

### III. THE **REWARDS** FROM WORK: A CALL FOR **VIGILANCE!**

I really relish the fruit of a day's hard and honest labor! (16:26) Apart from being satisfying and bringing success in itself (10:4; 12:24), there is something deeply **spiritual** about laboring "unto the Lord, that is not in vain!" Solomon warns us against get-rich-quick schemes yet wants us to be known for being **industriousness** (13:4; 28:19)

- A. We must **commit** our work unto the Lord so that our plans will be established by him (16:3).
  
- B. In all our activities, we must never lose "the **fear** of the Lord which is the beginning of **wisdom**" (9:10).
  
- C. Christian **service** is never unrewarded; its reward is God entrusting us with **more** work! (Mt. 25:21)

Nobody **died** of hard work! Let's watch, pray and keep working while it is yet day because: Night comes when no one **can** work and Jesus is coming again and our reward is with Him! (Col.3:24)

#### **MAKE WISDOM YOUR LIFE GOAL!**

##### **Do you need to wise up about work?**

*"5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.  
6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting,"* James 1:5-6a

### **WISE UP** **Wise Up About Work** Dr. Chris Gnanakan

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- A. Wise up and live well!!  
*"7 Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom.  
And in all your getting, get understanding.  
8 Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her."* Proverbs 4:7-8

Wisdom is discerning and doing the will of God.

- B. This teaching series is based on the book of Proverbs.
  - The theme of Proverbs is wisdom. It is mentioned dozens of times covering all the basic areas of life.
  - The writer of Proverbs is Solomon. He is the wisest person to ever live.
  - The nature of Proverbs is pithy. They are short and concise statements of truth.
  
- C. In this series, you will you will learn how to wise up and live well.

Oct 21	Wise Up About Decisions
Oct 27	Wise Up About Communication
Nov 3	Wise Up About Sex
Nov 10	Wise Up About Relationships
Nov 17	Wise Up About Money
TODAY	Wise Up About Work
Dec 1	Wise Up About Conflict
Dec 8	Wise Up About Addictions
Dec 15	Wise Up About Womanhood

- D. **Text:** Proverbs 6:6 (Pew Bible/Pg.602/Old Testament)

## HOW TO WISE UP ABOUT WORK

**Introduction:** Think of the amount of time, energy and resources we spend on one main aspect of life - “work!” There seems to be two kinds of people: those who work hard and those who are glad to let them! Work is ordained by our creator God and is meant to be hard, honest and *holy!* God through Solomon in Proverbs gives us wise instruction on this topic and has stern warnings to all who are lazy and careless. We need to Wise Up with regard to 3 aspects:

### I. THE REALITY OF WORK: - A CALL FOR EXCELLENCE!

First, sluggards who do not realize the value of work are fools. Slothful people will soon be destroyed because they simply refuse to work (21:25). They are urged to go and learn key truths about work from the ant (6:6-10).

- A. Work implies sweat: taking initiative not slacking off or always requiring supervision (10:26).
  
- B. Work requires being a good steward of the resources at hand, yet patiently storing up for the future.
  
- C. Work, hard and honest, brings success characterized by an *excellence* that is attractive and productive!

Excellence is about “outdoing yourself!” So, Stop! Take a Reality check. How do people describe or rate your work?!

### II. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK: - A CALL FOR DILIGENCE!

The God of the Bible and Jesus our Savior are always ‘at work’ (Jn. 5:17). Along with diligence we need to be disciplined and like the Proverbs 31 woman be dutiful in every area of life. Humans are created in God’s image with the potential and need to work showing his glory! (8:22-31)

- A. Solomon relates the concept of work with the active, creative use of our hands (10:4; 19:24; 21:25).
  
- B. We must not only work ‘hard and long’ but more importantly work - smart and right (11:18; 16:11).
  
- C. We must prepare well for work, delight in it and not give excuses to avoid our duty (20:4; 24:27,29).

Sadly, for many, “work” has become a matter of survival - a job rather than that joy of being a blessing. In doing mission work within Asia from the USA cultures I fight 2 impoverishing cultures: dependency and entitlement.

NB: the prodigal upon returning to his father’s house requested / applied for work! There is no dignity in free-loading and no respect for those who expect handouts!