

**God's Wisdom for Our Lives – Week 21**  
**The Wise Worker – Working In Reference to God**

**Warm-Up:**

1. What are the things we like or find fulfilling about work?
2. What are the things we dislike about work?
3. Is work a good thing? Or a bad thing?
4. What's wrong with work, and how did it get that way?
5. Will work be redeemed? Will we have work in heaven?
6. Why is it important to have a basic theology of work?
7. An important note: The Proverbs presuppose the ability to do certain kinds of work.

**The Wise Worker – Working In Reference to God**

**Read Proverbs 28:19...** "He who tills his land will have plenty of food, but he who follows empty pursuits will have poverty plenty."

**& Proverbs 16:26...** "A worker's appetite works for him, for his hunger urges him on."

8. What are the two behaviors contrasted in Proverbs 28:19?
  - a. What are the accompanying results?
9. What does it mean to "till his land"? How should this be applied more broadly?
10. What are "empty pursuits"?
11. Consider Proverbs 16:26... how does a worker's appetite work for him?
  - a. What do these verses teach us about one of God's design for work? (2 Thess 3:10)
  - b. How do these verses instruct parents in teaching their children to work?

**Read Proverbs 10:4-5...** “A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.”

12. What does proverbs 10 teach us about the *manner* in which a wise person works?
13. What is a “slack hand”, and what does it lead to?
  - a. What kinds of work does this apply to?
14. What does it mean to be diligent?
  - a. What does diligence have to do with working in reference to God?
15. Consider Proverbs 10:5... what is being commended here, and what is being condemned?

**Read Proverbs 22:29...** “Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.”

16. What is the man recognized for in this verse?
  - a. What does it mean to be skilled in your work?
  - b. Does God care whether or not you are skilled in your work? Why or why not?
  - c. Does God want us to recognize the skills of others in their work? Why or why not?

**Read Colossians 3:22-24**

17. Consider verse 22... Who is being addressed, and in what context?
  - a. How does this apply to us?
18. According to Paul in verse 22, what is our motivation for obedience and service?
  - a. What does Paul tie together with “sincerity of heart”?
19. When we obey and serve and work, who is it that we ultimately serve?
  - a. What difference should this make?
20. What does it mean to “do your work heartily as for the Lord, rather than for men”?
21. Is the Lord your boss?
  - a. What’s the difference between the Lord and your boss?