
¹⁵ He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants.

¹⁶ Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use.

¹⁷ He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves.

¹⁸ When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the LORD will not answer you in that day."

Work, economy and government: w_____.

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity,..."

2 Chronicles 1:10 (RSV) Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can rule this thy people, that is so great?"

Proverbs 8:5 You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding.

Key: P 1: sacred P. 3: danger. P. 4: wisdom.

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Work, Economics, and Government

Our Biblical Worldview—part 8

October 25, 2020

The Cultural Mandate: Genesis 1

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground-- everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

Work is s_____.

Ecclesiastes 1:2 "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."³ What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun?

2 Thessalonians 3:8 ...nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you.⁹ We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow.¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."¹¹ We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies.¹² Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat.

What qualities prosper you?

1. Work your land vs. fantasies

Proverbs 16:26 The laborer's appetite works for him; his hunger drives him on.

Proverbs 28:19 He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.

Proverbs 14:23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

2. Diligence vs. laziness

Proverbs 10:4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. ⁵ He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.

3. Handle your responsibilities vs. driven by feelings.

1 Thessalonians 4:11 Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹² so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

4. Industry vs. small compromises

Proverbs 6:6 (RSV) Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. ⁷ Without having any chief, officer or ruler, ⁸ she prepares her food in summer, and gathers her sustenance in harvest. ⁹ How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? ¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, ¹¹

and poverty will come upon you like a vagabond, and want like an armed man.

5. Whole-hearted vs. the grudging attitude

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

6. Planning and thoroughness v. haste

Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

7. Honesty v. dishonesty.

Proverbs 21:6 A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.

Government, work, and the economy: d

1 Samuel 8:9 Listen to them but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do."

¹⁰ Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹ He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots.

¹² Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.

¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.

¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants.
