

God Intended Mankind To Work (and Pay Taxes)

For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (*Exodus 20:11*)

So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. (*Genesis 2:3*)

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. (*Genesis 2:15*)

And to Adam [God] said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife [Eve] 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*)

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts of the Lord that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts. "Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the Lord. (*Leviticus 23:1-3*)

Moses assembled all the congregation of the people of Israel and said to them, "These are the things that the Lord has commanded you to do. Six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord." (*Exodus 35:1-2a*)

The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." (*John 5:15-17*)

But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him. (*Luke 13:14-17*)

Aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one. (*1 Thessalonians 4:11-12*)

If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. (*2 Thessalonians 3:10b-12*)

In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty. (*Proverbs 14:23*)

The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor. (*Proverbs 12:24*)

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

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty. (*Proverbs 21:5*)

Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys. (*Proverbs 18:9*)

A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. (*Proverbs 10:4*)

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 24:33-34*)

Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense. (*Proverbs 12:11*)

Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men. (*Proverbs 22:29*)

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (*Colossians 3:23-24*)

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. (*Proverbs 16:3*)

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!
(*Psalms 90:17*)

The wage of the righteous leads to life, the gain of the wicked to sin. (*Proverbs 10:16*)

Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. (*Romans 4:4*)

Nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. (*2 Thessalonians 3:8*)

You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning.
(*Leviticus 19:13*)

Then I said to [the sheep traders], "If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. (*Zechariah 11:12*)

Remind [the people] to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work. (*Titus 3:1*)

Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. (*Colossians 4:1*)

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes (*Romans 13:1 and 4-7a*)

So [the scribes and the chief priests] asked [Jesus], "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful for us to give tribute [pay taxes] to Caesar, or not?" But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, "Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's." He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." (*Luke 20:21-5*)

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. (*Proverbs 3:9-10*)

"You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do." (*Deuteronomy 14:22 and 28-29*)

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest, and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, so that you may be accepted." (*Leviticus 23:9-11a*)

Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. (*Malachi 3:8-10*)

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. (*Proverbs 11:24*)

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." (*Luke 21:1-4*)

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." (*2 Corinthians 9:6-9*)