



Outer Growth - Work 2

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Watch - Job 7:12

Occupy - Luke 19:13

Reputation - Philippians 2:7

Kindhearted - 1 Peter 3:8

Whatever work we do, we should undertake with all our hearts, as working for the Lord. For the ungodly, they do it for family and primarily for themselves. In Colossians three, verse twenty-three, exhorts Christians to regard all labor as a service rendered to the Lord. Believers must work as though Christ were their employer, knowing that all work performed "to the Lord" will someday be rewarded. Those who work otherwise should remember that if they are doing it for family, they should work as though they are there watching.

For some workers, the mentality of "only do my eight hours" approach and then go home has become the norm for some workers. However, that approach will seldom influence or encourage employers to promote people who work in this fashion. Those who do not have that mindset will diligently complete whatever task is set before them successfully. Solomon exhorts the wise and pious to

cheerful confidence in God, whatever their condition in life apart from work. Other workers tend to go through the motions and utilize whatever opportunities present themselves within the facility, such as washroom breaks, smoke breaks, or water breaks, to limit or reduce their output or performance during work time.

At the place of work, if not an entrepreneur, eyes and ears are open. An employer may have someone internally watch the new employee as they begin to determine if they will be an asset or a liability to the company. However, some companies will be satisfied if the worker primarily reaches a specific term, and give that individual time to develop and continue to fulfill the position as they grow. The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard from Matthew twenty, verses one through sixteen, is where Jesus tells a parable about a landowner who hires workers at different times of the day but pays them the same wage. This parable highlights the sovereignty of God and the principle of generosity, as well as the importance of fulfilling agreed-upon terms. Employers will either monitor or have a staff member track the new employee to determine if the requirements revealed from their resume or the responses shared from the job interview are accurate. The boss may also give close attention to an employee if they are performing beyond expectations, and ensure nothing will deter them from their performance while working. For believers, "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ," as in Ephesians six, verse five. To believe God and work in an ungodly manner is not the will of God. "Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men," as in verses six to seven.

To work is to keep busy. As an employee, a worker has the responsibility to utilize the opportunity that has been given to them. Each of us who is hired or runs a business has the opportunity to make the most of it. The presentation, co-operation, and performance at their workstation will determine the employee's future with the organization. The times and means of how we work within the company will show results, whether under supervision or not. For the believer, the parable of the ten pounds illustrates that each worker has an obligation to work according to the privilege given by their employer. "Occupy till I come" is similar to the employer not being in the workplace to monitor the progress throughout the working day. However, the expectation is that the employee will perform the task set before them.

In Luke nineteen, verses sixteen to seventeen, "Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities." For believers who work for an employer, we should remember we are doing this for the Lord. To make progress and have positive results that will look good for the boss and the Father in heaven. "Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again, as in Titus two, verse nine.

To work is to represent the people whom the worker is working for within the company. When an employee is in their employer's facility and begins their job, they are under the supervision of the employer. They are not free to do as they please but are now earning wages within the hours of operation agreed during hiring. For believers, Jesus Christ "made himself of no reputation," which He voluntarily emptied himself (laid aside) His heavenly glory, position, rights, and the

use of His divine attributes. As believers in God through His Son, we voluntarily set aside any outside status when on company grounds and work according to the rules and regulations provided by the employer.

However, believers may have to work with fellow workers while experiencing other challenges on the job, such as human limitations, suffering, misunderstanding, ill-treatment, hatred, and envy or jealousy. All of these negative circumstances may occur at different times in the workplace, which is part of the job.

To work is to be helpful. In every company, if there are more than one employee, will require a team to excel and achieve goals set by the employer. There is no lone ranger. A team of workers will need people whose conduct is positive, encouraging others, and not discouraging them.

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do," as in First Thessalonians five, verse eleven.

Believers should have compassion while working at the workplace. To work comfortably on the job, the employee must bridle their tongue from wicked, abusive, or deceitful words. "And bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart," as in James one, verse twenty-six. Other requirements are to forsake and keep far from evil actions, do all the good they can, and seek peace with all co-workers. For God all-wise and everywhere present watches over the righteous, and takes care of them. None could or should harm those who copied the example of Christ, who is perfect goodness, and did good to others as His followers.

To work at any level requires a caring, hard working, cautious, and helpful person who will do it from the heart. "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire, as in First Corinthians three, verse thirteen.