

## Coping In the Marketplace - (3 of 5)

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God wants us to have absolute victory in every area of our lives.

This includes the area of finance, and yet many Christians are living in defeat in this area.

Remember, the key is lordship.

There can be no victory for the Christian unless we are under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

He must be Lord of the way I earn money,  
 spend money,  
 share money,  
 save money,  
 and leave money.

Today we are looking at the first - Lord of the way I earn money.

The Bible has much to say about work.

### Prov. 14:23 -

**"All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty."**

### Prov. 10:4 -

**"Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth."**

**I Tim. 6:10** is a favorite text of mine. It is a test that has been so grossly misunderstood.

It does not say, money is the root of all evil, as some people quote it.

Money is not the root of all evil. It doesn't even say that the love of money is the root of all evil.

The love of money is not the cause of all evil. There are some evil things that are not rooted in money.

The New International quotes it correctly when it says, **"The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil."**

Let me paraphrase that laziness, in a parallel way, is a root of all kinds of evil.

I'm convinced that one of the primary sins in America is the sin of laziness - people are not willing to put forth their best effort to glorify the Lord Jesus.

I see laziness as one of the greatest hindrances of God's blessing in every area of life.

Home life -  
 spiritual life -

vocational life.

## 1. **First of all, there must be the right ATTITUDE.**

For some, work is a curse.

For some, a sentence to be served.

A penalty to be paid.

A misery to be endured.

Work for them is an evil. They endure the 5 day work week to support the activities of a workless weekend. They lie awake at night scheming ways to arrange early retirement. Meanwhile, they are bitter, feeling their best years of life will be wasted in work.

Adrian Rogers once said: -

The latest polls indicate that at least 65% of Americans are disenchanted and dissatisfied with their jobs.

Sounds like the old song of the late forties:

"Up in the morning, out on the job ... fuss with my woman, toil for my kids, work `til I'm wrinkled and grey.' The song goes on to say, "But that lucky old sun has nothing to do but roll `round heaven all day.'

For others, work is a celebration, a joy, a privilege.

What makes the difference?

One word, **Attitude!**

We ought to thank God for the privilege and opportunity of work. And the privilege of being His witness in the work place.

We ought to do all we do for the glory of God.

If we are a **brick mason** we are not merely laying bricks - we are building a wall for the glory of God.

If we are a **teacher**, we are not marking time, we are shaping Christian leaders for tomorrow.

If we are an **accountant**, we are not merely keeping ledgers but keeping ledgers in excellent order for God's glory.

If we are **driving a tractor** - plowing straight furrows for God's glory.

We do our work with all our hearts.

**Adrian Rogers** in *God's Way To Health, Wealth and Wisdom* gives 4 suggestions at this point ...

1. Don't Brag -  
The Bible says, "Let your light shine" - it is to glow not glare.
2. Don't Nag -  
Don't be chronic complainers about your job.

If you are a chronic griper at the work place -you complain about the job  
you complain about the pay  
you complain about the boss  
you are only interested in getting more perks,  
not in more production,  
don't expect to have any impact for the Lord.

3. Don't Lag -  
Do your part of the job.

If you are a lazy Christian, if you are not getting there on time, if you are not doing the work you ought to do, you are a disgrace!

4. Don't Sag

## 2. **A Right APTITUDE**

Almost all satisfied Christian workers share one thing in common - they recognize God's call on their lives.

How do you know God's will concerning your vocation?

### **6 Questions We Need To Ask?**

1. Have I studied it scripturally? – (Example - job in abortion clinic)
2. Have I prayed it through?  
**James 1:5** - "If any of you lacks wisdom you should ask God..."
3. Have I observed the doors opening naturally? - If the Lord is in it - it flows
4. Have I sought out wise counsel?  
**Prov. 15:22** - "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."
5. Have I waited on the Lord?  
**Ps. 37:7** - "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes."

6. Have I received peace

**Col. 3:15** - "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you are called to peace. And be thankful."

7. Does it glorify God

**Col. 3:17** - "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

### 3. **GRATITUDE**

Gratitude for the blessing work brings to us.

#### a. **Confidence**

We often begin a job with fear and trembling but as we begin to grow we begin thinking -

God has given me ability - I have skills, I am competent - I can do all things through Christ.

**Bob Russell** - tells of the transient - do you know where you would be if you could read and write? Yes, I'd be the janitor at the First Christian Church.

#### b. **Character**

There are times when a job can be a real trial.

When it is, remember James -

#### **James 1:2-4** -

**"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."**

When you get bogged down in a frustrating assignment, do you give up or do you see it as a chance to grow in perseverance?

When tempted by an unethical practice, do you yield or do you see it as a chance to grow in honesty?

When you hear a friend being slandered, do you give silent assent, or do you stand up for your friend and practice loyalty?

When you become irritated by a co-worker's idiosyncrasies, do you criticize and belittle him, or do you commit yourself to learning greater tolerance?

When you're asked to stretch in an area of weakness, do you let fear stop you, or do you decide

to muster courage and proceed?

**c. Contentment**

A job well done brings real satisfaction.

Turn to **Genesis 1:31** -

"God saw all that He had made and it was very good."