

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"