

# The Best Job in the World

## Colossians 3:17

**“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”**

### Introduction:

Earn a top salary for lazing around on a beautiful tropical island for six months! Australia launched a global search for the “Best job in the world”. The job paid 120,000 dollars. It included free roundtrip airfare from the successful applicants home country. In return, the winner was expected to stroll the white sands of Hamilton Island, soak up the sun, snorkel the reef and... “maybe clean the pool.” Job responsibilities also included reporting to a global audience via weekly Internet blogs, photo dairies, and video updates to promote tourism. The winner also stayed, rent-free, in a multi-million dollar three bedroom beach home. 34-year-old Ben Southall from Britain beat out nearly 35,000 applicants.

During his **last week** on the job, he was stung by a potentially lethal jellyfish. The jellyfish was about the size of a peanut. It is almost

impossible to see and tiny enough to pass through safety nets. He felt a small bee-like sting on his arm when he was getting off his jet ski in the ocean. Symptoms of fever, headache, lower back pain, chest tightness and high blood pressure soon developed. The sting of this jelly fish can also lead to shooting pains in the muscles and chest, vomiting, restlessness and anxiety. In the worst cases, people die of heart failure! He was given pain medication and slept off the venom’s effects overnight. Even “The Best Job in the World” has its hazards!

Not many of us have had a job that paid us to live on an island. But, I am sure that we have experienced headaches, chest tightness, high blood pressure, restlessness and anxiety because of our jobs... without the sting of a tiny jellyfish!

On those cold, early mornings when the alarm clock rings, and you are warm in bed, what is it that gets you up and going? Where does the eagerness or

excitement about heading to work on Monday come from? Why go to work?

The Bible has many things to say that can encourage us in our work, even if we don’t have the best job in the world... **or do we?**

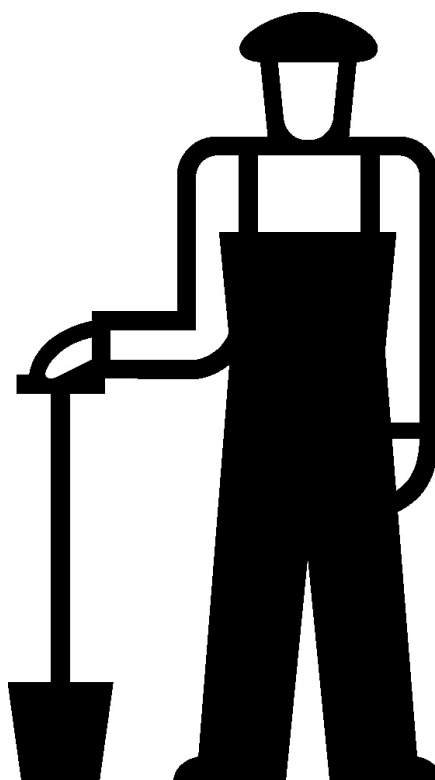
## Work has Value from God

Work is good. Some people think that the whole concept of work originated as a result of man’s

disobedience and rebellion against God. It is thought that as a result of sin, God cursed mankind with work. But, it was **before** the Fall (Before Adam and Eve’s disobedience of God) that God gave man labor. Prior to the fall, God placed Adam in the garden to “till and to keep it” (Genesis 2:15). From this we can

conclude that work is good. Having to work is not a curse from God.

After the Fall, man was opposed to his labor. As a result of mankind’s disobedience, hardship and frustration would accompany his labor. Mankind’s focus on work also changed. Instead of doing



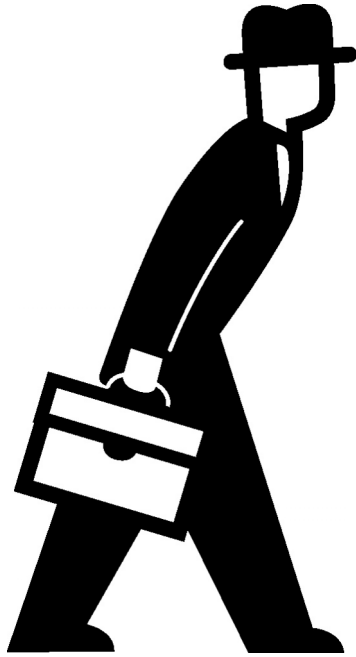
things unto God's glory, man began seeking his own glory through the work of his hands. (i.e.: The big work project of building the Tower of Babel).

When you believe that work itself is a curse, you avoid work and don't respect the work of others. If work were a curse from God, then being lazy would be praised! *I read of a job applicant*

*who applied for work at a company that was already **overstaffed**. The personnel manager of the company rejected his job application because **they already had too many people**. The would-be employee persisted. "Don't worry", he said, "**The little bit of work that I would do... I won't even been noticed!**"*

If an individual is slothful and says "I don't have to work; God will provide for my needs," and the individual refuses to work, insisting to live on welfare, then the Bible encourages them to be diligent and to work, not only so they can provide for themselves but also provide for the needs of others! (Ephesians 4:28, 2 Thessalonians 3:10)

As Christians we are commended to work and to seek excellence in what we do (Colossians 3:23, 1 Thessalonians 4:11). There is a biblical tension that keeps our work in balance. Perhaps in Japan, we need to be encouraged to work less and not be workaholics. Rest is also important. Being a responsible and faithful worker includes



the faith to trust God even as we rest. He will provide for our needs as we honor Him in both our work and our rest. As we work, we work unto God. Our rest is also an expression of our trust and obedience to God. The Bible reveals that God rested on the seventh day after creating the heavens and the earth and man (Genesis 2:1-3) God, although He is holy and omnipotent, intentionally rested. His example is meant for our good.

Matthew 6:25-34 also makes it clear that even though we work,

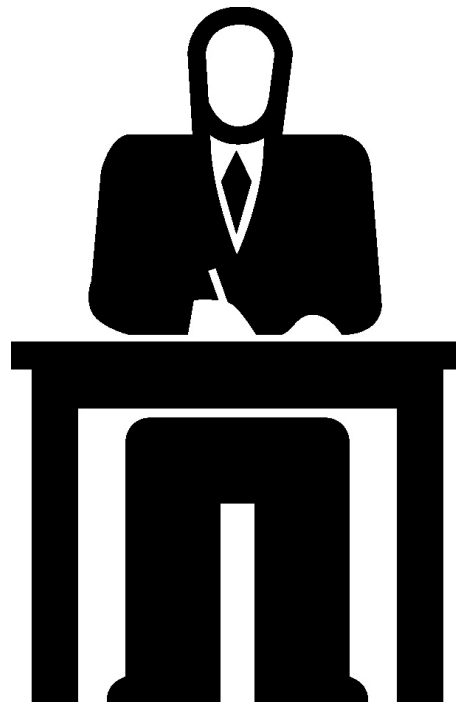
it is God who provides for our needs. In these verses we are encouraged not to be anxious because God knows what we need. Vs. 33 ends with 'But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.' It doesn't mean we shouldn't work. For the Christian, the primary reason for getting up in the morning is not just to make a living, but to serve God in whatever environment God has placed us and to represent Jesus. Our work is not just to pay the bills alone.

### Work is a Calling of God

"God has a **general** calling for all of the redeemed, first to salvation—justification, and then to the Christian life—to be godly men and women, to be His servants, to seek first His kingdom and righteousness. God also has a **particular** calling for each follower of Christ, a place to work for His unfolding kingdom. We call the former (**general calling**) **life**, and the latter (**particular calling**) **work**.

Together they are one's **lifework**"

*Darrow Miller, Lifework: Developing a Biblical Theology of Vocation*



Many who once thought they were called to a particular profession, find themselves frustrated and disillusioned when their jobs are lost or unfulfilling. God calls some to socially significant roles. And God calls others to make **each act** significant by doing it for God.



The work environment may not be encouraging or motivational. Work is often more about survival than the fulfillment of a greater purpose. Unfair policies, bad bosses, non-functional processes, poor channels of communication, the temptation to just 'watch the clock' and a host of other things can suck all the meaning out of a job. For the Christian, our most significant calling is to a **person**, not a **profession**. We are called to follow Christ and to serve him in whatever we do.

At the time of this writing, my son is working two jobs. Neither of these jobs are what he ultimately would like to be doing as a vocation. However, these jobs are providing him with a salary and good benefits including health insurance. He is able to support himself at this point and continue his schooling.

His work environment has many of the characteristics listed above. It was

encouraging to hear him talk about his jobs in terms of more than just making money. God has a purpose and plan for him where he is at this moment. It doesn't mean that changing jobs in the future would be wrong. But right now he is asking

God for wisdom and direction in doing his job and in representing Christ to others. It is not simple or easy. Some days are very discouraging. But God is working in his heart to realize his meaning and purpose in life is more than just what he is doing in his present jobs.

### **Work is Serving God**

People are desperately looking for a sense of self-worth and purpose. I sometimes see or read celebrity interviews. They often say they can't believe they get paid to do what they are doing. It is enviable. They have the passion and the talent and they are involved in a work that allows them to use their gifts to the fullest. Unfortunately, when a movie flops at the box office or bad reviews multiply;

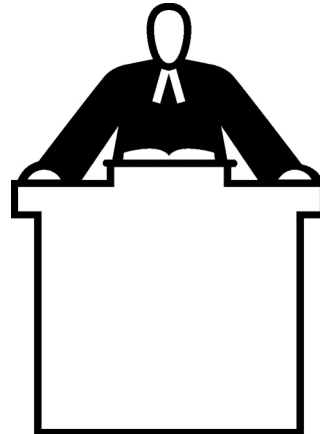
the same celebrity may be publicly reported entering a rehabilitation center for drugs and alcohol. We don't need to be a celebrity to understand this. It can happen with any occupation. If a person's significance is derived from his job, when he loses his job, he loses his reason for living.

Significance is not found in the kind of work one does, nor in the particular gifts one has, but in being a part of God's family and their relationship to God. Significance and a personal sense of worth are

found in an individual's personal relationship with God.

It takes all kinds of skills, and all kinds of people, to do what God wants done in the world.

For believers, our **lifework**, whether it is the truck driver or the missionary, whether it is the housewife or the doctor, has value when it is done unto God.



No job is more important than another when all that we do is done under the lordship of Christ.

A woman who studied piano and math but is now a mother potty training her one year old and fixing meals has not missed out on God best for her. What she is presently doing may not match her former training. But as a follower of Christ, she can entrust **all she is** into the hands of God. He is lovingly committed to His best **in her**, as much as what He does **through her**.



person doing it and the responsibilities involved. People from every tongue, every tribe, every nation are experiencing God's best for them. God has brought them into a relationship of love with Himself through faith in Christ.

As we follow Christ, there is a common **'thread'** running through all we do and say. Through times of business and times of unemployment, through times of great challenge and times of the mundane, through times of great achievement and praise, and times when no one notices. Whatever we do, in word or deed, we are being called to do everything in the name of the Lord, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

At that time, with Christ at the center,  
In that way, with giving thanks to God,  
we can have the confidence and trust knowing that  
at that time  
and in that way,  
we have the best job in the world!

Lets pray,

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you that you are loving, and faithful.

You guide and provide for the lives of your children.

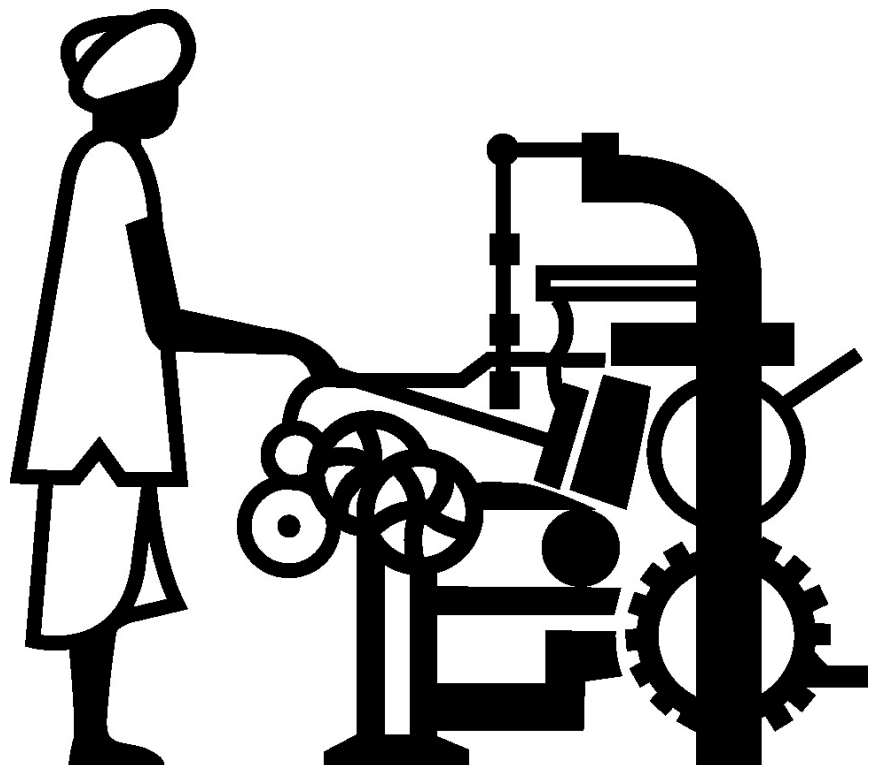
We experience much confusion about our work.

When the pressures are so great, please guide us to Yourself for rest and security.

### Conclusion:

Do you have the best job in the world? Jelly fish stings aside, you don't have to live on an island paradise to say yes. God is actively at work. He is pursuing a continual love relationship with you that is real and personal. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work. The best job in the world for you is to be in the center of God's will for your life. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church to reveal himself, His purposes and His ways.

There is not **one job** that is the "Best Job in the World" In each case and scenario the job will be as varied as the



When we wonder, "What's the point of all that I am doing?" ...please speak to our hearts.

Enable us, with Christ at the center of our work, in whatever we do, to give thanks.

Help us to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor is not in vain.

Whether we work at one office or different sites,

Whether we are a housewife or a professional woman,

***Whether the water from our hand is washing dishes, or baptizing believers,***

Enable us in whatever we do, in word or deed,

to do everything in the name of the lord Jesus,

giving thanks to God the Father through Him,

Amen

