

# Faith & Work 101

Is the workplace the primary place God has sent you to extend His Kingdom?

## Act II: Work in the Fall Genesis 3 and Ecclesiastes 2 Sam Leopold | May 14, 2025

Genesis 3:17-19

[17] And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you,

‘You shall not eat of it,’

cursed is the ground because of you;

in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

[18] thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;

and you shall eat the plants of the field.

[19] By the sweat of your face

you shall eat bread,

till you return to the ground,

for out of it you were taken;

for you are dust

and to dust you shall return.”

Ecclesiastes 2:1–11

<sup>1</sup>I said in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself.” But behold, this also was vanity. <sup>2</sup>I said of laughter, “It is mad,” and of pleasure, “What use is it?” <sup>3</sup>I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. <sup>4</sup>I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. <sup>5</sup>I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit



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trees. <sup>6</sup>I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. <sup>7</sup>I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. <sup>8</sup>I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man.

<sup>9</sup>So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. <sup>10</sup>And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. <sup>11</sup>Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun. (ESV)

Results of the Fall in our Work in our relationship with God and others

1. Comparison (Genesis 3 and 4)
2. Overfunctioning/Sloth (Proverbs, Colossians 3:23, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9)
3. Ethical standards are broken/lost (Romans 1)

Results of the Fall in our Work in our relationship to the created order

1. Sector or Industry level brokenness
2. Injustice

## Discussion Questions:

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1. CONNECTION TO CREATION • As we think about a seven day work week, what is not included in the fall? In other words, what part of a week was present in God and Adam and Eve's work before the fall?
2. CURSE • What is now true of man and his work after the fall? Are we able to regain what was lost as Christians?
3. VANITY • What does this word mean in the biblical testimony? How would you describe vanity in work today?
4. APPLICATION • What specific ethical standards are important for your sector given the pervasive problem of sin?
5. APPLICATION • Beyond generalities, how has your kind of work been made more difficult, dangerous, or unrewarding by humankind's rebellion and the resulting curse described in Genesis 3?
6. APPLICATION • What injustices exist in, or are fomented by, your sector, and what role can your kind of work play in doing justice as God intends?