

“Secrets of the Wealthy: How The Rich View Work”
Genesis 2:1-20 * January 25, 2009

What is this series primarily going to be about?

True or false: Is Jesus able to get us through tough times?

Colossians 1:17 – “...in Him all things _____ together.”

Last week’s focus: we don’t need lots of money to have a rich life.

Examples of riches to be had without money:

*What we are **not** saying: that money is unnecessary or evil.*

Did Jesus, Paul, etc. need money?

4 Attitudes About Work From Genesis 2
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Attitude #1: We Work Because We Were Created In The Image Of A God Who Also _____.

A. Was work a consequence of the fall of man?

B. What changed about work after the fall?

C. Many can’t wait to be able to stop working. Should this be our goal in life?

D. Retirement from your job is one thing. Retirement from work though can be dangerous. How so?

E. What do the happiest retirees end up doing with their lives?

Attitude #2 – We Work To Make A _____

A. God made the garden but how were we going to eat?

B. What did the early church teach about work?

C. What does this mean for me living in a tough economy?

Attitude #3 – We Work To Make A _____.

A. What else didn’t God do in this story?

B. What do we mean: ‘making a life’?

C. What are areas where I can focus my work?

D. How am I going to develop my life in 2009?

Attitude #4 – We Work To Serve The _____ Family.

A. What was ‘not good’ about Adam’s situation?

B. What will we have to explain to God one day?

Luke 12:48 – “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded.”

C. What are some ways I can give to help others?

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Genesis 2:1-20 * January 25, 2009

What is this series primarily going to be about?

Attitudes, beliefs and values concerning money; not necessarily money-management principles

True or false: Is Jesus able to get us through tough times?

Colossians 1:17 – “...in Him all things hold together.”

Last week’s focus: we don’t need lots of money to have a rich life.

Examples of riches to be had without money:

A relationship with God, love of family, friends, good health, freedom, etc.

*What we are **not** saying: that money is unnecessary or evil.*

Did Jesus, Paul, etc. need money?

Jesus and the disciple kept a money box. Paul had to raise money for his mission work and for churches in need. (e.g. 2 Cor.9)

4 Attitudes About Work From Genesis 2

Attitude #1: We Work Because We Were Created In The Image Of A God Who Also Works.

A. Was work a consequence of the fall of man?

No – God was active, creative and productive, and in making us, invited us to share with him in similar labor.

B. What changed about work after the fall?

What changed after the human race fell was that our work suddenly became infected with futility and drudgery and hardship and weariness.

C. Many can’t wait to be able to stop working. Should this be our goal in life?

No.

D. Retirement from your job is one thing. Retirement from work though can be dangerous. How so?

People who do as the rich farmer did – who retire at 55 and then ‘take life easy’ double their risk of death before age 65 compared to those who continue working beyond age 60. Early retirees also have more chance of experiencing difficulty with mobility and simple self-care tasks and were more likely to show signs of depression than their counterparts who kept busy.

E. What do the happiest retirees end up doing with their lives?

A 2005 survey by Canadian Business Online found that only 22% of retirees believed that retirement was meant to be a time of rest and relaxation. Instead a majority of respondents viewed their golden years as “a time for reinvention, pursuing lost ambitions and taking on new personal challenges”. The happiest of retirees devoted significant time to activities such as “angel-investing” (in other words supporting through time and money charitable organizations in their communities), consulting, entrepreneurial work or simple volunteering in their church or similar groups.

Attitude #2 – We Work To Make A Living

A. God made the garden but how were we going to eat?

We had to tend it and harvest its fruit.

B. What did the early church teach about work?

The early church leaders gave very clear instructions to their flocks about work. “If a man will not work, he shall not eat,” was a rule they laid down (2 Thess.3:10). The early church provided welfare assistance to church members in financial need, particularly widows, but again there were clear guidelines in place for who qualified for this benevolence which we read about in 1 Timothy 5.

C. What does this mean for me living in a tough economy?

You do what you have to do, without biting from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, without taking the moral lowground – lying, cheating, stealing to get by, you do what you have to do to keep the paychecks coming. We work to make a living. To earn our keep.

Attitude #3 – We Work To Make A Life.

A. What else didn't God do in this story?

He did not give Adam an encyclopedia in which he would find all the information he needed to know about these strange creatures running around him in the garden. He had to make like the Crocodile Hunter, and get out there and figure out for himself what they were like, and even what they were to be called. God left all that work for us to do.

B. What do we mean: 'making a life'?

In a way, God allowed us to share with him in the work of creation. God made the world perfect, but he did not make the world complete. That he waited for us to do; he shared his labor with us. And when we find an area of God's creation to explore and investigate and discover and develop – we are now making a life.

C. What are areas where I can focus my work?

You can spend your entire life studying linguistics – how languages develop. Or poetry. Or Polynesian history. Or anthropology. Or cellular biology. Or astronomy. Or paleontology. Or geology. Or personal fitness and nutrition. Or...on and on and on we could go. No one in human history did more in terms of artistic and scientific pursuits than Leonardo Davinci, and yet on his death bed, Leonardo repented that he had left so much work undone.

D. How am I going to develop my life in 2009?

Attitude #4 – We Work To Serve The Human Family.

A. What was 'not good' about Adam's situation?

Everything God made was good but this – Adam needed the companionship of a human community.

B. What will we have to explain to God one day?

One of the big news stories this week is yet another example of human greed that has come out of the financial wreckage of Wall Street. The former head of Merrill Lynch John Thain, was let go from his post at Bank of America when it was found that this self-centered, self-serving idiot, knowing that his company was going under, plus knowing that his company was going to be bailed out, spent 1.2 million dollars renovating his office, and doled out billions of dollars in bonuses to top employees in the final days before Bank of America took them over.

But it's easy to throw stones at people like this. Hold up the mirror to yourself and know that God will hold each one of us accountable for the way we manage the resources we are giving over the course of our lives. Money is very much a barometer of spiritual faithfulness and integrity. And if all you can do with your income is spend it on yourself, if all your work achieves is the bettering of your own life alone, then may God have mercy on you and that day when you must give him that account.

Luke 12:48 – “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded.”

C. What are some ways I can give to help others?