

We are created to work.

⁵Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and ***there was no one to work the ground***

Genesis 2:5

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him
in the Garden of Eden ***to work it and
take care of it.***

Genesis 2:15

We are created to work

We are the image-bearers of God

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make mankind
in our image, in our likeness,
so that they may rule over the fish in the sea
and the birds in the sky, over the livestock
and all the wild animals, and over all the
creatures that move along the ground.”

Genesis 1:26

²⁷So God created mankind *in his own image,*
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

²By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

³Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Genesis 2:2-3

Work became toil after man's sin

¹⁷To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you,

“Cursed is the ground because of you; ***through painful toil*** you will eat food from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

Genesis 3:17-18

¹⁹By ***the sweat of your brow*** you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Genesis 3:19

¹⁷So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:17

¹⁸I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. ¹⁹And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun.

This too is meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-19

²⁰So my heart began to despair over all my
toilsome labor under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:20

²²What do people get for all the toil
and anxious striving with which
they labor under the sun?

²³All their days ***their work is grief and pain;***
even at night their minds do not rest.

This too is meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 2:22-23

“The first Adam was cursed
with labor and suffering;
the redemption of labor and suffering
is the triumph of the Second Adam—the
Carpenter nailed to the cross”

–Dorothy Sayers

Jesus redeems our work!

⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Romans 6:6-7

¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:11

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

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

Colossians 3:23-24

⁷Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

Ephesians 6:7-8

¹³Now all has been heard;
here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the duty of all mankind.
¹⁴For God will bring *every deed* into judgment,
including every hidden thing,
whether it is good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

