

# The Christian Arsenal

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## WHY SHOULD I WORK SO HARD? Answering Life's Toughest Questions

Dr. Ken Culver

Part 6 of 7  
Eccl. 2:22

*"What does a man get for all his hard work?" Eccl. 2:22 (LB)*

### SOLOMON SAYS THAT THERE ARE TWO EXTREME RESPONSES:

- **THE LAZY WORKER**

*"The fool won't work and almost starves, but feels it's better to be lazy and barely get by than work hard." Eccl. 4:5 (LB)*

- **THE WORKAHOLIC**

*"Here's a man ... who is always working, never satisfied with the wealth he has. For whom is he working so hard and denying himself any pleasure? This is useless ... and a miserable way to live." Eccl. 4:8 (GN)*

### I. **THE ROAD TO SUCCESS:**

It's not how much your work but how you work that determines whether you're a success in life or not.

#### SIX CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE

#### 1. **WORK ENTHUSIASTICALLY**

*"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might ..." Eccl. 9:10*

Emerson said, "There is no great accomplishment without enthusiasm."

#### 2. **WORK WITH INTEGRITY.**

*"A good reputation is better than expensive perfume." Eccl. 7:1 (GN)*

#### 3. **WORK SKILLFULLY.**

*"If the axe is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success." Eccl. 10:10*

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## 4. **WORK EFFICIENTLY.**

*“There is a right time and a right way to do everything.” Eccl. 8:6 (GN)*

It’s important to be effective if you’re going to be successful.

## 5. **WORK COOPERATIVELY.**

*“Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up.” Eccl. 4:9-10 (GN)*

## 6. **WORK PERSISTENTLY.**

*“Keep on sowing your seed for you never know which will grow – perhaps it all will.”*

The difference between successful people and unsuccessful people is that successful people don’t know how to quit.

The best basketball players in the NBA only make about half of their shots.

The best quarterbacks in the NFL complete only about six out of ten of their passes.

Major league baseball players make it to first base only about 40% of the time. That includes walks.

Oil Companies find oil in an average of one out of ten wells.

TV actors average 29 audition rejections before being hired for a part or a commercial.

If at first you don’t succeed, welcome to the human race.

## II. **THE REMEDY FOR WORKAHOLISM: “RELAX”**

### **READJUST MY VALUES**

*“I’ve learned why people work so hard to succeed. It’s because they envy the things their neighbors have.” Eccl. 4:14*

*“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?” Mark 8:36*

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3 Questions to ask:

- Why am I working so hard?
- Is the payoff worth it?
- Why do I think it will satisfy me?

*"In spite of all our hard work there is nothing we can take with us." Eccl. 5:15 (GN)*

## **ENJOY MY REWARDS.**

*"All of us should eat and drink and enjoy whatever we've worked for. It is God's gift." Eccl. 3:13 (GN)*

If you are going to enjoy life you'd better start right now.

*"It's better to have only a little, with peace of mind, than be busy all the time with both hands." Eccl. 4:6 (GN)*

## **LIMIT MY LABOR.**

*"Only someone too stupid to find his way home would wear himself out with work." Eccl. 10:15*

*"It's senseless for you to work so hard from early morning till late at night. For God wants His loved ones to get their proper rest." Psalm 127:2 (LB)*

Resistance to rest is a sign of immaturity. Your best requires rest.

## **3 Things Need to Be Scheduled in Your Life:**

- Rest
- Recreation
- Relationships

## **ANTICIPATE GOD'S CARE**

*"Don't worry saying what shall we eat or drink or wear? For pagans run after these things, and your Heavenly Father knows you need them." Matt. 6:31-32*

## **EXCHANGE MY PRESSURE FOR GOD'S PEACE.**

*"Come to Me, you who are tired from carrying your heavy loads, and I will give you rest. The yoke I'll give you is easy and the load I'll put on you is light." Matt. 11:28-30*

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Your work will never satisfy the deepest needs in your life. It wasn't meant to. Only Jesus can do that.