

# Why Work?

## I Work to Eat (Survival)

By David H. McKinley

Popular sayings concerning work:

"Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy."

"No bees, no honey. No work, no money."

"Work is the yeast that raises the dough."

Someone has calculated how a typical life span of 70 years is spent. It is estimated that people...

Sleep	23 years	32.9%
Work	16 years	22.8%
TV	8 years	11.4%
Eating	6 years	8.6%
Travel	6 years	8.6%
Leisure	4.5 years	6.5%
Illness	4 years	5.7%
Dressing	2 years	2.8%
Religion	.5 years	.7%
Total	70 years	100%

Taken from *Our Daily Bread*, November 25, 1992

Read Exodus 20:9-10

## Why Work?

### I. It All Goes Back to Purpose—The Design

#### God made us to...

#### A. Worship, Genesis 1:26

"Unless you assume a God, the question of life's purpose is meaningless."

—BERTRAND RUSSEL, Atheist

"There is a God-shaped vacuum in every man that only God can fill." —BLAISE PASCHAL

#### B. Work, Genesis 2:15

"But it is appropriate here to point out that man was created not for leisure but for work, even in the state of innocence." —MARTIN LUTHER

### C. Walk Together, Genesis 2:18

### II. It All Gets Down to a Problem—The Fall

"God sent the rebellious couple out of the Garden of Eden into a fallen world. The consequences of that loss were substantial for all humanity to this day. At the core, our identity as humans is not frustrated. Our work is not futile. Our relationship with God, our own selves, others, and our environment are now disrupted and even destructive. Created to experience significance and connectedness, we now face frustration and disunity at every turn.

Created to live in a garden, we now are forced to live in a global ghetto. In a word, this world that we now in-

habit is not our natural habitat." —*Joy at Work*, BAKKE, HENDRICKS, AND SMITH

# Why Work?

"Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return." —GENESIS 3:17b-19

Work can provide many things, but it often brings:

- Fatigue
- Frustration
- Futility

### III. It All Grows Out of a Principle—The Message

For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. —2 THESSALONIANS 3:10-13



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## I Work to Provide (Stress)

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*And these things command, that they may be blameless. But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

—1 TIMOTHY 5:7-8

### I. The Principle of Cheating

The four squares of life:

Labor	Leisure
Love	Learning

“So when I talk about ‘choosing to cheat,’ I’m referring to the decision to give up one thing in order to gain something else. This is something we do every day. We don’t think of it as cheating. Especially when we are making what most people would consider a *good trade*... In light of this broader application of the term *cheating*, you are a cheater. Daily you make decisions to give up one thing in order to gain something else. This is especially true within the arena of your schedule. You face a variety of responsibilities and opportunities: work... family... hobbies... clubs... leagues... the list is endless. Each competes for your attention. Each competes for your most valuable resource, your time.”

—ANDY STANLEY, *Choosing to Cheat*

I fear that in our best efforts to provide the best, we end up cheating the very people and priorities that have driven us to work and succeed in the first place. Who are you cheating?

### II. The Principle of Balancing

“Life is on the wire; the rest is just waiting.”

—THE FLYING WALENDAS

## B-A-L-A-N-C-E

### Be honest with yourself

Admit areas of imbalance in your life.

### Assess the potential of your losses

Take time to account for what will be lost if you do not address the imbalance in your life.

### Learn the empowerment of “No”

Consider the complications and implications involved before giving a “Yes” answer.

### Adjust your margins

Just as a typed page fits within margins, you must create margins for your life.

“God put me on this earth to accomplish a certain number of things. Right now I’m so far behind, I will never die.”

—GREETING CARD

# Why Work?

“When your output exceeds your income, your upkeep becomes your downfall.”

### Navigate between the shores of time and technology

Technology allows us the freedom to communicate with others any time we choose. However, the use of technology should not be invasive in the time spent with your spouse, family, friends, etc.

### Concentrate on your attitude

### Energize your work with renewed vision

“The most important role of vision is to give focus to human energy.”

Is your life imbalanced?

### III. The Principle of Releasing

*Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light.”* —MATTHEW 11:28-30



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## I Work to Profit

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*In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty.* —PROVERBS 14:23

### Think about this: Profits matter.

*...he who gathers by labor will increase.* —PROVERBS 13:11b

Read Proverbs 6:6-11

*Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper and be satisfied.*

—PROVERBS 13:4 (NLT)

*The laborer is worthy of his wages.* —1TIMOTHY 5:18

### P-R-O-F-I-T-S Matter

#### Productivity vs. Activity

*He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread, but he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding.*

—PROVERBS 12:11

#### Resource vs. Depletion

#### Opportunity vs. Limitations

#### Financial Stability vs. Debit

*Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant of the lender.* —PROVERBS 22:7 (NLT)

#### Independence vs. Dependence

#### Transference vs. Indulgence

*If you are a thief, stop stealing. Begin using your hands for honest work, and then give generously to others in need.* —EPHESIANS 4:28 (NLT)

### Weigh this: It's not your profit margin but your profit motive that matters most.

- 1) The best solution is for business to make the maximum profit.
- 2) The best solution is for business to make the best profit possible while minimizing negative impact upon society.
- 3) The best solution is for business to make the best profit possible by choosing socially responsible activities as they build market share and customer loyalty.
- 4) The best solution is for business to make profits with an equal priority on social responsibility.

5) The best solution is for business to pursue social responsibility with enough profits to create sustainability. Taken from *Joy at Work*, by Bakke, Hendricks, and Smith

*God hates cheating in the marketplace; He loves it when business is aboveboard.* —PROVERBS 11:1 (The Message)

*A just weight and balance are the Lord's; all the weights of the bag are His work.* —PROVERBS 16:11 (NKJV)

*The Lord demands fairness in every business deal; He sets the standard.* —PROVERBS 16:11 (NLT)

"We are a nation that believes in having it all. In 1950, American families owned one car and saved for a second.

In 2000, nearly 1 in 5 families owned 3 cars or more...

Americans shell out more for garbage bags than 90 of the world's

210 countries spend for everything. Indeed, America has doubled the number of shopping malls as it does high schools." —LINDA KULMAN, "Our Consuming Interest," *U.S. New and World Report*

"Nothing is enough for the man to whom enough is too little." —EPICURUS

*Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income.*

—ECCLESIASTES 5:10 (NIV)

### Consider this: What are you trading for profits?

*Beware! Don't be greedy for what you don't have. Real life is not measured by how much we own.*

—LUKE 12:15 (NLT)

*A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. In fact, his barns were full to overflowing. So he said, "I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store everything. And I'll sit back and say to myself, My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!" But God said to him, "You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get it all?" Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.* —LUKE 12:16-21 (NLT)

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## I Work to Pay Taxes

By David H. McKinley

A recent study indicated that in 1928, people worked 1.4 months to pay for their taxes. Today, people work 5.1 months to pay for their taxes.

### Thoughts on taxes:

"In this world nothing is certain but death and taxes."  
—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

"What's the difference between a tax collector and a taxidermist? A taxidermist only takes the skin."  
—MARK TWAIN

"America is the land of opportunity. Everybody can become a taxpayer."

"Patrick Henry ought to come back and see what taxation with representation looks like."

"It's hard to believe America was founded to avoid high taxation."

"George Washington never told a lie, but then he never had to file a 1040."

Simplified 1040EZ:

Income Tax Return Form 1040EZ

1: Enter your name	1: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
2: Enter the amount of money you earned last year.	2: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>

Jesus refused to be trapped in a ploy to dishonor the state or to dishonor God. Instead, He talked about two things we should do with money: tithe to God and pay taxes to the state.

Read Matthew 22:15-22



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## Principles to remember when you file your 1040:

### I. Authority

Read Romans 13:1-7

Three God-Ordained Institutions: Home, Church, State

When we pay our taxes, we are demonstrating a willing submission and honor to the authority of the state.

### II. Responsibility

Paying taxes is a personal responsibility of citizenship. Those who secure our freedoms and protect our rights need our support.

### III. Honesty

"The income tax has made more liars out of the American people than golf and fishing combined."

James Franklin told the judge that he was not a "delinquent taxpayer." He argued a taxpayer pays taxes and he never did!

James Rooney had \$312 of his \$560 charitable contributions disallowed for lack of substantiation. Keeping a record of donations, he insisted, was unspiritual.

### IV. Community

Living in a free society also means sharing and shouldering the cost for others in need. It is not the sole responsibility of government to care for the needs of its citizens. Remember the parable of the Good Samaritan? Read Luke 10:30-37

### V. Opportunity

We have challenges concerning taxes, but America is a great country and it is "mighty low rent to live in a land of opportunity."

*A good name is to be chosen over great riches.*  
—PROVERBS 22:1

A good name... and it's still tax free!

# Why Work?

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## I Work to Give

By David H. McKinley

### What is money?

- A medium of exchange
- Legal tender
- A measure of value
- A mirror of the heart

John D. Rockefeller once said the secret to his success was to save 10%, tithe 10% and live on the rest.

*...and that you put on the new which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

—EPHESIANS 4:24

*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 4:28

### Scripture:

- 272 times — to believe
- 371 times — to pray
- 714 times — to love
- 2,162 times — to give

### I. Honest Earning

*A little gained honestly is better than great wealth gotten by dishonest means.* —PROVERBS 16:8 (LB)

*Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase.* —PROVERBS 13:11

### II. Careful Spending

*The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely leads to poverty.* —PROVERBS 21:5

### Five things you need to know about your money:

1. What you earn
2. What you owe
3. What you own
4. What you give
5. Where it goes

*The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets.* —PROVERBS 21:20

*Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance.* —ISAIAH 55:2

# Why Work?

Money can buy a bed but not sleep.  
It can buy books but not brains.  
It can buy finery but not beauty.  
It can buy food but not an appetite.  
It can buy medicine but not health.  
It can buy luxuries but not character.  
It can buy amusement but not happiness.  
It can buy a house but not a home.  
It can buy a crucifix but not a Savior.  
It can buy a church pew but not heaven.

### III. Faithful Giving

#### Giving...

**G**ives honor to God for His provision in your life.  
PROVERBS 3:9-10

**I**ncreases your enjoyment of all you have and have received.  
ACTS 20:35

**V**alues the needs of people over your own indulgences.  
JAMES 4:3; PROVERBS 19:17

**E**xpects eternal dividends.  
1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

#### Formula:

Honest Earning + Careful Spending + Faith Giving =  
Good Stewardship and Success



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## I Work for Significance

By David H. McKinley

"We have a lot of personal worth wrapped up in our work."

**We must understand that the search for significance is common in every career path.**

*He has set eternity in our hearts...* —ECCLESIASTES 3:11

"The difference in the animal kingdom and humankind is the difference between existence and significance."

**How do we manage to work in this world of change without losing our sense of perspective or balance?**

**Work has become secularized.**

"It is interesting to note that many people are looking to make significant career transitions, not because they want to make more money or hope to get promoted, but because they want to experience greater personal fulfillment in their work." —LORY BLOCK\*

**Work has become dehumanized.**

"Today, many people feel exploited by their work. They express concerns that their work is not giving them an opportunity to express themselves. They wonder whether or not it's possible to find work that will allow them to develop their natural potential instead of simply putting in time." —LORY BLOCK\*

**Work has become compartmentalized.**

"Workers today are concerned that their jobs are taking them away from their families. Many people seeking to make changes in their work are motivated by an ever greater desire to make lifestyle changes. They want to find a better balance between work, family and community and are prepared to go to great lengths to find it." —LORY BLOCK\*

"There are two sources of unhappiness in life. One is not getting what you want; the other is getting it."

—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

**We must distinguish between significance that completes and self-gratification that corrupts.**

**Shortfalls for Significance:**

- Fame is a fading memory.
- Possessions are collective clutter.
- Power is a passing baton.

# Why Work?

"Accumulating wealth, power, influence, and prestige are self-gratifying, but will not satisfy a man's need to be significant in a lasting way." —PATRICK MORLEY

"Significance is not possible unless what we do contributes to [the kingdom of God] the welfare of others." —PATRICK MORLEY

**We must identify true sources of significance that result in confidence and contentment.**

**How to Gain Life-Purpose**

- Your voice
- Your service
- Your sacrifice
- Your obedience

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

—JOHN 10:10

\*Excerpt taken from the internet article, "Career Search: Finding Significance in Your Work," by Lory Block. [www.iamnext.com/career/signfcnt.html](http://www.iamnext.com/career/signfcnt.html)



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## I Work for the Glory of God

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Henri Amiel said, "It is work that gives flavor to life." A cynic replied, "Yeah, it leaves a bad taste in your mouth."

If you want to increase your job satisfaction and performance, then use your work as a tool to give glory of God. This will transform your work from boredom to blessing, drudgery to dignity, mundane to meaning, and grind to glory.

### G-L-O-R-Y

#### Get the Right Picture

*Work and worship are not enemies, they are friends.*

Read Colossians 3:22-24

"Worship is not part of your life, it *is* your life. Every activity can be transformed into an act of worship when you do it for the praise, glory and pleasure of God."



Out of Balance

Balanced Life

#### Let Your Light Shine

*Your work is the platform of your witness for Christ.*

Read Matthew 5:14-16

Dr. Adrian Rogers once said there are four guidelines for witnessing in the workplace:

##### 1. Don't Brag

"How do you convince a world that God is alive? By His aliveness in your life, by His work in producing reality in your experience." —HOWARD HENDRICKS

##### 2. Don't Nag

"People are won to your religious beliefs less by description and more by demonstration."

##### 3. Don't Lag

*... doing the will of God from the heart.*

—EPHESIANS 6:5-6

"Preach all the time, and every once in a while, if necessary, use words." —ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

##### 4. Don't Sag

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a*

*reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear...* —1 PETER 3:15

# Why Work?

#### Offer Service to God

*Service doesn't have to be liturgical to be spiritual.*

*Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men...* —COLOSSIANS 3:22-23

"It's not what a man does that determines whether His work is sacred or secular, but why He does it."

—A.W. TOZER

#### Return God's Portion

*Distributing your earnings is a way of expressing your faith.*

*"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."* —MALACHI 3:10

#### Yield to God's Purpose

*Contentment comes when you recognize God's control in your life.*

*A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.* —PROVERBS 16:9



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