

Genesis 2: 15

WORK - ITS NATURE IN THE BEGINNING

I. By virtue of creation.

- A. At his creation God gave man the calling to work: “have dominion over” and “subdue” the earth (1:28).
 - 1. To “subdue” is to make subservient or put into bondage.
 - 2. Man was to master creation.
- B. Adam’s immediate work was to “dress” and “keep” the garden (2:15).
 - 1. To “dress” is to do work, to labor; and to “keep” is to guard, protect, take care, preserve.
 - 2. They were to find labor a privilege, and the God-ordained way to bring glory to God and good to themselves.
- C. Implies that man was made to work (do productive activity as long as he is physically able).

II. The fall into sin greatly affected man’s view of work (Gen. 3:17-19).

- A. God’s command for man to work did not change, however sin made work to be labor and sorrow.
 - 1. The woman’s work to replenish the earth is only done with greatly multiplied sorrow.
 - 2. Man’s work of subduing the earth would only be with great weariness, frustration, and sorrow.
- B. The consequences.
 - 1. The difficulty of work cannot be neutralized on this earth.
 - 2. Today’s world wants man to be made for pleasure and entertainment.
- C. Let us exercise faith when experience of labor and sorrow in work.
 - 1. Faith makes us see sin and sinfulness as the cause for labor and sorrow in doing our God-given tasks.
 - 2. Faith sees that grace alone can make us work correctly.
 - 3. Faith uses the weariness and seeming uselessness of work to increase our longing for heaven.