
WORK

Ephesians 4:28

TODAY'S VERSE:

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

WORKPLACE THIEVERY?

Proverbs 19:22 & 16:8; 28:6/ Exodus 20:15/ Titus 2:9-12/ Proverbs 18:9

Why Would A "Committed Christian" Steal?

▶ Financial **Fear** - Industry **Standards** – Moral **Blindspots**.

WORKPLACE MYTHS:

- ❶ Work is a **necessary evil**.
Genesis 2:15 & 2:2/ Exodus 20:9-10 & Leviticus 16:29-34/ 2 Thessalonians 3:10/ Proverbs 20:21

- ❷ There's a **perfect job out there somewhere**.
Genesis 3:17-19/ Proverbs 14:23/ 1 Timothy 6:6-8 & Philippians 4:12-13

- ❸ Some Christians are in **full-time ministry**.
Colossians 3:23/ 2 Corinthians 5:20/ Daniel 1-6

- ❹ Financial success is a sign of **God's approval**.
Luke 18:18-27/ 1 Timothy 6:5/ Job & Psalm 73

- ❺ God blesses us financially so we can **get nicer stuff**.
Proverbs 21:20/Luke 12:16-21/1 Timothy 6:17-19/ Deuteronomy 24:19-21/ 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

- ❻ I'll be generous **when I hit it big**.
Mark 12:41-44 & 2 Corinthians 8:1-4/ Proverbs 3:9-10/ Luke 16:10-11/ Haggai 1:3-11

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 8, 2005

QUICK REVIEW

This week's teaching "pit stop" focused on work and the workplace (home, office, or out in the field). Was there any specific point, comment or verse that caught your attention, challenged your thinking or gave you a new perspective regarding your work life?

MY STORY

1. Most of us at some point have bought into the myth of the "perfect job" existing out there somewhere. How have you experienced it in the past or hope to avoid it in the future?
2. Imagine you just received a phone call offering you a promotion (and a raise) that you were hoping for, but didn't see coming for another 3-5 years. What questions do you ask, or steps do you take, to know if you should accept it?
3. What was your initial reaction when you heard Larry point out that "*we are made for work*"?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We saw this week that work isn't a necessary evil, but rather something God designed us to do. As you read the following Proverbs, jot down what each one says about work and, if possible, a specific example of the principle in action in your work, school or home environment.

Proverbs 10:4

Lazy hands make a man poor,
but diligent hands bring wealth. [NIV]

Proverbs 14:23

All hard work brings a profit,
but mere talk leads only to poverty. [NIV]

Proverbs 18:9

One who is slack in his work
is brother to one who destroys. [NIV]

Proverbs 22:29

Do you see a man skilled in his work?
He will serve before kings;
he will not serve before obscure men. [NIV]

Proverbs 24:27

Finish your outdoor work
and get your fields ready;
after that, build your house. [NIV]

Proverbs 31:17

She sets about her work vigorously;
her arms are strong for her tasks. [NIV]

Which of these verses caught your attention the most, and why?

2. Obviously we can fall into the trap of focusing our work and finances on only “getting more” and miss the blessing of also “giving more.” What do the following Scriptures tell us about turning our focus from just “getting nicer stuff” to developing the character quality of generosity?

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." [NIV]

Matthew 6:19-31**vs 19-21**

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. [NIV]

vs 22-24

"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. [23] But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! [24] "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. [NIV]

vs 25-31

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? [26] Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? [27] Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? [28] "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. [29] Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. [30] If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? [31] So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' [NIV]

3. In Matthew 6:25 (as seen above), Jesus illustrated a number of distractions that can cause us to lack contentment and become “money hungry” (the opposite of generous). If you had the opportunity to rewrite this verse, are there any distractions you would add to make it apply even more specifically to you?

TAKING IT HOME

1. As a result of this week’s teaching, have you sensed God particularly speaking to you about any of the following areas? (Check those that apply.)

- Working less
- Working more
- Adjusting my attitude about work
- Adjusting my attitude about generosity
- Spending (see resources below)
- Other

2. Of the six “Workplace Myths” which one was the most helpful to you personally, and why?