

# Our Handbook for Business, the Bible

## Hard work

King Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived...also one of the wealthiest. He eventually realised that wealth, wisdom and all the hard work was an exercise in vanity!

His predicament reminds me of an owner I once worked with. By choice, he was a workaholic, micro-managing the staff; alienated from his family.

In truth, 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 apologized, confessing he was rarely home and had missed out on the children growing up.

This bloke had a lot in common with Solomon: brilliant at his trade, self-centered, chasing worldly success & un-concerned about how his behaviour impacted others.

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

### My counsel for you, as a business owner:

Learn from the King and the workaholic. If you're on a similar, work-is-my-life-path, then your priorities are wrong...and it's poor stewardship of the gift and time God has given you.

*Truth: Jesus didn't go to the cross to purchase our freedom so we could spend a lifetime enslaved in a business...and taking what He owns for our personal account.*

Understand, the hearse that carries you out won't have a towbar; everything will be left behind, including your 'things' and your influence...and your regrets!

### Three steps to help you break out of a workaholic mindset:

1. **Acknowledge** Jesus owns the business; then assume He turns up - do you believe He'd be pleased with the way you run things...or how you invest your time?
2. Reconnect with **the Bible** applying God's principles & commands to your life and business
3. **Give more** of your time, expertise and money helping others, thus taking the focus off yourself.

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

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

### Other Scriptures (NKJV):

**Ecclesiastes 1:2**, "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher [Solomon]...all is vanity"

**Ecclesiastes 2:11**, "...all the works...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"

**Luke 19:8**, "...Zacchaeus said...Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor..."