

SERMON NOTES

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LABOR

1. GOD WORKS

- God is a God who works. Jesus said: “My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.” — **John 5:17**
- “And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.” — **Genesis 2:2**
- We are God's workmanship, created for good works (**Ephesians 2:10**).
- Like clay in the potter's hand, our lives are being shaped by God (**Jeremiah 18:6**).

2. MAN & WORK

- God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden: “To dress it and to keep it.” — **Genesis 2:15**
 - This demonstrates that work was part of God's original and perfect design.
- God also created Eve as a help meet (suitable companion) for Adam. Together, humanity was given the responsibility to multiply, cultivate, exercise stewardship, and care for God's creation (**Genesis 1:28/ 2:18**).
- Work existed before sin.

3. THE ADAMIC FALL & LABOR

- The fall did not create work—it changed the experience of work.
- **Genesis 3:17–19** shows that the ground itself would resist man's efforts.
- Yet **Ecclesiastes 3:12–13** reminds us that there is still goodness in enjoying the fruit of our labor.
- The curse was not work; the curse was the hardship associated with work.

4. ISAAC — LABOR THAT PRODUCES RESULTS

- Isaac sowed during a difficult season: “Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him.” — **Genesis 26:12**
- Isaac continued working despite opposition. Eventually he reached a place where there was room for him to prosper (**Genesis 26:22**).
- Faith and labor work together—Isaac trusted God, but he also sowed.

5. SUCCESS OR FAILURE

- The Bible repeatedly connects diligence with productivity and warns against laziness.
- **Diligence**
 - **Proverbs 10:4** teaches that the diligent hand makes rich.
 - **Proverbs 22:29** teaches that a diligent worker can be brought before people of influence.
- **Laziness**
 - **Proverbs 28:19** contrasts the person who works and cultivates his land with the person who follows vain pursuits.
- We should not confuse biblical blessing with instant success.

6. PWE — PRACTICAL WORK ETHIC

a. Work With Your Strength

- **Ecclesiastes 9:10** — Whatever responsibility is placed before us, we should give it our best effort.

b. Live Quietly & Work Faithfully

- **1 Thessalonians 4:11** — Paul encourages believers to live quietly, mind their own business, work with their own hands.

c. Personal Responsibility

- **2 Thessalonians 3:10** — Paul strongly teaches personal responsibility: *“If any would not work, neither should he eat.”*
- The principle is that able people should not intentionally refuse responsibility while expecting others to carry them.

d. Work Unto the Lord

- **Colossians 3:23–24** — Our ultimate employer is God.
- Whatever we do, we should do it wholeheartedly because we are serving Christ.
- Don't just work for people—work as unto the Lord.

7. LABOR & MINISTRY

- God gives different gifts, offices, and responsibilities to His people for the purpose of building up the body of Christ.
- **Ministry Requires Work**
 - **Ephesians 4:11–12** shows that leaders are given to equip God's people for the work of ministry.
 - **2 Corinthians 6:5** demonstrates that ministry can involve endurance, hardship, labor, and sacrifice.
- **Labor in the Word**
 - **2 Timothy 2:15** calls believers to study and rightly handle the Word of Truth.
- **Supporting Those Who Labor**
 - **1 Timothy 5:18** recognizes the principle that those who labor deserve appropriate support.
- Every believer has a role in building up the body.
- Kingdom work is still work—but its reward is eternal.

8. LABORERS

- Jesus said: *“The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few.”* — **Luke 10:2**
- **John 4:35–36** presents the world as a harvest field.
- There is a spiritual harvest around us.
- God is looking for willing laborers.
- Labor in God's kingdom involves reaching people, serving others, sharing the Gospel, discipling believers, and helping advance God's purposes.
- The harvest needs laborers, not spectators.