

## The Free Enterprise System Is Biblical: The Old Testament Commends Hard Work

Scripture consistently encourages people to work diligently and to accept responsibility. Read these Old Testament passages. In the white space to the right of the verses, list some words we've used in the past, or that we use now, to describe the person who works hard and takes responsibility. How many such words do you see in the verses themselves? Circle each one.

**1. Proverbs 10:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> He who has a slack hand becomes poor,  
But the hand of the diligent makes rich.  
<sup>5</sup> He who gathers in summer is a wise son;  
He who sleeps in harvest is a son who  
causes shame.

**2. Proverbs 12:14**

<sup>14</sup> A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit  
of his mouth,  
And the recompense of a man's hands will be  
rendered to him.

**3. Proverbs 13:4**

<sup>4</sup> The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing;  
But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

**4. Proverbs 14:23**

<sup>23</sup> In all labor there is profit,  
But idle chatter leads only to poverty.

**5. Proverbs 16:26**

<sup>26</sup> The person who labors, labors for himself,  
For his hungry mouth drives him on.

**6. Proverbs 28:19**

<sup>19</sup> He who tills his land will have plenty of bread,  
But he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough!

**7. Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? <sup>10</sup> I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. <sup>11</sup> He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end. <sup>12</sup> I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, <sup>13</sup> and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God.