

THE GOSPEL AT WORK
Session 2 — The Pitfalls of Work
Steve Whitacre
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I. Introduction

II. IDOLATRY happens _____.

Diagnosing idolatry:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-3; 2:18-26

“The very toil that tyrannized him was potentially a joyful gift of God, if only he had had the grace to take it as such... In themselves, and rightly used, the basic things of life are sweet and good. Food, drink, and work are samples of them, and the Preacher will remind us of others. What spoils them is our hunger to get out of them more than they can give.” Kidner, *Ecclesiastes*, 35.

III. IDLENESS happens _____.

Diagnosing idleness:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Proverbs 6:6-11

“No unwelcome tasks become any the less unwelcome by putting them off till tomorrow. It is only when they are behind us and done, that we begin to find that there is a sweetness to be tasted afterwards, and that the remembrance of unwelcome duties unhesitatingly done is welcome and pleasant. Accomplished, they are full of blessing, and there is a smile on their faces as they leave us. Undone, they stand threatening and disturbing our tranquility, and hindering our communion with God. If there be lying before you any bit of work from which you shrink, go straight up to it, and do it at once. The only way to get rid of it is to do it.” Alexander MacLaren (1826-1910), Scottish preacher.