

Wisdom at Work

The book of Proverbs (ESV)

Why we work:

1. To provide

12:11 - Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

28:19 - Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

12:27 - Whoever is slothful will not roast his game, but the diligent man will get precious wealth.

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

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 vegetation 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 girls.

2. Because God works

8:27- 31 - When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.

How we work:

1. With diligence

26:13-16 - The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!" As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed. The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth. The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.

20:4 - The sluggard does not plough in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.

6:9-11 - 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 robber, and want like an armed man.

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

21:25 - The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labour.

6:6 - Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.

2. With integrity

16:11 - A just balance and scales are the LORD's, all the weights in the bag are his work.

20:23 - Unequal weights are an abomination to the LORD, and false scales are not good.

3. With perspective

16:1-3 - The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD. All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit. Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.