

WORK IN THE BIBLE

What the Bible says about Work

[Gen 2:15] The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

[Gen 3:19] In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

[Exod 20:9-12] Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it. Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your ass may have rest, and the son of your bondmaid, and the alien, may be refreshed.

[Exod 34:21] Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; in plowing time and in harvest you shall rest.

[Lev 19:13] You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning.

[Deut 24:14 -15] You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brethren or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns; you shall give him his hire on the day he earns it, before the sun goes down (for he is poor, and sets his heart upon it); lest he cry against you to the LORD, and it be sin in you.

[Jer 22:13] Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing, and does not give him his wages;

[Mal 3:5] Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

[Mat 20:1-14] For the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, 'Why do you stand

here idle all day? They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too. And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?

[Luke 10:7] And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages; do not go from house to house.

[Acts 20:35] In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

[Eph 4:28] Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need.

[1Thess 4:10-12] and indeed you do love all the brethren throughout Macedonia. But we exhort you, brethren, to do so more and more, to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we charged you; so that you may command the respect of outsiders, and be dependent on nobody.

[2Thess 3:7-13] For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, we did not eat any one's bread without paying, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you. It was not because we have not that right, but to give you in our conduct an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: If any one will not work, let him not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work in quietness and to earn their own living. Brethren, do not be weary in well-doing.

[Jas 5:4] Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

What the Bible says about Industriousness:

[Exod 23:12] Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your ass may have rest, and the son of your bondmaid, and the alien, may be refreshed.

[Prov 10:4-5] A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. A son who gathers in summer is prudent, but a son who sleeps in harvest brings shame.

[Prov 12:24 -27] The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor. Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad. A righteous man turns away from evil, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. A slothful man will not catch his prey, but the diligent man will get precious wealth.

[Prov 13:4] The soul of the sluggard craves, and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

[Prov 13:11] Wealth hastily gotten will dwindle, but he who gathers little by little will increase it.

[Prov 13:23] The fallow ground of the poor yields much food, but it is swept away through injustice.

[Prov 14:4] Where there are no oxen, there is no grain; but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox.

[Prov 14:23] In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to want.

[Prov 16:26] A worker's appetite works for him; his mouth urges him on.

[Prov 20:13] Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.

[Prov 21:5] The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but every one who is hasty comes only to want.

[Prov 22:29] Do you see a man skilful in his work? he will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

[Prov 27:23-27] Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds; for riches do not last forever; and does a crown endure to all generations? When the grass is gone, and the new growth appears, and the herbage of the mountains is gathered, the lambs will provide your clothing, and the goats the price of a field; there will be enough goats' milk for your food, for the food of your household and maintenance for your maidens. He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord.

[Eph 4:28] Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need.

[1Thess 4:10-12] Indeed you do love all the brethren throughout Macedonia. But we exhort you, brethren, to do so more and more, to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we charged you; so that you may command the respect of outsiders, and be dependent on nobody.

[2Thess 3:10-12] For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: If any one will not work, let him not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work in quietness and to earn their own living.

[1Tim 5:8] If any one does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his own family, he has disowned the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

What the Bible says about Laziness:

[Prov 6:6-9] Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer or ruler, she prepares her food in summer, and gathers her sustenance in harvest. How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a vagabond, and want like an armed man. A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

[Prov 10:5] A son who gathers in summer is prudent, but a son who sleeps in harvest brings shame.

[Prov 10:26] Like vinegar to the teeth, and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him.

[Prov 12:9] Better is a man of humble standing who works for himself than one who plays the great man but lacks bread.

[Prov 12:24] The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

[Prov 12:27] A slothful man will not catch his prey, but the diligent man will get precious wealth.

[Prov 13:4] The soul of the sluggard craves, and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

[Prov 14:23] In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to want.

[Prov 15:19] The way of a sluggard is overgrown with thorns, but the path of the upright is a level highway.

[Prov 18:9] He who is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.

[Prov 19:15] Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.

[Prov 19:24] The sluggard buries his hand in the dish, and will not even bring it back to his mouth.

[Prov 20:4] The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.

[Prov 20:13] Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.

[Prov 21:25-25] The desire of the sluggard kills him for his hands refuse to labor. All day long the wicked covets, but the righteous gives and does not hold back.

[Prov 23:21] for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags.

[Prov 24:30] I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man without sense;

[Prov 24:33-34] A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

[Isa 56:10] His watchmen are blind, they are all without knowledge; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber.

[Ezek 16:49] Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, surfeit of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.

[Luke 19:20-24] Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your pound, which I kept laid away in a napkin; for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man; you take up what you did not lay down, and reap what you did not sow.' He said to him, 'I will condemn you out of your own mouth, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money into the bank, and at my coming I should have collected it with interest? And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the pound from him, and give it to him who has the ten pounds. (And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten pounds!)

[Mat 20:6-7] And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day? They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.

[Mat 25:26-27] But his master answered him, `You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.

[2Thess 3:10-11] For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: If any one will not work, let him not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work.

[1Tim 5:13] Besides that, they learn to be idlers, gadding about from house to house, and not only idlers but gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not.

[Heb 6:11] And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness in realizing the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

What the Bible says about an Employer

[Lev 25:43] You shall not rule over him with harshness, but shall fear your God.

[Deut 5:14] But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, or your manservant, or your maidservant, or your ox, or your ass, or any of your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your manservant and your maidservant may rest as well as you.

[Deut 24:14-15] You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brethren or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns; you shall give him his hire on the day he earns it, before the sun goes down (for he is poor, and sets his heart upon it); lest he cry against you to the LORD, and it be sin in you.

[Job 31:13] If I have rejected the cause of my manservant or my maidservant, when they brought a complaint against me; what then shall I do when God rises up? When he makes inquiry, what shall I answer him? Did not he who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?

[Prov 22:16] He who oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to want.

[Prov 29:21] He who pampers his servant from childhood, will in the end find him his heir.

[Jer 22:13] Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing, and does not give him his wages;

[Mal 3:5] Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

[Mat 10:9-10] Take no gold, nor silver, nor copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor a staff; for the laborer deserves his food.

[Mat 20:1-15] For the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day? They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too. And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?

[Luke 10:7] And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages; do not go from house to house.

[Rom 4:4] Now to one who works, his wages are not reckoned as a gift but as his due.

[Eph 6:9] Masters, do the same to them, and forbear threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

[Col 4:1] Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

[Jas 5:4] Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

[Jas 5:5] You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

What the Bible says about Kindness to an Employee:

[Ruth 2:4] And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem; and he said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you."

[Luke 15:17-19] But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.'"

What the Bible says about Oppression of an Employee:

[Prov 22:16] He who oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to want.

[Mal 3:5] Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

[Luke 15:15] So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything.