

Word at Work

Os Hillman • Theology of Work

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What the Bible Says about Work Compiled by Os Hillman

God Was a Worker

And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. Gen 2:2-3 (NKJV)

God Worked Six Days a Week

Six days you shall labor and do all your work,¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. Exodus 20:9 (NKJV)

God Would Perform Miracles through Moses' Work

But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it." Ex 4:17 (NIV)

The First Man in the Bible Described as being filled with the Spirit of God was a Craftsman

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:² "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.³ "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 the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all who are gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you:⁷ "the tabernacle of meeting, the ark of the Testimony and the mercy seat that *is* on it, and all the furniture of the tabernacle--⁸ "the table and its utensils, the pure *gold* lampstand with all its utensils, the altar of incense,⁹ "the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base--¹⁰ "the garments of ministry, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, to minister as priests,¹¹ "and the anointing oil and sweet incense for the holy *place*. According to all that I have commanded you they shall do." Ex 31:1-11 (NKJV)

God Blessed the Work of Job's Hands

You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.¹ Job 1:10-11 (NKJV)

God Used Workmen to Build the Temple

"Moreover *there are* workmen with you in abundance: woodsmen and stonecutters, and all types of skillful men for every kind of work.¹⁶ "Of gold and silver and bronze

and iron *there is* no limit. Arise and begin working, and the LORD be with you." 1 Chron 22:15-16 (NKJV)

God Gives Us a Desire for the Work We Do

You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands. Job 14:15 (NKJV)

When We Do Our Work, We Find a Reward in Doing It

For He repays man *according to* his work, And makes man to find a reward according to *his* way. Job 34:11 (NKJV)

God Reveals God's Work to Us

He seals the hand of every man, That all men may know His work. Job 37:7 (NKJV)

God's Work Involved the Creation of the Universe

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,⁴ What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? Psalms 8:3-4 (NKJV)

God Establishes Our Work

Let Your work appear to Your servants, And Your glory to their children.¹⁷ And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands. Psalms 90:16-17 (NKJV)

God Warns Against Slothful Work

He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer. Prov 18:9 (NKJV)

God Honors Those Who Do Good Work. They Will Stand Before Kings.

Do you see a man *who* excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown *men*. Prov 22:29 (NKJV)

There Is a Time For Every Work

I said in my heart, "God shall judge the righteous and the wicked, For *there is* a time there for every purpose and for every work." Eccl 3:17 (NKJV)

We Are to Find Satisfaction in Our Labor

Nothing *is* better for a man *than* that he should eat and drink, and *that* his soul should enjoy good in his labor. Eccl 2:24 (NKJV)

Our Labor is a Gift of God

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. Eccl 3:12-13 (NKJV)

Here is what I have seen: *It is* good and fitting *for one* to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for *it is* his heritage.¹⁹ As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor--*this is* the gift of God.²⁰ For he will not dwell unduly on the days

of his life, because God keeps *him* busy with the joy of his heart. Eccl 5:18-20 (NKJV)

Labor Alone Will Not Satisfy the Cry of the Soul

All the labor of man *is* for his mouth, And yet the soul is not satisfied. Eccl 6:7 (NKJV)

Jesus Had a Work to Do

"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ John 9:4-6 (NKJV)

Jesus Had a Work to Do that Brought Glory to the Father

"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. John 17:4 (NKJV)

Jesus Came to Help Us with the Burden of Labor

"Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ "For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light." Matt 11:28-30 (NKJV)

God Calls Us to Examine Our Work

For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. ⁵ For each one shall bear his own load. Gal 6:3-5 (NKJV)

Our Labor in the Lord is Not in Vain

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. 1 Cor 15:58 (NKJV)

Our Labor Is Designed to Allow Us to Help Meet Other's Needs

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. Eph 4:28 (NKJV)

Calls Us to Work in Order to Provide for Our Families

For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. ¹¹ For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. ¹² Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. ¹² Thess 3:10-13 (NKJV)

We Were Created to do Good Works

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph 2:10 (NKJV)

There Is A Reward for Doing Our Work Well

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work. Rev 22:12 (NKJV)

Our Work is a Ministry through Our Gifts and Calling

And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Eph 4:11-16 (NKJV)

All that We Do Is a Ministry Unto the Lord - Including Our Work

Let every detail in your lives- words, actions, whatever- be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way. Col 3:17 (Message)

There Is An Inheritance and Reward for Being Faithful to Our Work

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. Col 3:23-24 (NKJV)