

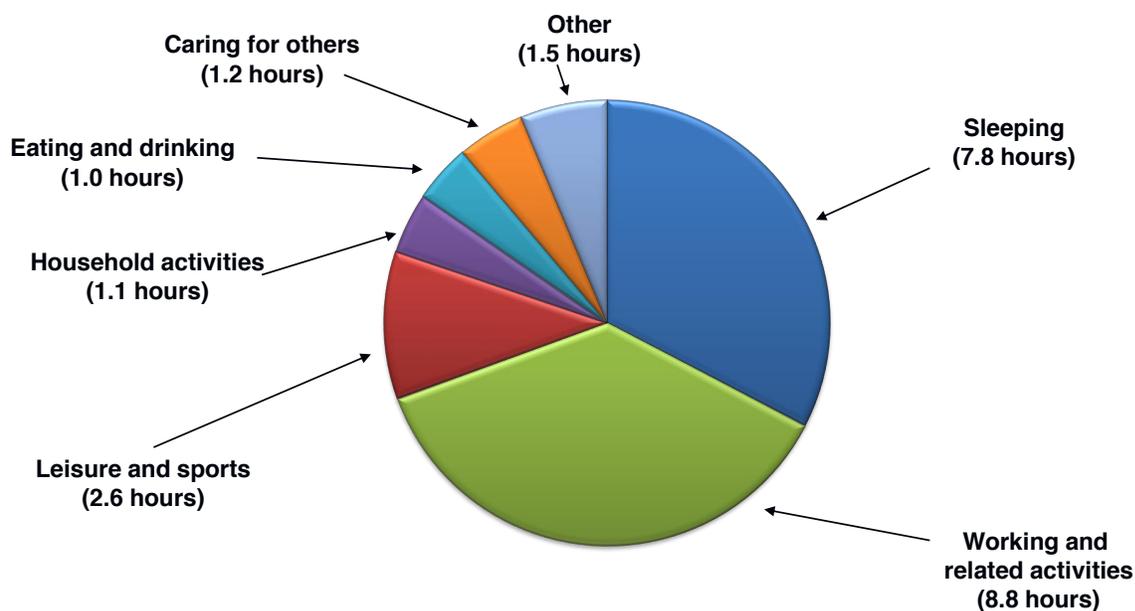


INTRODUCTION

Colossians 3:1-2 — *“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”*

1 Timothy 4:4-5 — *“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.”*

Time use on an average work day for employed persons ages 25 to 54 with children



NOTE: Data include employed persons on days they worked, ages 25 to 54, who lived in households with children under 18. Data include non-holiday weekdays and are annual averages for 2015. Data include related travel for each activity.

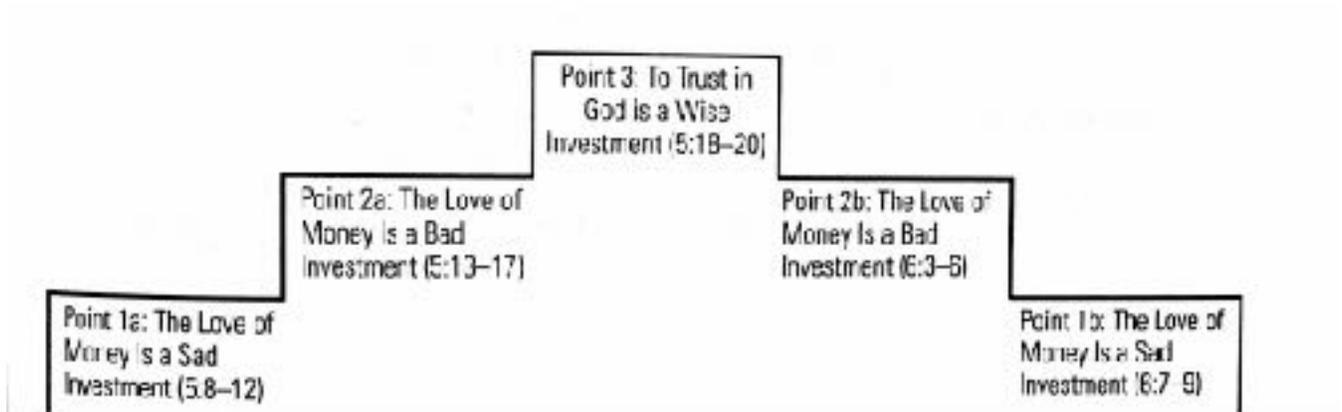
SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, American Time Use Survey



I. Be thankful for the gift of work

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 — *“Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil — this is the gift of God. For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.”*

Flipside = Ecclesiastes 6:2 — *“a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him the power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil.”*





Ecclesiastes 5:10 — *“He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income, this also is vanity.”*

- “The whole system is run by guys who love money (v. 10). The higher-ups line their pockets on the labor of the poor. Trickle-down economics has not trickled down here. The rich hoard their wealth while the poor make it for them. Pastor Solomon tells us not to be ‘amazed’ at this (the fallen world is what it is, and there is very little we can do about it), but he does call it a ‘violation of justice and righteousness’ (5:8). There is a flaw in their system, however — a God-designed flaw. When the rich get money, they do not get satisfaction from it — not the satisfaction they thought it would bring. There is a God-made and God-shaped void that even a billion dollars can’t fill.”¹
- G.K. Chesterton — “You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the play and the opera, and grace before the concern and the pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, boxing, walking, playing dancing; and grace before I dip the pen in the ink.”

Whole theme in Ecclesiastes of accepting our lot in life! Ecclesiastes 5:19 — “for this is his lot.”

- “We are to accept our ‘lot’ in life. We are dust-defined creatures. So, then, work hard. Find enjoyment in that work. Eat up and drink down the simple, everyday pleasures that money can buy. And acknowledge the absolute sovereignty of God in all things: as not a drop of rain falls to the ground unless God so wills it, so not an ounce of joy flows through our hearts unless the Lord gives it. God is the Giver of all good things. He alone is the Giver of joy! Just as riches are heaven-sent, so, too, is the power to enjoy them.”²

¹Douglas Sean O’ Donnell, *Ecclesiastes*, p. 124-5.

² Douglas Sean O’ Donnell, *Ecclesiastes*, p. 129.



Joy and purpose are found in realizing your toil is assigned by God.

- Eccl 3:12-13—*I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live...this is God's gift to man.*
- Eccl 3:22—*There is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot.*

The life we live and the toil we do are our lot.

- Psalm 16:5-6 — “The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.”

II. Embrace the Rhythm of work and rest (without despising either)

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 — “Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil — this is the gift of God. For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.”