



Laziness Doesn't Deliver:
But Does Work?

PROVERBS

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED:

Living wisely is an inevitable product of our faith in God.

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Proverbs 1:7

- ⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

God designed us to work. Work is good.

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Genesis 1:28

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

The Fall, Sin messed up life as God designed it. Including work.

Three major lies about work:

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1) My greatest joy will be found in not working.

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- 2) My greatest joy will be found in my work.**

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- 1) My greatest joy will be found in not working.
- 2) My greatest joy will be found in my work.
- 3) I have to work, but there is no joy in it.**

Three major lies about work:

1) My greatest joy will be found in not working.

Laziness is not good.

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- Damaging to self

Proverbs 21:25

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

Laziness is not good.

- Damaging to self
- **Creates unnecessary need**

Proverbs 19:15

15 Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep,
and an idle person will suffer hunger.

Laziness is not good.

- Damaging to self
- Creates unnecessary need
- **Irritates others**

Proverbs 10:26

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

Laziness is not good.

- Damaging to self
- Creates unnecessary need
- Irritates others
- **Brings shame**

Proverbs 10:4-5

- 4 A slack hand causes poverty,
but the hand of the diligent makes rich.
- 5 He who gathers in summer is a prudent son,
but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who
brings shame.

Laziness is not good.

- Damaging to self
- Creates unnecessary need
- Irritates others
- Brings shame
- **Produces irrational excuses**

Proverbs 22:13

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

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- 1) My greatest joy will be found in not working.
- 2) My greatest joy will found in my work.**

2) My greatest joy will be found in my work.

Bad thinking:

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Bad thinking:

- **Work success = life success.**

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- Work success = life success.
- **Work now, “rest” later.**

2) My greatest joy will be found in my work.

Bad thinking:

- Work success = life success.
- Work now, “rest” later.
- **Work hard so that eventually I won't have to work.**

Three major lies about work:

1. My greatest joy will be found in not working.
2. My greatest joy will found in my work.
- 3. I have to work, but there is no joy in it.**

3) I have to work, but there is not joy in it.

Bad thinking:

3) I have to work, but there is not joy in it.

Bad thinking:

- **Work is part of the punishment of God.
It is supposed to be unpleasant.**

3) I have to work, but there is not joy in it.

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- Work is part of the punishment of God. It is supposed to be unpleasant.
- **Work's purpose is simply to provide resources for my needs.**

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- Work is part of the punishment of God. It is supposed to be unpleasant.
- Work's purpose is simply to provide resources for my needs.
- **Work at its essence is unpleasant.**

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Bad thinking:

- Work is part of the punishment of God. It is supposed to be unpleasant.
- Work's purpose is simply to provide resources for my needs.
- Work at its essence is unpleasant.
- **Work is only joyful if I have certain jobs.**

The Truth: Work is good.

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- **Needs supplied**

Proverbs 12:11

11 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread,
but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

Proverbs 13:4

⁴ The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

The Truth: Work is good.

God has designed us to be involved in the process whereby He meets our needs.

- Needs supplied
- **Life is easier**

Proverbs 15:19

19 The way of a sluggard is like a hedge of thorns,
but the path of the upright is a level highway.

The Truth: There is great joy in working.

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- **God views every act of work as consequential.**

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- God views every act of work as consequential.

Matthew 10:42

⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

The Truth: There is great joy in working.

- God views every act of work as consequential.

Bad Thinking: My work is not important to God.

“The maid who sweeps her kitchen is doing the will of God just as much as the monk who prays – not because she may sing a Christian hymn as she sweeps but because God loves clean floors. The Christian shoemaker does his Christian duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship.”

- Martin Luther

The Truth: There is great joy in working.

- God views every act of work as consequential.
- **God intends that all of our life, including our work, be motivated by our relationship with Him.**

Colossians 3:23-24

²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

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Bad Thinking: My work is not related to my faith.

The Truth: There is great joy in working.

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- God intends that all of our life, including our work, be motivated by our relationship with Him.
- **God empowers us to work to promote His love.**

Colossians 1:27-29

²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

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- God views every act of work as consequential.
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Bad Thinking: My work is just about earning money.

The Truth: Working happily reveals a healthy relationship with God.

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We are made right with God completely through His work. The joy we find in God and His presence empowers us to work to promote His love to others.

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5. *“Resolved, never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it the most profitable way I possibly can.”*
- 55. *“Resolved, to endeavor to my utmost to act as I can think I should do, if I had already seen the happiness of heaven, and hell torments.”***
- from Jonathan Edwards literary piece, *“Resolutions and Advice to Young Converts”*

Takeaways:

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- **We will be good workers.**

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- **We will be happy workers.**

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- **We will be life-long workers.**

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- We will be good workers.
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- We will be intentional workers.
- **We will be engaging workers.**