

# Putting Work in the Right Perspective

One of my all-time scripture quotes which I have given to many people over the years is:

**1 Thessalonians 4:11** (NKJV) – *aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands*

Work was the Kingdom assignment of mankind when the Dominion Mandate was issued right back at the beginning of life on Earth. Work is good and it's our responsibility to engage in it for the benefit of humanity and of earth.

Paul doesn't mince words with lazy believers. He stated in relation to the 1<sup>st</sup> church's welfare system:

**2 Thessalonians 3:10** (NKJV) – *If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.*

Of course there are numerous (14) proverbs about the evils of laziness.

But as sons, what should our attitude be towards work so work doesn't become more than it's supposed to be?

Steve Graves believes that a person should get to the end of their day and lie in bed satisfied that they have “expended a full day’s effort on something worth the effort”<sup>1</sup>. He asks some big questions about work and ambition:

- Do you aim to be about something bigger than yourself so that you fade into the background?
- Do you aim to be heads down on what you need to do?
- Do you aim to work hard – not just for the money but because that’s what workers do?
- Are you working to eliminate the need for work – to retire early?
- Are you settled in your work, or is your soul full of turmoil and chaos from your work?

Your answer to these questions will tell you something about your work attitude. The answers are important because, “even though work doesn’t define you, you were created to be a worker. It’s an important part of a balanced, flourishing life”<sup>2</sup>.

Steve gives 4 ways how to 'not work' in your employment. It's not about shirking work, but 4 ways that work can increase the chaos in your life. (His term for the mental chaos that work causes is 'inner noise'):

- *“It could be that you expect your job to do something it was never intended to do, such as provide your identity or your ultimate security. Your deepest worth and value are more tied to who you are than what you can do. **False assumptions about work can cause inner noise.***
- *It could be that you give too much of your life to work. Most jobs will take whatever we give them. Few work environments operate with balanced boundaries to guide the commitment of the associates, so you must learn to hold work in balance with the other priorities of life. **Overworking can cause inner noise.***
- *It could be that you give too little of your passion to your work. Some workers on the payroll are looking to contribute as little as possible. At their core, they are lazy and operate with an entitlement mentality. **Underworking can cause inner noise.***
- *It could be that your job doesn't fit your calling and gifts. Michael Hyatt<sup>3</sup> calls it an overlay of passion, competence, and market: When I am able to overlay my calling into work or even a career, I will find both my best output as well as genuine fulfillment. **The wrong fit or calling can cause inner noise.**”<sup>4</sup>*

1 – Steve Graves (1-3-2017) “Four Ways Not to Work” [blog] ([www.stephenrgraves.com/articles/read/four-ways-not-work](http://www.stephenrgraves.com/articles/read/four-ways-not-work))

2 – Steve Graves (1-3-2017) “Four Ways Not to Work” [blog] ([www.stephenrgraves.com/articles/read/four-ways-not-work](http://www.stephenrgraves.com/articles/read/four-ways-not-work))

3 – [michaelhyatt.com/job-satisfaction.html](http://michaelhyatt.com/job-satisfaction.html)

4 – Steve Graves (1-3-2017) “Four Ways Not to Work” [blog] ([www.stephenrgraves.com/articles/read/four-ways-not-work](http://www.stephenrgraves.com/articles/read/four-ways-not-work))

Steve recommends Tim Keller's book 'Every Good Endeavor' as the best he's read on the topic of the interplay of work and faith. Keller writes:

*“Whenever we bring order out of chaos, whenever we draw out creative potential, whenever we elaborate and ‘unfold’ creation beyond where it was when we found it, we are following God’s pattern of creative cultural development.”*<sup>5</sup>

Steve adds:

*“Make changes in your life if you need to so that you bring order out of the chaos that’s destroying your satisfaction in your work...Don’t let this slide. Take charge. Recapture your calling. Keep your passion for productivity alive. Manage your life so that work takes its rightful place in all that you do.”*<sup>6</sup>

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5 – Tim Keller “Every Good Endeavor”

6 – Steve Graves (1-3-2017) “Four Ways Not to Work” [blog] ([www.stephengraves.com/articles/read/four-ways-not-work](http://www.stephengraves.com/articles/read/four-ways-not-work))