

Conversations with Solomon at The Salt Creek Café Series
Message # 7: Does Hard Work Really Pay Off?

Core Group Discussion Guide

March 10, 2019

Message Overview:

- **Ecclesiastes 2:22** (TLB) ... ***“What does a man get for all his hard work?”***
- Solomon says there are TWO EXTREME RESPONSES to this question.
 - (1) The **Work Avoider** / The **Lazy Worker** (Ecclesiastes 4:5).
 - (2) The **Workaholic** (Ecclesiastes 4:8).
- Which of these two extremes do you tend to lean toward?
- Regardless of which end of the spectrum you are at – Solomon has something to say to you from Ecclesiastes.

Text: Ecclesiastes 2:18-26; 4:4-8

Questions for Discussion:

- **OPEN IT –**
 1. Why do you work?
 2. When do you most feel like **not** working?
 3. What does God have to do with satisfaction in work?
- **EXPLORE IT –**
 1. Who is said to be the real beneficiary of someone’s hard work? (2:18-21)
 2. What does Solomon say about the workaholic tendencies in our society?
 3. What are some ways we use pleasure, possessions, relationships, and work in ways God **DID NOT** design?
 4. What are some ways we use pleasure, possessions, relationships, and work in ways God **DID** design?
- **GET IT –**
 1. Why do most of us kill ourselves to succeed in work despite the Bible’s repeated warnings that we do not get to take our stuff with us when we die?
 2. Compare your vocation (calling) as a follower of Jesus and his ambassador (2 Cor. 5:20) to your paid job (or your responsibility as a stay-at-home parent). How can your vocation bring greater purpose to your work endeavors?
- **APPLY IT –**
 1. If you were to view your work as a gift from God to be enjoyed – how could that change your attitude about your job?
 2. How can we fight against finding satisfaction in created things and instead find it in God alone?
- **PERSONAL REFLECTION ...**

Colossians 3:23
“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”