3. How to Get the Most Out of Work

Ecclesiastes 3-6

Perspective =
How you see and what you think about someone or something

Ecclesiastes 3:9

Ecclesiastes 2:23

Ecclesiastes 4:8b

"Life may seem vain, but work is valuable."

Genesis 2:15

So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his **work**, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him? —Ecclesiastes 3:22

1. Your Job is for You to Make a Life Contribution, Not Engage in a Lifetime Competition

Then I saw that all toil and all skill in **work** come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind. —Ecclesiastes 4:4

"You are not merely here to make a living… you are here to enrich the world and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand." —Woodrow Wilson

2. Your Job Can Bring Great Profits, But It Can Leave You With a Bankrupt Life

Notes:

"If you give yourself to the idol of work, you'll find it is an impossible taskmaster, a slave driver that can never be completely satisfied. It will always disappoint and let you down. It will never finally grant the satisfaction it promises… The goal posts keep moving, and satisfaction proves elusive." —Trager and Gilbert

Ecclesiates 5:10-17

3. Your Job Provides an Opportunity for Growth and Personal Development

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no **work** or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going. —Ecclesiastes 9:10

2 Thessalonians 3:10

Colossians 3:24-25

4. Your Job is More Fulfilling When You See It as a Calling and Not a Career

[24]There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, [25]for apart from Him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? —Ecc. 2:24-25

"Our word, 'career,' comes from two ancient French roots for 'cart' and 'circle.' The word picture is of an individual pushing a cart, endlessly in a circle— the treadmill of life. Calling is not treadmill living. Calling is a picture of linear movement. It is both a summoning, a coming to, and then a commissioning, being sent on an errand. The picture here is not the circular, never-ending rat race, but the outward pointing arrow of meaningful direction. The difference between career and calling is the difference between mission and activity. Calling is being released to be exactly what I'm supposed to be, to do precisely what I am supposed to do for God, an assignment with eternal worth." —Maxwell, Graves, and Addington, Life@Work

[18]Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. [19]Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. —Ecclesiastes 5:18-19

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