

**Previously on 24  
Work  
Proverbs 24:27-34  
(March 3-9, 2019)**

“If you are good at something, you become more intense, and so you get more creative. Consequently, you accomplish more, so you get paid more. This causes you to enjoy it more, which in turn means you will get better at it. This process is what we call an excellence cycle. If you get caught up in an excellence cycle, you will find that your financial problems will no longer be caused by low income.”

– Dave Ramsey, *Financial Peace*, (p. 47)

**Answer and discuss the following question with your group.**

1. Many factors come into play in order to be successful and productive in our work. What factors would you place at the top of your essential success-at-work list?

**Read the following excerpt aloud or watch message segment #1.**

An excerpt from the StoneBridge message, “Work.”

Getting a job was not a result of sin – “Well now that you sinned you have to get a job. You could have just lived in this garden. Everything would have been perfect. You would never have had to work a day in your life. Just stay holy and you are golden.”

Actually work was given as a gift to humans before sin entered the world. Work was not a result of sin or a curse that we get. Now, work *did* get more difficult as a result of sin.

Genesis 3:19 (NLT) “By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.”

Work was seen by God as a gift – as something that would bring completeness, happiness, and fulfillment. It was to bring contentment. It wasn’t going to be enough. But it was good. It was good to work.

**Read Genesis 2:1-3 and 2:15, and answer/discuss the following questions.**

2. What work was assigned to Adam by the Creator God?
3. This passage and the message excerpt above indicate that work, and therefore your job, is a gift from God. Is it hard or easy to view your job as a gift? Explain.

4. Read Colossians 3:23-24 in 3 or more translations. What connection might Christ-followers make about willingness and fulfillment in work?

**Read the following excerpt out loud or watch message segment #2.**

An excerpt from the StoneBridge message, "Work."

Seth Godin writes, "Offer me something I'm passionate about and I'll show up with all my energy, effort and care." He says that is a great way to hide because nothing is good enough to earn your passion before you do it. Perhaps in concept, it's worthy, but as soon as you closely examine the details and the pitfalls, it's easy to decide to wait for a better offer.

What about the opposite? Offer me a chance to contribute and I'll work hard on it with focus, and once I begin to make progress I'll become passionate about it.

Work before passion measures our craft in terms of contribution, not in an idealized model of perfection. Passion comes from feeling needed and approaching mastery from doing work that matters." [see [www.sethgodin.com](http://www.sethgodin.com)]

**Read Proverbs 14:23 and Ecclesiastes 5:16-20 and answer/discuss the following questions.**

6. Ecclesiastes says, "There is nothing better for people than to be happy in their work." This leads us to wonder how we move a step closer to enjoying and loving our work. Read Colossians 3:23-24 (again). From these verses what is the first step in moving closer to enjoying our work?
7. How does knowing the Master we serve in our work is the Lord affect our mindset about our efforts on the job?
8. How can working hard and well, increase a person's passion and fulfillment on the job?

**Reflection and Wrap-up**

9. Which area of your attitude about work do you need to change your mind about and why?
10. Based on this lesson, what is one step you can take this week to improve your work life?

## Pray Together as a Group

### Additional Study

If you have time during your Small Group or you want to study more about the message topic, read and consider the following passages:

- Proverbs 23:4-5
- 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Hebrews 6:10
- James 4:13-17
- 3 John 1-8

### Just Thinking

- Purposeful work is a gift from God.
- Curiosity kills boredom.
- I am more than my job.
- Successes at work never make up for failures at home.
- Peace bolts from my heart when work and identity are tied together.