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## Work Essential; Job optional

*(6 reasons work is essential to a meaningful life)*  
**(SERIES: They Promised Me Chocolate; 08 of 10)**  
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"What does the worker gain from his toil?" (Eccl 3:9)

### 3 Proper Perspectives

#### I work **for the Lord**.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, ***as working for the Lord, not for men***," (Col 3:23)

#### I work **like the Lord**.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

#### My **reward comes from the Lord**.

"...since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (Col 3:24)

"Jesus replied, 'Let me assure you that no one has ever given up anything--home, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or property--for love of me and to tell others the Good News, who won't be given back, a hundred times over, homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and land--with persecutions! All these will be his here on earth, and in the world to come he shall have eternal life. But many people who seem to be important now will be the least important then; and many who are considered least here shall be greatest there.'" (Mark 10:29-31)

## We work because . . .

#### Working **is God's ideal**.

"God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'" (Gen 1:28)

#### Working **supplies my needs**.

"Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you." (1 Th 2:9)

#### Working **develops my character**.

"'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'" (Luke 19:17)

#### Working **allows me to be generous**.

"He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need." (Eph 4:28)

#### Working **allows me to show who I am**.

"Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you," (1 Th 4:11)

#### Working **allows me to earn my self-respect**.

"Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men." (Prov 22:29)