

## APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

## ON THE CLOCK

Time. Every click of the second hand reminds us that we are all engaged in a race called *Life*. You don't have to wear shorts and Nike shoes to be in a race. Life is a race, and the pace can be exhausting.

Life is also a series of trade-offs between energy and time. Every day we hear, "I don't have time. I'll have to find time. I need more time. Where does my time go?" We all know the agitation and frustration of time limitations; they apply to all of us. No one has more than 24 hours a day—and we don't all live like Jack Bauer!

God is interested in your time and how you fill your time. Time shapes the whole of your life.

One of the major "vendors" of time is work.

Avg. American Worker	48 hrs. per wk.
Annual Avg. at Work	2,496 hrs.
Total 24/7 Time	8,736 hrs.
Sleep Time (6.5 hrs.)	2,366 hrs.

If you sleep 6.5 hours at night, you quickly realize that you spend over half your life each year simply working and sleeping. Everything else fits into the remaining time. How you fill your work space and live in your work place has much to do with the well being of your life.

The book of Proverbs has much to say about your work life: business ethics, management, employer/employee relations, ambitions, attitudes, motives, practices and profits.

"In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty" (Proverbs 14:23 ESV). This text places values on the investment of your time and effort in work and yet, it warns against wasting time and losing ground in life.

Today, you may thinking, *"I work hard and put in more hours, but I am making less profit. It's hard to know if I am making progress or just losing time."* You are not alone. Many people are struggling to advance in their work. This is especially true for those who are stretched for time, limited in money, out of

their skills set or poorly trained. Are you trading your life for your job?

It is vital to gain a right perspective on your work and your job, especially in light of the time you devote to your job. There must be balance.

## &gt;&gt; Don't Trade Your Life For Your Job

In Scripture, God made it clear His eyes are on the marketplace. "A just balance and scales are the LORD's; all the weights in the bar are his work" (Proverbs 16:11 ESV).

The marketplace in America has been tarnished over the past decade and many have become disillusioned in their work. Myths have been passed along from one generation to another and much of the disillusionment you experience may come from lies you believe and pursue. For example...

**Myth #1—The secret to a satisfied life is a successful career.** In reality, some people have "made it" by all external measures, but they are grossly empty inwardly. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, not only wrote the wisdom of Proverbs, but the reality of Ecclesiastes. "Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 2:11 ESV).

Lessons from Recession 101: "Self-worth is more important than net worth." You are more than what you do. The bottom line is this: **Your career is never a substitute for a relationship with God. Only God can give satisfaction and significance.**

**Myth #2—Success can be measured by the sum total of two numbers: promotions + earnings.** In reality, the more you achieve in promotions and income, the more vulnerable and expendable your family becomes.

"Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it" (Proverbs 15:16-17 ESV). Relationships, not riches, make life complete.



## On the Clock

## Apps Series, Part Seven

David H. McKinley, Pastor  
warrenbaptist.org

Scripture: Proverbs 14:23



In all toil there is profit.



Mere talk tends only to poverty.



**WARREN**  
a way of life!

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"Again, I saw vanity under the sun: one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, 'For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?' This also is vanity and an unhappy business" (Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 ESV). Achievements without relationships produce an empty and unsatisfied life.

**Myth #3—Security is found in what you possess.**

"The rich think their wealth protects them; they imagine themselves safe behind it" (Proverbs 18:11 MSG).

"Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf" (Proverbs 11:28 ESV).

"Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven" (Proverbs 23:4-5 ESV).

**Myth #4—Success leads to significance.**

Success may make you "important" in the eyes of others, but it does not make you significant. Success only provides a trap when you look to it to provide significance.

"He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 5:10 ESV).

*Service*, not *success*, makes you significant. Have you done something for someone recently who could never pay you back?

"The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller. The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped" (Proverbs 11:24-25 MSG).

"The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life" (Proverbs 22:4 ESV).

God does not necessarily align with the American game plan for life. Through His word, God shows us that work is necessary for profit, but don't assume that profits make a full and meaningful life.

Your life is more than what you do; it's knowing who you are and what you were made to be for the glory of God.

**>>> Don't Waste Your Life in Your Job!**

"In *all* labor there is profit..." (Proverbs 14:23 ESV).

You should do your job to the best of your ability and live your life for the glory of God. Your job is not a place to occupy time in monotony; it is a place to do ministry for God's glory.

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31 ESV).

Many people have a "split level" perspective of their job and God: God is Sunday and the job is Monday–Friday. There are also those who hope to live for God on their job, but they fail to see their job as a place where they can serve God. God doesn't want your "leftover" time on Sunday; He wants your time Sunday–Saturday to matter for His glory.

In order to increase your job satisfaction and performance, use your work to be a platform of ministry to the glory of God.

Live for the **G-L-O-R-Y** of God!

**Get the right picture.** Work and worship are not enemies, they are friends.

"Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 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 3:22-24 ESV).

I know what people mean when they refer to church positions as "serving God full time." However, every believer is a "full time" Christian. You are not "part time." In the Old Testament, worship included ceremonial diets, special days and specified sacrifices performed by designated priests. The New Testament stresses every day, every place and everything is a part of worship.

Worship is not part of your life; it is your life! Every activity can be transformed into an act of worship

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when you do it for the praise, glory and pleasure of God. Your job is not about profits; it's about pleasing God. God is glorified when ordinary people do ordinary things in ordinary days for His glory. There are no divisions of labor in God's kingdom; there is just the "faithful" and "unfaithful."

**Let your light shine.** Your job is your platform to preach God's truth and show His love. It is a place where worship is expressed in witness.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16 ESV).

"How do you convince a world that God is alive? By His aliveness in your life, by His work in producing reality in your experience. People are won to your religious beliefs less by description and more by demonstration." —Howard Hendricks

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

"Preach all the time, and every once in while, if necessary, use words." —St. Francis of Assisi

**Offer each task as a service to God.** Service doesn't have to be liturgical to be spiritual. "...unto the Lord..." (Colossians 3:22-23).

"It's not what a man does that determines whether His work is sacred or secular, but why He does it." —A.W. Tozer

**Return God's portion to His work and His kingdom.**

"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered" (Proverbs 11:24-25 ESV).

Distributing your earnings is a way of expressing

your faith.

"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 3:10 ESV).

Labor increases profit when you give according to God's plan.

What do the following people have in common?

William Colgate—Colgate/Palmolive  
Henry Kroll—Quaker Oats  
William Proctor—Proctor and Gamble  
R.G. Laterno—Laterno Corporation  
Wallace Johnson—Holiday Inn  
Robert Welch—Welch's Grape Juice  
J.D. Rockefeller, Sr.—Standard Oil  
J.C. Penney—Retail

All these men have published testimonies as to how they established the principle of the *tithe* in their business practices.

A number of years ago, there was young man in Chicago who failed at attempts to have a successful business. He decided he had ignored God long enough. He determined that if God wanted to run the cheese business, he would work for God and share the profits. The man's name was J.L. Kraft. Looking back on his success, J.L. Kraft said, "The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord."

**Yield to God's purpose.** Contentment comes when you recognize God's control in your life.

"The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps" (Proverbs 16:9 ESV).

Remember...

**Don't lose your life in your job.**

**Don't waste your life in your job.**