Success the Biblical Way

**LIFEFaITHFUSION DEVOTIONAL**

**SCRIPTURE STUDY**

Colossians 3:23  
Proverbs 12:24  
Proverbs 13:11  
2 Thessalonians 3:10  
Ephesians 6:5-6  
Proverbs 22:29

**SCRIPTURE FOCUS**

“The hand of the diligent will rule.” Proverbs 12:24 (NIV)  
There are two Hebrew adverbs for “diligently” in the Old Testament: *ospama*—thoroughly (Ezra 6:12), and *charuts*—carefully (Prov. 12:27). The New Testament concept of diligence is *spoude*—earnestness (Rom. 12:8,11).

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Dear Jesus,  
“Give me the grace to do all my daily work as unto You. I am grateful for the opportunity to share your love in the workplace.” Amen

**MAKING YOUR WORK MATTER**

"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men" (Colossians 3:23).

Many people presume the Christian life can be compartmentalized. Church is church and work is work. Such a philosophy is a dichotomy that leaves room for the Christian to compromise his values in the workplace. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The Bible has much to say about committing all of our work to the Lord. Solomon peppered the book of Ecclesiastes with many truths about toil: that God’s gift is man’s satisfaction in his toil (Eccl. 3:13), and that work is man’s lot and should be enjoyed (Eccl. 9:9). Since Ecclesiastes was Solomon’s last written Bible book, he had much to say about man’s labor being drudgery when it is performed without godly focus and grace (Eccl. 2:17).

- Read Ecclesiastes 2:17-23. What caused Solomon to be so cynical? List his observations about toil in the space below.

- What conclusions does Solomon reach in Ecclesiastes 2:24-26?
THE PURPOSE OF WORK

Great treasure can be found by digging and sweating in this garden in which we live. The book of Proverbs tells us, “The hand of the diligent will rule” (12:24). And in 13:11, it observes that “Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, but the one who gathers by labor increases.” Again, in 14:23 we read, “In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.”

Here are two concepts that permeate scripture regarding work:

1. **Work is good.** We see in Genesis 2 that God made man to work and cultivate the garden of Eden. The Fall (sin) doesn’t enter the picture until Genesis 3, so we know that work is “good,” as God called all that He created. Yes, the Fall caused the results of our work to be flawed—the earth doesn’t yield like it did before the Fall—but the institution of work itself is good.

2. **We are commanded to work.** In 2 Thessalonians 3:10 we read, “If anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat.”

You cannot be successful in life the biblical way when you don’t give your best in the institution where you spend half of your life—the workplace.

- How do you view your daily chores? Do you wake up every morning dreading the “grind”? What are some ways you can make your work environment more pleasant?

- List your daily tasks by priority. Which tasks do you perform that have lasting impact (importance)? Which tasks do you perform that are pressing but transient (urgency)? Can you schedule in those jobs that are important, so that you do not devote your entire day to the urgent duties?

- Make a list of the people you work with every day. Spend some time today thanking God for placing them in your life. Pray for those who are hurting. Many times people are angry because of unprocessed hurt. Try to comfort someone today.

MAKING YOUR WORK MATTER

Let me describe six quick truths from the Bible about how to work in a way that will make your work matter:

**You are to work in reverence.** The ability to work is God-given. Deuteronomy 8 tells us that God has given us the ability to earn wealth. The grace of God that gives you the ability to work and provide for your family. In other words, your ability to work, make money, and enjoy it is God-given. So work with reverence because it is from God. Reverence naturally brings an attitude of thanksgiving.

**When you work, work hard.** The apostle Paul teaches us in Colossians 3:23, “And whatever you do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not to men.” Don’t be lazy or careless. Believers work hard and honor the Lord as they do.
**Work as unto God.** In the book of Titus, Paul wrote to the slaves on the island of Crete, encouraging them to do their work “not pilfering [thieving], but demonstrating good faith [or the ability to be trusted] so that they might adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things” (2:10). The word translated here as *adorn* comes from a Greek word meaning You cannot be successful in life the biblical way when you don’t give your best in the institution where you spend half of your life—the workplace. Continue to learn and develop new skills.

- Spend some time meditating on the blessing you have received from God because of your work. List them below. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving.

- How can you maximize your effectiveness as an employee? Do you budget your time wisely? Do you continue to learn and develop new skills? What are they?

**Work as though it will be rewarded by God.** Work as though you are going to be called to account—because you will. You are responsible for your every action here on earth.

**Be loyal to your boss.** Paul said to the Ephesians, “Submit to your masters . . . not by way of eye service as men pleasers but as slaves of Christ doing the will of God from the heart” (6:5–6). You disobey God when you go behind your boss’s back and slander him or her. Don’t sit around the water fountain and gossip about your boss, deal with him or her appropriately or work loyally.

**Do your work with excellence.** Solomon said in Proverbs 22:29, “See a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.” Do your work rightly, knowing for Whom you do it. Let the glory of God inspire you to excellence! You don’t have to be Da Vinci and paint the Sistine Chapel to glorify God in your work. You can glorify God in any job, simply by doing it with excellence “to beautify.” In other words, a hard worker beautifies his testimony by his labors.

- What would “working as unto the Lord” look like? What are some practical ways to focus your attention upon your “Heavenly Boss” during the course of your day?

- Read Romans 12: 1-2. Can work be worship? Why or why not? How do we become “living sacrifices”? What are some practical ways to live sacrificially?

**APPLYING THE TRUTH**

*Review these passages and place one on your desk each day this week.*

Colossians 3:23  
Proverbs 12:24  
Proverbs 13:11  
2 Thessalonians 3:10  
Proverbs 22:29