

Genesis

A study of the beginning

Lesson #3

Return Church

June 17, 2026

Genesis

A study of the beginning

- Lesson #1 – The Creation
- Lesson #2 – We were made for relationships
- Lesson #3 – **We were made for stewardship**
- Lesson #4 – Paradise lost

We are created to work

Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. **Genesis 2:1-2 NKJV**

- In the first two chapters of Genesis, we see the creation story, and it is all about work and rest.
- Getting an understanding of work and rest is at the heart of things in Christianity.
- God worked, and we are created to, called to, meant to work.
- But God also rested, and we must learn to rest.

The creation account

This *is* the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and *there was* no man to till the ground; but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground. And the Lord God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ***Genesis 2:4-8 NKJV***

Work

- Genesis shows us that work is something good, work is something that God does.
- Genesis shows God working hard, digging a ditch as it were, in order to create us. God had dirt under His fingernails as it were.
- In paradise we see food, beauty, comfort, spirituality, friendship, and work. Yes, work is in paradise. Work is not a punishment or a curse.
- Your ancestors Adam and Eve were grounds keepers.
- God and the Bible has a high view of work.
- In the Bible, all work has dignity.
- He put man in the Garden and said, I made you in my image and likeness, so you go to work, you create and bring order out of chaos.
- Adam was called to be a steward over God's creation.
- Why do so many people hate their jobs, or hate to work? Most live for the weekend, or even a bigger thought is most people live to get to retirement age.

Pandora's Box

In Greek mythology, when Pandora opened her box, she released all the plagues, and miseries of humanity into the world, such as disease, old age, envy, greed, hatred, violence, hunger, poverty, and **the constant need to work.**

- Pandora's box is mythology.
- Work is considered by many around the world as a curse.
- Nothing could be further from the truth, work is a blessing.
- It is a blessed privilege to work each day.
- Yes, work became more painful and difficult as a result of sin.
- But the ground was cursed, not work itself.

Stewardship

- Biblical stewardship centers on the reality that God owns everything, and humans are designated managers or stewards, entrusted to care for His resources.
- The Bible applies stewardship to our: (They are not really ours.)
 - **Finances**
 - **Possessions**
 - **Time**
 - **Talents**
 - **The physical earth**

Stewards

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. ***Colossians 3:23 NLT***

Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. ***1 Corinthians 4:1-2 NKJV***

So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. ***Romans 14:12 NKJV***

God owns everything

We own nothing

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. ***Psalms 24:1 NLT***

For all the animals of the forest are mine, and I own the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird on the mountains, and all the animals of the field are mine....for all the world is mine and everything in it. ***Psalms 50:10-12 NLT***

The silver *is* Mine, and the gold *is* Mine,' says the Lord of hosts. ***Haggai 2:8 NKJV***

Adam, that's not your garden

- You work hard all of your life to try and pay off the mortgage on your house. One day, you finally feel like it is yours. Guess what, that's not your house, it's Gods.
- The moment you draw your last breath, you are going to realize that you didn't own anything, it was all God's.
- We come into this world with closed fist, but we leave with open hands.
- That's not your car or your dog. The money in your bank account is not yours, it all belongs to God.
- So why do you spend your money on whatever you want to and whenever you want to. We should all ask God before we buy things.
- We should pray, God do you want me to buy this, or should I give my money to the poor, or to the church?
- Most Christians boss their own money, and do not even consider what God wants them to do with it.
- The question is this: is Jesus the Lord, the master, the boss of your life, or are you?

Lordship of Jesus Christ

- Many Christians say, Jesus is my savior and my lord, but very few live their lives as if Jesus is their Lord.
- Lord means master, owner, boss.
- When Jesus is your lord, He is your boss, your owner, your master, over your money, your possessions, your time and all of your behavior.
- If Jesus is your lord, then you realize that you do not own anything, it is all His, and He has entrusted them into your care, you are His steward.
- He should be the Lord of our money, our possessions, our time, our talents and abilities, our land, our animals, everything.
- If you spend money without asking Him how He wants you to spend it, then He is not the lord over your money or your life.

Stewardship over finances

- God owns it all, so you should ask Him how much you should give.
- In the Old Testament, Israel was commanded to give tithes, offerings, first fruits and alms.
- A tithe is 10% of your income.
- An offering is over and above the tithe.
- Jesus said we are also to give alms to the poor.
- In fact, the Bible is full of instruction for us to give to the poor, the widows, the orphans and the strangers.
- If you asked me what has been the secret to my financial success, I would say it is no secret at all, it is simply because God taught me how to give when I was a young man.
- It is more blessed to give than to receive, and God wants us to give cheerfully and generously.
- The question is whether or not you are making Jesus the Lord, the boss, the master of your life, or are you bossing your own life?

Abram gave tithes before the law

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.

And he gave him a tithe of all. *Genesis 14:20 NKJV*

The law instructed Israel to tithe.

And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land *or* of the fruit of the tree, *is* the Lord's. It *is* holy to the Lord. ***Leviticus 27:30 NKJV***

God's Word tells us to give tithes and offerings

Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, in what way have we robbed You? **In tithes and offerings**. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, *even* this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that *there will not be room enough to receive it*. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field, says the Lord of hosts; ***Malachi 3:8-11 NKJV***

Jesus said “you should tithe, yes”

What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. **You should tithe, yes**, but do not neglect the more important things. *Matthew 23:23 NLT*

The widow gave her all.

Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on. **Mark 12:41-44 NLT**

We should give to the poor

If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord—and he will repay you!
Proverbs 19:17 NLT

*She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. **Proverbs 31:20 NKJV***

*Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You? And the King will answer and say to them, Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me. **Matthew 25:37-40 NKJV***

Grace

- Under the Old Testament law, Israel was commanded to tithe 10%, plus give offerings, first fruits and alms.
- Under grace in the New Testament, Jesus raised the bar from external compliance to total internal surrender. Under grace, the floor is removed; the standard shifts to sacrificial, radical generosity, as seen by the widow who gave everything she had, and the early church sharing all their possessions with one another.
- In the New Testament, all of our giving is based upon the fact that God owns everything, and He is our Lord, so therefore we ask Him how much we should give.
- We should be a good and obedient steward of the finances that God blesses us with.

Work to practice generosity

If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. ***Ephesians 4:28 NLT***

A primary function of work is gaining the resources to practice generosity.

Stewardship of time

Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom. ***Psalms 90:12 NLT***

For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ***James 4:14 NKJV***

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ***Ephesians 5:15-16 NKJV***

- Do you waste time? Or do you realize that time is a precious gift from God, and we are to steward our time.
- Most people can't wait till the weekend, so they can do whatever they want to do with their time.
- Leisure should not be the primary use of our time.

Stewardship over creation

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ***Genesis 2:15 NKJV***

- We are to be good stewards of God's creation.
- If you own land, animals or plants, you are supposed to take good care of them. I see people that don't take care of their pets, or people that don't take care of their land.
- Whatever God has entrusted into your care, be a good steward of it.

עֲבַד

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden **to tend** and keep it. ***Genesis 2:15 NKJV***

âbad, aw-bad; to work, to serve, till, to tend, enslave, dress, execute, keep, labor, serve, servant, worshipper.

- God made man to work, to serve, to labor.
- Work is a fundamental purpose to our lives.

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. ***II Thessalonians 3:10 KJV***

To serve

- We all need to work so we can make money, provide for our family, and give as much as possible away to God and to others.
- Be a good steward. Be generous with your money.
- This word aw-bad also means to serve.
- There are many great jobs that may not pay much but you are helping serve other people.
- Work is not only about making money, there are a lot of jobs that are more about helping people, than making money.
- The ministry is a lot like that.
- Even the great Apostle Paul, who was the ultimate Bible teacher worked a job. He was a tent-maker. Paul was so focused on serving others that He did not want to be a financial burden to those he taught, so he did both, he worked a job and he taught God's Word.

Paul was a tent-maker

Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he became acquainted with a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently arrived from Italy with his wife, Priscilla. They had left Italy when Claudius Caesar deported all Jews from Rome. Paul lived and worked with them, for they were tentmakers just as he was. Each Sabbath found Paul at the synagogue, trying to convince the Jews and Greeks alike. ***Acts 18:1-4 NLT***

- On the Sabbath Paul went to the synagogue to preach.
- This is implying that Paul more than likely made tents 6 days a week.

Paul worked hard

You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me. And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: It is more blessed to give than to receive. ***Act 20:24-35 NLT***

We work wearily with our own hands to earn our living. ***1 Corinthians 4:12 NLT***

Don't you remember, dear brothers and sisters, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that we would not be a burden to any of you as we preached God's Good News to you. ***1 Thessalonians 2:9 NLT***

Paul worked hard, manual labor

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: **Stay away from all believers who live idle lives** and don't follow the tradition they received from us. For you know that you ought to imitate us. We were not idle when we were with you. We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you. We certainly had the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow. Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: Those unwilling to work will not get to eat.

II Thessalonians 3:6-10 NLT

- **Believers should not be idle. All who are able should work.**

Jesus was a carpenter

And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing *Him* were astonished, saying, Where *did* this Man get these things? And what wisdom *is* this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! **Is this not the carpenter**, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” So they were offended at Him. ***Mark 6:2-3 NKJV***

- Even Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, worked with His hands as a carpenter.
- God didn't record much in the Bible about Jesus's life between 12 and 30 years old. But we do know that He lived a normal Jewish life, which meant he probably worked 6 days per week and went to the synagogue on the Sabbath.

Hard work brings a profit

Lazy people are soon poor; hard workers get rich. ***Proverbs 10:4 NLT***

All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.
Proverbs 14:23 NIV

Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty. ***Proverbs 21:5 NLT***

**The Bible talks a lot about the sluggard, the glutton and the drunk.
Which is the worst sinner?**

A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied. ***Proverbs 13:4 NIV***

Consider the ant

Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, *and* gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep—So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler. ***Proverbs 6:6-11 NKJV***

שָׁמַר

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and **keep** it. **Genesis 2:15 NKJV**

shâmar, shaw-mar; to hedge about (as with thorns), guard; to protect, keep, observe, preserve, save, sure, wait, watch.

- God also made man to guard and to protect.
- If Adam would have guarded his heart and his wife's heart, the serpent wouldn't have been able to get in. Adam should have cast the serpent out.
- Man was supposed to guard, to protect and watch the garden. You are to build a wall around your heart and your family's hearts.
- Man is not just supposed to work and be the bread earner for his family, he is also supposed to guard them against the enemy, to protect them.

Stewards of your gifts, talents, abilities

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. *II Peter 4:10 NIV*

- Maybe you are a teacher, a musician or a singer. Maybe you are a children's worker, maybe you serve the homeless, or the vulnerable of the community. Whatever you are gifted in, use that for the Lord.
- Don't waste your gifts on yourself, the Lord gave them to you, use them to glorify Him.
- Maybe you make money, then be a generous giver.
- Or maybe you have other spiritual gifts. You are to use your gifts to serve the Lord and help people.
- God gives you gifts, and God gives you grace, we are to steward His grace and gifts.

To much is given, much is required

When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required. ***Luke 12:41-48 NLT***

- In the parable of the faithful servant and the evil servant, it clearly teaches that we are to be good stewards while we await the return of Christ.
- The more spiritual, mental, emotional capacity you have, the more God will require out of your life.
- In the parable of the talents, the Lord was going away, so he gave us all resources to be good stewards of while He was away. He wanted us to be good stewards of what He left us with.
- We are to manage or be a good steward of everything the Lord gives us, while we wait for His return.
- What are you doing with your life? What are you doing with the talents, the abilities, the gifts that God has given you?

3 guidelines to consider concerning work

Look in, look out and look up.

1. Look in at what you are gifted to do.
2. Look out at the world around you and give the world what it needs.
3. Look up to the one who has called you, and realize what you are destined to be.

Look in

- You can create a business, provide jobs, provide great services for the community, and make money so you can bless others with your generosity.
- You might be an artist, a musician or a poet. We are to create to give God honor, glory and pleasure. Maybe you are an author, or an entrepreneur.
- Maybe you are a teacher, and you are bringing the greatest potential out of children.
- If you are good at hair styling, or landscaping, you are creating, you are bringing order out of chaos.
- Find the thing that you are good at, that you are passionate about, find what you are gifted toward, and do that.
- Then you can do what God did, you can create and bring order out of chaos.
- If you view work as a curse, you will feel that your useless. You will feel you are wasting your life. People like this only look forward to the weekends.
- Work is a blessing. -- **Look in** and find out what God created you to do.
- I always tell young people, find your passion and do what you are made to do.

Look out

- Tend and keep the garden. Work and guard. This is stewardship.
- We all need to find work that fulfills us, but we also should find work that helps people.
- You can take a job that doesn't earn a lot but does a lot of good for people.
- There are jobs at churches, non-profits, charities that are great.
- You can be a doctor or a nurse that helps heal people.
- Some people just make money, but that is ok too, as long as you are generous with the money you make, you can still help people.
- I have been in the discount retail business all my life and I received thousands of expressions of gratitude from people, that were so happy and blessed because they could save money on their necessities of life.
- Plus, I had over 1,000 employees, that I invested heavily into their lives. We closed every Sunday so they could have that day with the Lord and their families.
- **Look out** - try to help as many people as you can.

Look up

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. ***Ephesians 2:10 NKJV***

- You need to have a sense that you are on a mission.
- We were put on earth to do certain things. You are called.
- God can and will use your work for His calling, you are on a mission.
- You do not have to be a pastor or a Bible teacher to be doing the will of God. God calls us all to do different things.
- Look up; and understand that God has created you to work.
- If you are helping and blessing people, and if you are doing what God has called you to do; you are looking in, looking out and looking up, you will be happy, satisfied and fulfilled.
- You were created to work, so enjoy it, and be all you are called to be.
- **We were created for stewardship.** We are called to work, create, serve, and guard.

Next week

- Next week we are going to look at the fall of mankind.
- If you can make any Wednesday evening Bible study, this is the one you should make every effort to make.
- **Paradise lost.**
- We will examine what is wrong with humanity.
- What does it mean to be born with a sinful human nature?
- What is deep inside all of us that is just not right.
- How do we get rid of the stain of sin?
- When and how do we exiles finally get to go home.