

WISDOM UNIVERSITY

PROVERBS 10:17-32

LIFE-WORK BALANCE



FIRST BYRON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

If you search Google for "How to get rich?" you'll get 1.3 billion answers. If you ask Google "How to be happy?" you'll get 4.5 billion results. Clearly people want to be rich, but they also want to be happy. They want to earn a lot of money, but they also want to enjoy life. People are desperate for work-life balance. Aren't we all?

What result will we get if we search the Bible for the answer to this work-life balance question? We'll get one result, because the Bible has one answer - the blessing of the Lord. **The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it** (Proverbs 10:22). Wealth with God's blessing means wealth without sorrow. In other words, there's both earning and enjoyment, riches and rejoicing. There's work-life balance.

The ESV translates similarly, but also offers an alternative translation: **The blessing of the Lord makes rich and toil adds nothing to it**. This basically teaches that God has decided how much to bless you and you cannot change that, you cannot increase that. Probably both ideas are in this text

CONTEXT

- **Preparation for Wisdom** (Proverbs 1:1-7)
- **Principles of Wisdom** (Proverbs 1:8-9:18)
- **Practice of Wisdom** (Proverbs 10:1-31-31)

Last week, in chapter 10:1-17, we saw the principles of Proverbs 1-9 begin to be put into practice. We focused on verse seven about leaving a lasting spiritual legacy behind us.

Verses 18-32 turn our attention back to living our lives in this world. Verse 22 points us to God's blessing as the source of work-life balance, in contrast with other failed attempts in the verses around it.



What are some strategies that imbalance us?



1. OUR STRATEGIES IMBALANCE US

Some try to get rich using **evil words** (18-21): evil words, deceitful words, slanderous words, multiplied words, worthless words

Some try to get rich with **evil acts** (23-25): sin is like a sport to them, but the judgment they dread will come upon them.

Some give up on working altogether and **live a life of laziness** (26): they think "I may never be rich, but I'll be happy doing minimal work."

Some keep just hoping for that balance, but their **hopes are disappointed** (27-29).

Some get wealth but without God's blessing so that **it becomes a curse** (30-32).

APPLICATION

Which strategy are you using? How's it working out? Is it time to try something else?

What do all these strategies have in common? They don't seek God's blessing.

WE'LL NEVER HAVE BLESSING WITHOUT BALANCE
OR BALANCE WITHOUT BLESSING.



How do we achieve work-life balance?



2. GOD'S BLESSING BALANCES US

We **request** God's blessing: we seek it and pray for it. We bring our loaves and fishes to him for multiplication.

We **rest** in God's blessing: we work hard but we also rest from work. We receive and use God's gifts of sabbath, sleep, family, exercise, friends, church.

We **receive** God's blessing: we accept whatever he decides is appropriate for us. We don't fight it but welcome it.

We **recognize** God's blessing: we give him all the glory for our wealth. One plants, another waters, but God alone gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:7).

We **rejoice** in God's blessing: we rejoice in the work/life balance he gives us. That's why the final part of every worship service is the benediction. There is no greater benediction than 2 Cor. 13:14: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

APPLICATION

Remember this verse when going to work, when investing, when starting a business, when investing, when studying.

Remember this verse when coming home from work, when buying anything, when enjoying the fruit of your work.

WHEN GOD BLESSES
GOD BALANCES

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face toward you
And give you peace

May His favor be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family and your children
And their children and their children

May His presence go before you
And behind you and beside you
All around you and within you
He is with you he is with you
In the morning in the evening
In your coming and your going
In your weeping and rejoicing
He is for you He is for you



CONCLUSION



PRAYER: Blessed God, bless us with work-life balance so that we can bless you in an imbalanced way.

FURTHER STUDY

Online Articles

- [Create Work-Life Balance](#) (video)
- [Four Ways not to Work](#)
- [Five Consequences of a Life out of Balance](#) (plus free eBook)
- [Balancing Work and Family Responsibilities](#)
- [Keith Getty's Work-Life Balance](#)
- [The Blessing](#) (video).

Discussion Questions

1. What strategies have you seen people use in failed attempts to be rich and happy?
2. What characters in the Bible got the balance wrong and who got the balance right?
3. How and when do you ask for God's blessing?
4. What do you expect when you ask for God's blessing?
5. What evidence would you produce to prove that you rest in God's blessing?
6. How will this verse change the way you live this week?

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