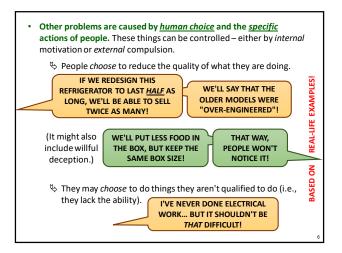
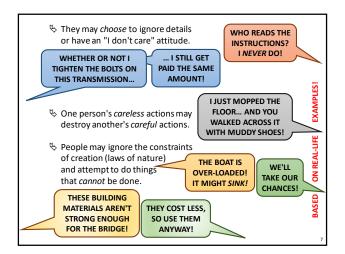


Some problems are caused by <u>random chance</u> and the <u>general</u> effects of sin in the world. These things tend to be difficult to control. Random chance events The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, often effect us. (These nor does food come to the wise can be good or bad.) or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned: but time and chance happen to them all. ♥ Random events can Ecclesiastes 9:11b (NIV) result in a series of events. LIGHTNING HIT THE I HAD TO TREE... THEN THE TREE WALK TO FELL ON TOP OF THE CAR! WORK.. ♥ The general effect of sin: ... the heavens will vanish like smoke, Things tend to wear out, and the earth will wear out like a garment they often don't work quite and its inhabitants die like flies. the way they should. This affects all of creation! Isaiah 51:6b (NIV)





#### Who does it?

• Anyone who is a sinner is capable of doing it. That means ALL of us.

☼ Management☼ Workers☼ Volunteers☼ Suppliersॐ Non-workers

 In most cases, not only is it preventable... but doing it is also a violation of Scriptural teachings!

♦ Our actions will be one of the following:

★ An expression of love for God and neighbor.

★ A satisfying of self and our sinful nature/flesh (or *anything* that isn't love for God/neighbor).

· What can we do about it?

We might be in a position where we can attempt to restrain and direct the actions of others. But <u>our #1 obligation</u> is to deal with <u>our own</u> actions – because <u>what we do will affect others</u>.

"Work," in its broadest sense, includes all legitimate human endeavors that focus on people and things. This includes necessary activities, as well as those that are voluntary; whether or not they result in a reward (pay). Never does it mean that we can exclude

God from the activity, since God is the one who originally commanded us to work, and we are ultimately to do it for him.

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule ..."

[God] said to them, "... fill the earth and subdue it.

Rule over [everything]"

Genesis 1:26a, 28a (NIV)

God was basically telling them: "Learn about creation and use it (in beneficial ways)!" As we progress through Scripture, we see this broad concept of "work" developing into all areas of

 The intention of God's command: We are to have productive lives. We are not to be merely consuming whatever we can get our hands on! Our lives are to be characterized by a <u>giving</u> attitude, not a <u>taking</u> one!

Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.

Titus 3:14 (NIV)

• There will be situations in which one has to receive, rather than give.

✓ Typical examples: small children, the elderly, the sick or seriously handicapped, a temporary loss of income, tragedy, etc.

✓ But this is not to be the normal way people should expect to live. (Otherwise, the above command would be unnecessary!)

 Here is our ultimate obligation, when focusing on "work" in its broadest sense:

And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

2 Thessalonians 3:13 (NIV)

Now we're going to focus here is on "work" in its narrower sense: doing something, ① whether out of necessity/force or voluntarily; and ② often for pay or other types of compensation. We tend to use words such as "job" or "occupation" to describe these things.

life.

 Scripture has a lot to say about people doing work – why and how they should do it. For instance...

 The importance of work to provide for one's own needs (rather than demanding free hand-outs from others).

You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

1 Thessalonians 4:11b-12 (NIV)

Surely you recall, brothers, our labor and toil. We worked night and day so that we would not be a burden to anyone ...

1 Thessalonians 2:9a (BSB)

✓ Working with the goal of helping *others* who are unable to do so.

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing good with his own hands, that he may have something to share with the one in need.

Ephesians 4:28 (BSB)

✓ Working with the goal of honoring God – as we should in all that
we do.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 3:17 (BSB)

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

- Scripture teaches us many principles, through commands, instructions and examples, which are applicable to all types of work situations.
- √ What Scripture says about one type of work, can teach us principles that apply to other types of work. For instance, "how-to-work" instructions given to slaves teach principles that apply to non-slaves.

Defining slavery in the Bible, in terms of modern-day situations (or caricatures) is to distort Scripture.

At the time the Bible was written, there were a wide variety of potential work arrangements. We might divide them into two categories: "slaves" and "hired workers." However, within these categories, there were a wide range of situations.

- ✓ When Scripture was obeyed, Jewish slaves were often treated like family members. It was often a temporary situation and was sometimes a voluntarily chosen relationship.
- Sometimes hired workers had worse work situations than did slaves – and also less long-term security.

It's not wrong to enjoy the results of our work (when possible) – not
just the pay, but also the sense of accomplishment, awareness of how
it benefits others, and more.

Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NIV)

✓ If this is not possible, then there is still the eternal aspect to consider – and the final Day of Judgment, when all will be made right. Whatever your situation, keep doing what is good! (God gives you the ability to do it – Ephesians 2:10, etc.)

God "will repay each person according to what they have done." To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. ... There will be ... glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism.

Romans 2:6-7, 9a, 10-11 (NIV)

 Don't have the attitude that many people have! God has called you to be different!

> WHY SHOULD I DO A GOOD JOB, WHEN NOBODY ELSE DOES?

THEY WILL EXPERIENCE THE WRATH OF GOD! WHY SHOULD <u>YOU</u> CHOOSE TO EXPERIENCE THE WRATH OF GOD, JUST BECAUSE <u>EVERYONE ELSE</u> HAS CHOSEN TO DO SO?

God "will repay each person according to what they have done." ... for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil... For God does not show favoritism.

Romans 2:6, 8-9a, 11 (NIV)

If you are punished for doing good, just make sure that it is good that
you are being punished for, and not evil (such as laziness, carelessness,
rebellious attitude, etc.).

But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. 

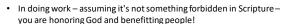
1 Peter 2:20b-21; 3:15a (NIV)

### REMEMBER WHO YOUR MASTER ("LORD") IS!

For it is **better**, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good **than for doing evil**. 1 Peter 2:17 (NIV)

 Realize that both workers and managers are sinners. You shouldn't be surprised when sinners sin! And to whatever degree <u>you</u> don't follow God's instructions... you place yourself in the same category as <u>they</u>.

## ★ Your work has value! ★



 Though sin in the world has caused work to lose much of its enjoyment and satisfaction, doing it to honor God is still rewarding – eternally, and (often) in this present life.



God doesn't divide life into two "compartments" – secular and sacred! He considers it all to be sacred.

- ✓ These two terms used to mean two different spheres of life both of which were ruled by God.
- ✓ It's the wicked atheists who have redefined these concepts. They have removed God from the *secular*... and stripped the *sacred* from having any real meaning for life.

## What about the lazy?

- We are not referring to those who are genuinely unable to work young children, the aged, handicapped, sick, etc.
  - ✓ There are many commands, instructions and examples in Scripture about God's people taking care of each other.

If anyone with earthly possessions sees his brother\* in need, but withholds his compassion from him, how can the love of God abide in him?

1 John 3:17 (BSB)

\* REFERS TO A FELLOW-BELIEVER

✓ Taking care of our Christian family comes first. But doing good for the unsaved is a part of following Jesus. ("Doing good" is not the same as giving free "handouts" to everyone who wants one.)

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to the family of faith.

Galatians 6:10 (BSB)

- · Throughout Scripture, the lazy are condemned by God.
  - They will always make excuses, no matter how preposterous the excuse may be.
  - They are like leeches, constantly wanting and not contributing good to society.
  - ✓ The only way to make them work is by brute force!
  - ✓ The fruit of their choices is often poverty and hunger. Yet they will blame others for the results of their own actions.
- · How should we respond to such people?
  - Lazy people are living in sin. We need to encourage them to repent of their sin, rather than encouraging and rewarding their sin, by giving them free handouts.

For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule:

"The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NIV)

19

The book of Proverbs has Go to the ant, you sluggard; much to say about lazy consider its ways and be wise! people – often called It has no commander, "sluggards." Even insects no overseer or ruler. are smarter than they are! yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. INSTRUCTIONS Proverbs 6:6-8 (NIV) FOR THE LAZY .. We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to ... AND FOR earn their own living. As for the rest of you, dear THE REST brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good. OF US 2 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (NLT) People who are not lazy will be willing to do something. If they cannot find a job for pay, they can volunteer to do something helpful for free. "Love for neighbor" does not require payment!

## HOW can I do my job the right way?

- Learn from Scripture: Scripture is full of basic principles about work, attitude, values, etc. As you read Scripture, think about ways you can apply what you find. (You might already be applying it...or you might need to improve.)
  - ✓ Learning what the Bible says is the first (and most important) step. Applying it comes next.
- Learn from other people observing and contrasting those who do the job well with those who don't.
- Persecution is possible. Some people (which could include managers or fellow-employees) might not appreciate you doing what is right. Because of this, you could get persecuted for what you do – but this is no different than in any other area of life.
  - ✓ Remember the Day of Judgment. Those who oppose you are <u>not</u> the one you will answer to and their own judgment will not be pleasant. It will do you no good to join them in their sin!

## What if I have to oppose or refuse to do something?

- In some matters: It may be difficult to know how to respond –
  especially when many factors are involved. Whatever you do... Love
  for God comes first.
  - ✓ Commit your situation to God. And commit the end-results to God even if things don't turn out the way you had hoped.
- If the matter involves going against an authority's instructions, there may be consequences—and you may have to accept it. [If they violate your legal rights, you will have to decide whether to pursue that issue, or to just let things be.]
- Regardless of your response (whether you comply) or refuse to comply), there may be times when you later wish you had done things differently. Sometimes, you might be able to change the situation... sometimes not. Either way, you need to commit the whole situation to God, who has promised to use even bad situations to accomplish good in your life (though sometimes that good won't be seen until eternity arrives).

# OUR MISSION:

Some people are offended when we suggest that they give God one day of the week...

Yet our actual obligation is to live for God seven days a week.

- Under normal conditions, six of those days will be characterized by activities that focus on love for neighbor (as well as for God).
- Since these activities can be described by the word "work" (in its broadest sense), do it in a way that honors God!

Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, for the Lord and not for men, because you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as your reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:23-24 (BSB)

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