

Finding Meaning: Wisdom from Ecclesiastes
The Problem with Work
Ecclesiastes 2:18-23

A young man eager to make it to the top went to a well-known millionaire businessman and asked him what the number one reason for his success was. The businessman answered without hesitation, "Hard work." After a lengthy pause, the young man asked, "What is the second reason?"

Our work gains meaning when it's done to _____ Christ.

1. Wisdom shapes our _____ of work.
 - A. Wisdom looks at labor and finds _____.
 - B. Wisdom looks within and finds _____.
 - C. Wisdom looks to God and finds _____.
2. The gospel shapes our _____ towards work.
 - A. The gospel calls us to work as if work _____.
 - B. The gospel calls us to work _____ and diligently.
 - C. The gospel takes the _____ out of work.

God has created us to enjoy the life He's given us. We are to enjoy the success God gives through work that glorifies Him. If we view our work only from a secular perspective, it will frustrate us and leave us empty. But when we view our work the way Jesus viewed His work, with an eternal and kingdom perspective, we begin to understand that work is a gift from God.

Reflection

Consider Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people." It is amazing what a change of perspective can do for us, especially when it comes to our work. What are some ways that we can develop the right perspective of work? Consider the following this week: 1) Be thankful. Acknowledge that the job you have and the work you do is from God and give Him thanks for it. 2) Rest. Balance your work with rest. Your work is important, but it should never consume you. 3) Work for Christ. Don't just think about the things you do; consider the people you interact with. Look for ways to point to Christ in your work-related relationships.