

# *How to Make Life Work*



WISDOM FROM PROVERBS

# Wisdom for your Work

*Selected Proverbs*



# Outline

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- 1. The dignity of work**
- 2. Sins related to work**
- 3. How to work with wisdom**



# 1. The dignity of work

*Proverbs 8:22-31*



# Proverbs 8:22-31

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“The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works,  
before his deeds of old;

<sup>23</sup> I was formed long ages ago,  
at the very beginning, when the world came to be.

<sup>24</sup> When there were no watery depths, I was given birth,  
when there were no springs overflowing with water;



# Proverbs 8:22-31

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<sup>25</sup> before the mountains were settled in place,  
before the hills, I was given birth,

<sup>26</sup> before he made the world or its fields  
or any of the dust of the earth.

<sup>27</sup> I was there when he set the heavens in place,  
when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,



# Proverbs 8:22-31

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<sup>28</sup> when he established the clouds above  
and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,  
<sup>29</sup> when he gave the sea its boundary  
so the waters would not overstep his command,  
and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.



# Proverbs 8:22-31

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<sup>30</sup> Then I was constantly at his side.

I was filled with delight day after day,  
rejoicing always in his presence,

<sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his whole world  
and delighting in mankind.





# 1. The dignity of work

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- The dignity of work is grounded in God's nature as creator and our nature as creatures made in his image.



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- As image bearers of God, we were created to do meaningful work (Gen. 2:15).



# 1. The dignity of work

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- The dignity of work is grounded in God's nature as creator and our nature as creatures made in his image.
- As image bearers of God, we were created to do meaningful work (Gen. 2:15).
- There is no distinction between sacred and secular. All work is sacred.



SKYE JETHANI & LUKE BOBO

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DISCIPLESHIP  
WITH  
MONDAY  
IN MIND



How Churches Across the Country Are  
Helping Their People Connect Faith and Work

**“All work matters to God. Collecting trash matters to God. Preparing lattes matters to God. Changing dirty diapers matters to God. Cooking a meal matters to God. Developing an Excel spreadsheet matters to God. As someone once said, ‘If it is not sinful work, it is sacred work.’”**

**—Skye Jethani**

## 2. Sins related to work

*Selected Proverbs*



## 2. Sins related to work

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### The sluggard (the problem of sloth)

26:13-16: A sluggard says, “There’s a lion in the road,  
a fierce lion roaming the streets!”

<sup>14</sup> As a door turns on its hinges,  
so a sluggard turns on his bed.

<sup>15</sup> A sluggard buries his hand in the dish;  
he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.

<sup>16</sup> A sluggard is wiser in his own eyes  
than seven people who answer discreetly.



## 2. Sins related to work

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### The oppressor (the problem of injustice)

For those under authority:

- 20:23: The LORD detests differing weights,  
and dishonest scales do not please him.



## 2. Sins related to work

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### The oppressor (the problem of injustice)

For those in authority:

- 29:4, 7: <sup>4</sup> By justice a king gives a country stability,  
but those who are greedy for bribes tear it down.  
<sup>7</sup> The righteous care about justice for the poor,  
but the wicked have no such concern.





# 3. How to work with wisdom

*Selected Scriptures*



# 3. How to work with wisdom

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## Four characteristics of wise work

- **Diligent work**

**Prov. 6:6-8: Go to the ant, you sluggard;  
consider its ways and be wise!**

**<sup>7</sup> It has no commander,  
no overseer or ruler,**

**<sup>8</sup> yet it stores its provisions in summer  
and gathers its food at harvest.**



# 3. How to work with wisdom

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## Four characteristics of wise work

- **Deep work**

**Prov. 28:19: Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of poverty.**



# 3. How to work with wisdom

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## Four characteristics of wise work

- **Work for the common good**

**Prov. 25:13: Like a snow-cooled drink at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to the one who sends him; he refreshes the spirit of his master.**



# 3. How to work with wisdom

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## Four characteristics of wise work

- **Work for the common good**

**Prov. 26:10: Like an archer who wounds at random is one who hires a fool or any passer-by.**



# 3. How to work with wisdom

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## Four characteristics of wise work

- **Work for the common good**

**Prov. 31:8-9: Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.**

**<sup>9</sup> Speak up and judge fairly;  
defend the rights of the poor and needy.**



# 3. How to work with wisdom

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## Four characteristics of wise work

- Restful work

**Prov. 10:22: The blessing of the Lord brings wealth,  
without painful toil for it.**





**“The reason why I play golf is I’m trying to glorify God and all that He’s done in my life. So for me, my identity isn’t a golf score. Like Meredith told me this morning, ‘If you win this golf tournament today, if you lose this golf tournament by 10 shots, if you never win another golf tournament again,’ she goes, ‘I’m still going to love you, you’re still going to be the same person, Jesus loves you and nothing changes.’ All I’m trying to do is glorify God and that’s why I’m here and that’s why I’m in this position.”**

**—Scottie Scheffler**



# Summary

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