 4 28-the husband is to “nourish” (provide encouragement and protection) and “cherish”(demonstrate to her how valuable she is to him) his wife just as Christ does the church

1 Pet. 3:7-the husband is to live with his wife “in an understanding way as with a weaker vessel since she is a woman and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life”

Col. 3:19- the husband is to love his wife and not be harsh with her (Berkeley)

These verses speak of things that are difficult for men such as giving up his life for her which means, as an example, laying aside favorite pastimes and diversions such as golf, football, fishing, and hunting which take you away from her and don't lend themselves to times of meaningful communication with her. They speak of relating to her with gentleness not harshness; with honor not with belittling speech, anger, or sarcasm; and of opening the door for her and helping with her seat and not just when you are in a restaurant. In other words, they speak of treating her as you did when you were trying to win her and persuade her to marry you. Even more than that, they speak of relating to her in love that is patient, kind, not jealous, not arrogant and that does not brag, does not act unbecomingly, does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, and never fails. These need to be “taken into consideration” when we are making decisions regarding our relationship with our wife.

Marriage is to be enjoyed and honored

Ecc. 9:9- “Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life, for this is your reward in life”

Prov.5:18 ‘rejoice in the wife of your youth

Heb. 13:4-let marriage be held in honor among all and let the marriage bed be undefiled

Marriage is a picture of Christ and the church; this mystery is great, Eph. 5:23-32

Fathers are to not exasperate their children that they may not lose heart, Col. 3:21

Fathers are to not provoke (incite to resentment by injustice and severity) their children but bring them up (to nourish in all the various departments of life) in the nurture (the whole training and education of children which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals ) and admonition (training by words of encouragement) of the Lord. Eph. 6:4 , Word Studies in the Greek New Testament, Kenneth S. Wuest

These verses speak of intimate involvement by the father in the lives of his children to nourish and encourage them in all areas of life, and not giving performance based love, not having unrealistic expectations from wrong motives that tend to exasperate children and leave them frustrated and having the attitude of “what’s the use of trying”, and avoiding punishing in anger which can lead to undue severity. These need to “be considered” when we are making decisions regarding our relationships with our kids.

### Marriage Preparation

You need to marry a woman with whom you share agreement in the critical issues of life. Amos 3:3 “Can two walk together unless they be agreed?”

You need to marry a woman who is a believer . 2 Cor. 6 14, whose delight is in the Lord, Ps 37:4 and who is committed to Him and is living her life trusting in Him, Ps. 37 :5

You need to familiarize yourself with characteristics of a godly woman. 1 Peter 3:2-3 and Prov. 31:10-11 so you will recognize her when God brings her into your life.

You need to familiarize yourself with characteristics of the kind of woman to avoid and avoid her, Prov.5:3,5:6,6:25, 7:10-11, 7:12, and 7:13

### Deciding on a Church Home

Sound Doctrine, 2 Tim. 1:13, Gal. 1:6-9, 1 Tim. 6:3-5

#### Meaningful Koinonia

Humility, --Phil. 2:14 and 1 Peter 5:2-7

Love, 1 Cor 13, John 13:34-35, Gal. 5:13-14

Speaking truth in love, Eph. 4:14-15 and 29, James 3:5-10

Operating with a clear conscience toward others Matt. 5:23-24.  
Rom. 12:18, Rom. 14:19, Heb 12:14-15, Matt. 18:21-22, Acts 24:16

Five decision I need to get right every day

1. I need to guard my heart      Prov.4:23, Mark 7:21-23, and Deut 4:9

2. I need to guard my thoughts      2 Cor. 10:4-5 and Phil. 4:8

3. I need to guard my eyes      Ps 119:37 and Prov. 4:25-27

I need to keep a clear conscience

4. before the Lord      1 John 1:9

5. before men      Matt.5:23-24