

# Our Handbook for Business, the Bible

## Hard work

The wisest man ever, King Solomon eventually realised his vast wealth, incredible wisdom & hard work was like chasing the wind; and it brought him a whole lot of misery!

His predicament reminds me of a business owner I knew, successful by worldly standards but not so in life! As a workaholic and micro-manager, he became alienated from his staff & family.

The truth is, he was lonely, lost and loveless; his self-worth came from work and real work only happened in the factory.

One day, he missed a planning session I had arranged; his wife apologised, confessing he was rarely home and due to work, missed out on the children growing up. Tearfully, she shared, *'he never bathed the children.'*

This bloke had a lot in common with Solomon: brilliant at his trade; self-centered; chasing worldly success and unaware of how his actions impacted others.

Of the two, only Solomon finally realised the error of his ways and changed direction.

### My counsel for business owners:

Learn from the King and the workaholic. If you're heading down the same, work-is-my-life-and-identity path, then your thinking and priorities are wrong.

Jesus didn't go to the cross to purchase our freedom for us to spend a lifetime enslaved in a business, accumulating His things on our own account; it just doesn't work that way...

- *The hearse that carries us out won't have a towbar; everything will be left behind - our assets, business, reputation, influence and regrets!*

### These actions to help you break a hard-work cycle:

1. **Acknowledge** it's the Lord's business; if Jesus turned up for a progress report, would He be pleased with the way you've been running things?
2. Reconnect with **God's Handbook** applying His life & business principles so your work is focused on eternal rather than temporary things
3. Start a **giving program** to help others, thereby taking the focus off yourself
4. Stop **micro-managing** the operation - learn to lead, delegate and trust your team
5. Go to a **4-day work-week** and enjoy the time out for ministry or family or both.

### The Bible, our Handbook counsel for today, Ecclesiastes 3:9, New Living Translation...

*"What do people really get for all their hard work?"*

### Other Scriptures (NKJV):

**Eccles. 2:11**, "...all the works that my hands had done...the labor...I had toiled...all was vanity..."

**Proverbs 24:27**, "Prepare your outside work, make it fit...in the field; and afterward build..."

**Colossians 3:23**, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men"

**Colossians 3:2**, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth"