

## Thoughts on Work

from Scott Agee

1. God ordained work before the fall of man. He commanded us to subdue the earth (for the benefit of man, not for greedy gain). He gave Adam the job of naming the animals (without restriction or critical evaluation). He gave Adam a garden to cultivate and multiply.
2. God as creator, who made us in his image, had made us to be creative beings. That doesn't just mean creative in the arts, but also creative in solutions that help people be more productive. It includes creating businesses, creating financial structures, creating tools, software, hardware, and on and on – as well as industrial laundries so people have clean clothes, clean bedding at a motel, and clean surgery drapes and Dr. smocks in the operating room.
3. I fully expect that we will still be creating things with God in our resurrected bodies in some way or another – because that is God's nature and it is our nature as beings created in His image.



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## Thoughts and Guiding Principles related to Business

1. My dad taught me to “Never Stop Learning”. That has guided me well and has kept me from becoming obsolete in my field. It also keeps me energized.
2. Years ago, I heard the cliché, “Find a need and fill it”. As an engineer who designs industrial laundry buildings, I have very few competitors, while filling a need. Many of my clients are starting to worry about who they are going to go to when I retire. I tell them I don't expect retirement to be for several more years, but in all honesty, I don't have anyone to refer them to. Most engineers I know who could provide structural design, don't know anything about the laundry industry, nor would they care to. I know and care about their industry and how they do business which endears me to them: I talk their language, I understand the business pressures that drive their decision-making about facilities and I create solutions for them that meet real needs.
3. Galatians 1:10 says, “For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? [including myself] If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.” Basically, live for an audience of one. Seek His favor and His pleasure. This has been a key verse for me for decades.
4. Ecclesiastes 3:12, 13 says, “I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime; moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor – it is a gift of God.” For us to be able to see the good in our work is itself a gift from God. So however small or large the task, to be able to say, “that was good” when we are done, is one of the ways God showers His favor on us. Ecclesiastes 2:24 is very similar to 3:12. See also Ecclesiastes. 5:18,19.
5. Ecclesiastes. 11:9 says, “Rejoice young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things.” To me, this verse gives me the green light to follow my heart and desires, but with the understanding that there will be a day of accountability. Therefore, I want to train the heart to desire good things and have a confidence that I will hear the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, now I will put you in charge of much.” Related to this is Galatians 5:1 with Galatians 5:13.
6. Lastly, Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 talks of diversity in investment and business building, since we don't know which efforts will be productive and which ones won't be. Some percentage of our labors will just not give the results we hoped for, while others will do better than we could have hoped. But we don't know ahead of time which will be which (though obviously we do our best to plan as wisely as possible with as much knowledge as is available to us).