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# PROVERBS



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*Wisdom for Living As Disciples*

# RECAP...

□ The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of knowledge & wisdom.

(Proverbs 1:7a ; Proverbs 9:10)

□ Pastor Dylan's helpful definition of fear =

*“a profound reverence and awe toward God coupled with  
a healthy awareness of the danger brought about by our sin”*

□ We see **two main voices** in the proverbs, **the voice of wisdom** and **the voice of folly/foolishness.**



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# PROVERBS



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*Wisdom for Living As Disciples*

WISDOM FOR WORK

# Work is a BIG part of life...

On average, Australians work...

between 40-45 hours a week.

around 48 weeks a year.

For roughly 45 years before retiring.

Most of us will work around 100,000 hours in our lifetime.

*(significantly more if you include time spend studying, commuting and working outside of office hours)*

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- Most of us will work around 100,000 hours in our lifetime.
- Some spend more of their 'waking time' at work than they do with their families.

**As disciples of Jesus, we need to understand what the Bible says about how we should work and how we think about our work.**

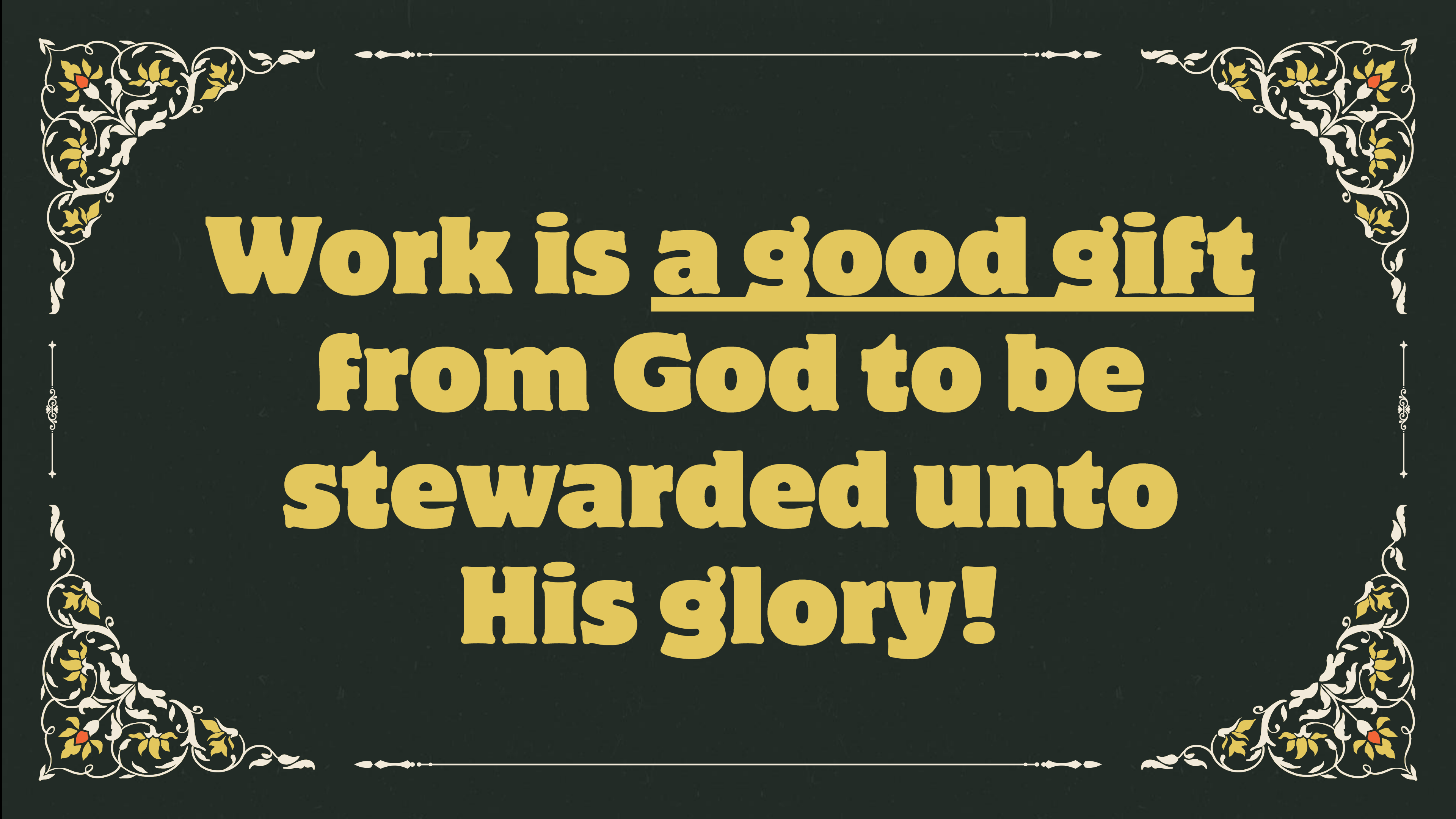
**What  
do you  
think  
about  
work?**



**Work is a  
necessary  
evil in a  
fallen  
world?**





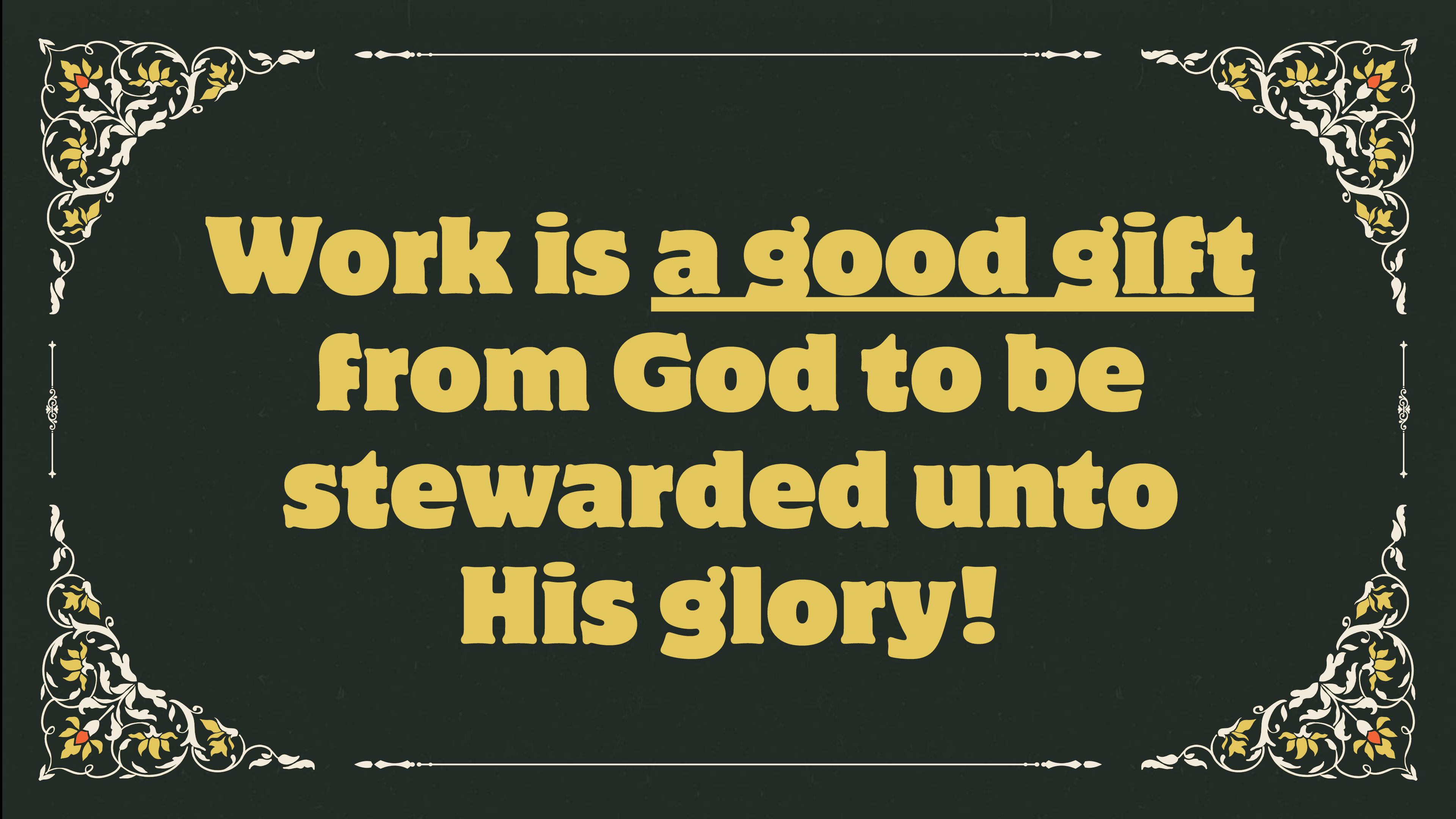


**Work is a good gift  
from God to be  
stewarded unto  
His glory!**

**What... ?!**

**How is my  
work a  
good gift?**





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# **A brief theology of Work...**

- Often, we make the mistake of thinking work is a curse; the result of our sin or the fall (cf. Genesis 3:17-19).**

## **Genesis 3:17-19**

**<sup>17</sup> To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”**

# **A brief theology of Work...**

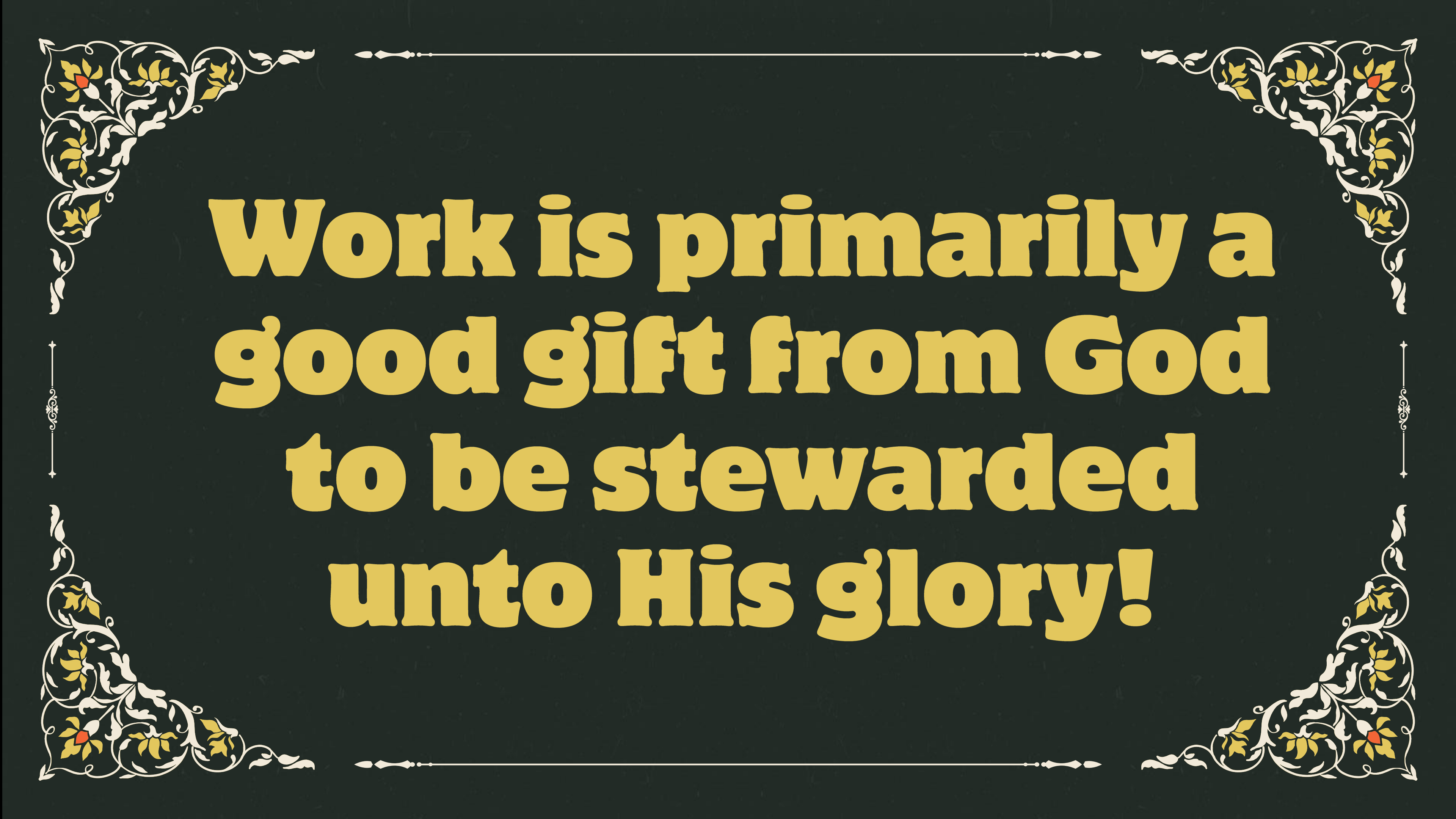
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- Work was originally a joy and primarily an act of worship.**

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- ❑ Work was originally a joy and primarily an act of worship.**
- ❑ Work was one of the ways humans could glorify God.**



**Work is primarily a  
good gift from God  
to be stewarded  
unto His glory!**



# **A brief theology of Work...**

## **Genesis 1:27-28**

**27** So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

**28** God blessed them and said to them, **“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”**

# A FOOLISH view of Work...

1. Work is an opportunity for idleness.

□ The fool says:

- *“Work is just part of the curse”*

- *“Work is bad”*

- *“I should do as little work as possible”*

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**BEWARE THE DANGER OF THIS FALSE (FOOLISH) VIEW!**

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# **A FOOLISH view of Work...**

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**Proverbs 12:24 (NLT)**

**Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave.**

**Proverbs 13:4 (NLT)**

**Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.**

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**Proverbs 14:23 (NLT)**

**Work brings profit, but mere talk leads to poverty!**

**Proverbs 18:9 (NIV)**

**One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.**

**Proverbs 20:4 (NLT)**

**Those too lazy to plow in the right season will have no food at the harvest.**

# **A FOOLISH view of Work...**

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**Proverbs 21:25-26 (NIV)**

**<sup>25</sup> The craving of a sluggard will be the death of him,  
because his hands refuse to work.**

**<sup>26</sup> All day long he craves for more,  
but the righteous give without sparing.**

# **A FOOLISH view of Work...**

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**Proverbs 26:13-16 (ESV)**

**<sup>13</sup> The sluggard says, “There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!”**

**<sup>14</sup> As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed.**

**<sup>15</sup> The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth.**

**<sup>16</sup> The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.**



# **A FOOLISH view of Work...**

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**Proverbs 28:19 (NLT)**

**A hard worker has plenty of food,  
but a person who chases fantasies ends up in poverty.**

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- ❑ “LazyGirl Jobs”, “Quiet Quitting” & “Chill Job Ideas” can be modern day examples of idleness.

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**What if I'm a student  
and don't have a job?**



A photograph of a classroom. In the foreground, the backs of several students' heads are visible as they sit at desks. In the middle ground, a teacher stands at the front of the room, facing the class. The teacher is wearing a maroon sweater and a grey vest. The background features a whiteboard with some text and a blue door on the left. The overall lighting is bright and even.

**Your job IS your studies!  
Honour God & worship Him  
in your education.**

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# A FOOLISH view of Work...

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☐ The fool says: *“the gift of work is greater than God, I will pursue it all costs”*

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☐ If we are not careful we can easily make too much of our work.

☐ As Christians we are to find our satisfaction & validation in our relationship with Jesus.

# **A FOOLISH view of Work...**

2. Work is an opportunity for idolatry.

**Proverbs 11:28 (NLT)** Trust in your money and down you go! But the godly flourish like leaves in spring.

**Proverbs 20:21 (NLT)** An inheritance obtained too early in life is not a blessing in the end.

**Proverbs 28:22 (NLT)** Greedy people try to get rich quick but don't realize they're headed for poverty.

# **A FOOLISH view of Work...**

**2. Work is an opportunity for idolatry.**

**Proverbs 23:4-5 (NLT)**

**<sup>4</sup> Don't wear yourself out trying to get rich. Be wise enough to know when to quit. <sup>5</sup> In the blink of an eye wealth disappears, for it will sprout wings and fly away like an eagle.**

# **A FOOLISH view of Work...**

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### **☐ Australian HR Survey results...**

- 45% of all workers dissatisfied with their current job.**
- 67% already looking (or planning to look) for a new job this year. (Seeking better pay, conditions etc.)**
- Average length in one job = 3.3 years.**
- 20% of workers have more than 4 weeks annual leave accrued.**
- A significant portion of respondents admit to working after hours and on weekends. (some checking work emails hourly).**

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It tempts us to trust in ourselves and our resources rather than the God who made us.



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### Luke 12:15-21 (NLT)

<sup>15</sup> Then he said, “Beware! **Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.**” <sup>16</sup> Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. <sup>17</sup> He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ <sup>18</sup> Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. <sup>19</sup> And I’ll sit back and say to myself, ‘My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!’” <sup>20</sup> “But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’ <sup>21</sup> “Yes, **a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.**”

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- Don't let your work FOR God crowd out your worship & enjoyment OF God!**

# **A FOOLISH view of Work...**

- 1. Work is an opportunity for idleness.**
- 2. Work is an opportunity for idolatry.**

# **A WISE view of Work...**

**1. Work is an opportunity for wages.**

**Work is God's good gift of provision for our needs.**

**Work is God's means by which we are able to bless others in giving generously.**

**We need to keep this good gift in the proper perspective.**

**(cf. Proverbs 30:7-9)**

# A WISE view of Work...

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Proverbs 30:7-9 (NLT)

<sup>7</sup> O God, I beg two favors from you;

let me have them before I die.

<sup>8</sup> First, help me never to tell a lie.

Second, **give me neither poverty nor riches!**

**Give me just enough to satisfy my needs.** *(ESV: Feed me with the food I need)*

<sup>9</sup> For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?"

And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God's holy name.

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**Proverbs 10:4-5; 13:4; 28:19; 27:18**



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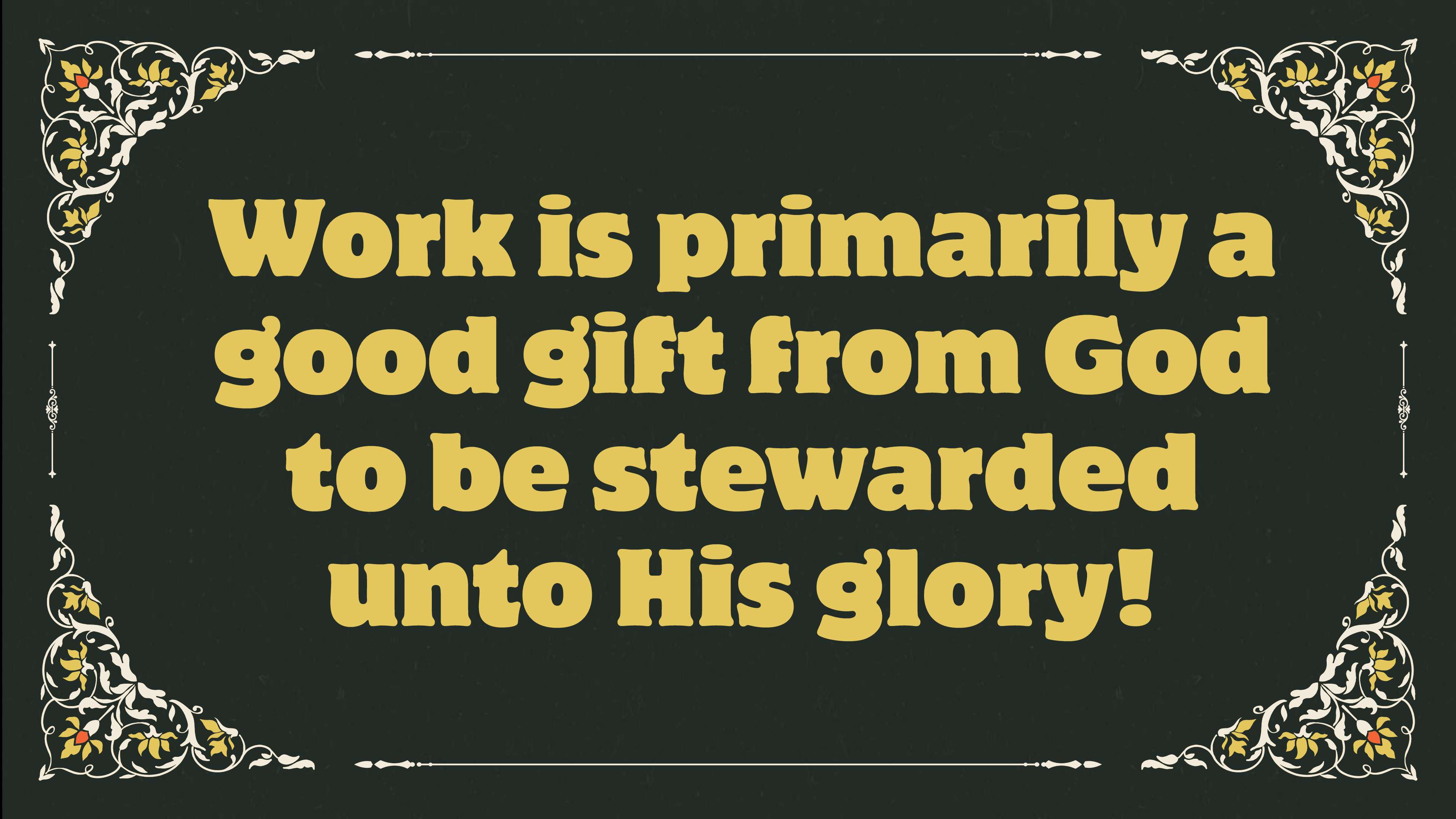
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