

And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Genesis 3:17–19 (ESV)

What went wrong with work?

1. The curse guarantees pain will be part of work.

...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; Genesis 3:17 (ESV)

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Genesis 3:19 (ESV)

Pain = enduring suffering

2. The curse guarantees problems will be part of work.

...thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;... Genesis 3:18 (ESV)

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:22–23 (ESV)

3. The curse guarantees I will struggle to find purpose in work.

I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, Ecclesiastes 2:18–20 (ESV)

What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity. Ecclesiastes 2:22–23 (ESV)

4. The curse tempts me to make an idol of work.

Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” Genesis 11:4 (ESV)

- 1) Am I using my work to make a name for myself or as a way to serve God and others?
- 2) What am I sacrificing on the altar of work?
- 3) When I look in the mirror, do I see what I have done or what God has done?

5. The curse tempts me to be idle in work.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, Colossians 3:23 (ESV)

I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man. Proverbs 24:30–34 (ESV)

1) Do I neglect to plan ahead?

The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing. Proverbs 20:4 (ESV)

2) Am I unwilling to get up early?

How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? Proverbs 6:9 (ESV)

3) Am I known for being all talk and no action?

The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. Proverbs 21:25 (ESV)

4) Do I make flimsy excuses to avoid work?

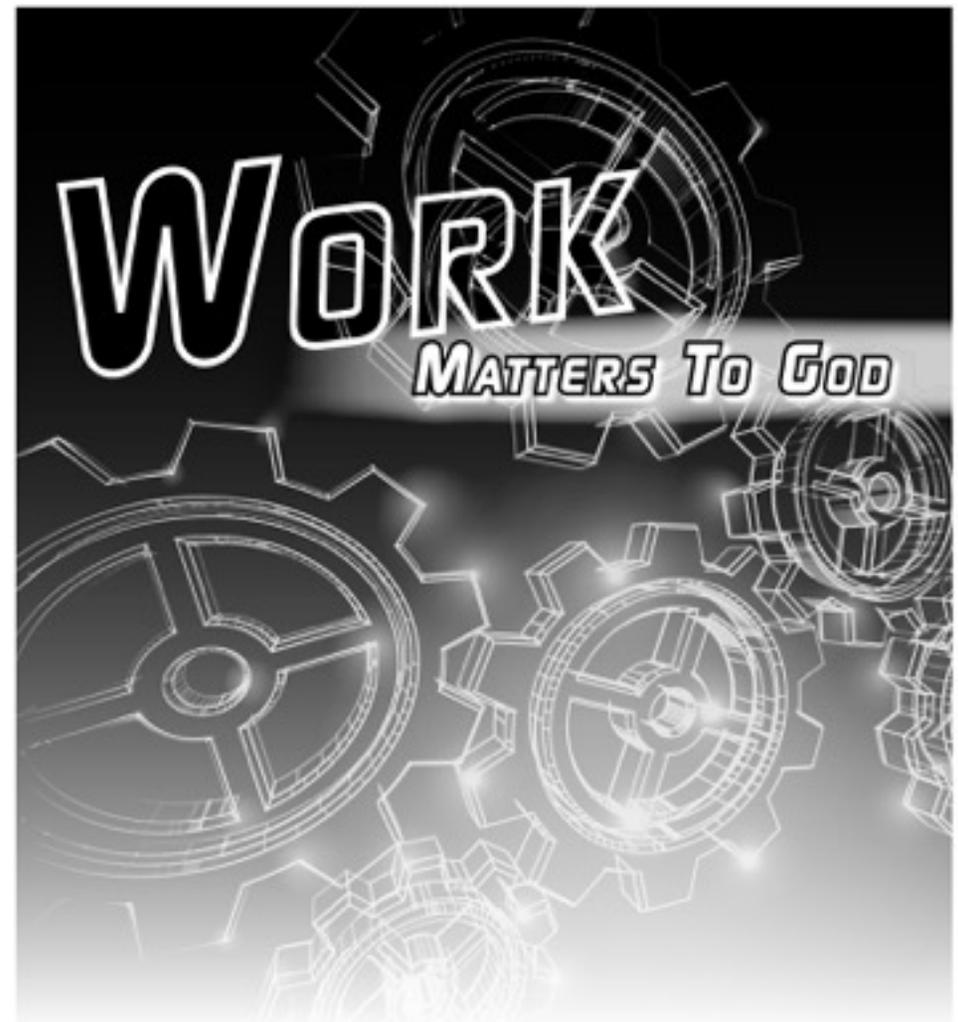
The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!" Proverbs 22:13 (ESV)

5) Am I painfully unreliable?

Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him. Proverbs 10:26 (ESV)

6) Is my life littered with unfulfilled desires?

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied. Proverbs 13:4 (ESV)



What Went Wrong With Work?



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May 17 — How do I choose a job? (Pastor Stephen Albi)

May 24 — How does Jesus change work? (Return to summer hours. Second service 10:30)