



Working Hands

Optional Props:

- Pair of work gloves
- Tools such as a hammer, wire cutters, fence ties.
- Jake Steer and rope.
- Take home worksheet: *Anatomy of a Christian Cowboy_ Working Hands Worksheet*

Ecclesiastes 9:10 “***Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor devise, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.***”

Introduction:

Read ***Ecclesiastes. 9:10.***

Our hands are attached to a mortal body. The word “mortal” has been used in movie titles and Hollywood has made many movies around this theme.

Some of the video games have the word “mortal” in it, so what does the word mean? Mortal means that we only have a short amount of time to accomplish things in this life.

When I die, they will not put my truck keys in my pocket before they bury me. I won't have a workshop or tools buried with me. My hands will no longer be able to do anything.

It is very important to make sure we use our time wisely and train our hands to be effective and useful instead of allowing our hands to be idle.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 tells us that we only have a limited amount of time to accomplish things in this life. This is God's Word, so don't you think this is important?

I have my Jake steer and rope here. I have invested a little time in learning to throw a loop. If I still had cattle, and owned a big ranch, I would spend more time developing my roping technique so I could easily catch cattle and make ranching a little easier.

But I don't own any cattle now so instead I spend more time working with my hands to accomplish what needs to be done in my life today. I go to work. I take care of my family.

And it is very important how I serve God. So when I write notes for a sermon to preach to you, that is a really good use of my hands.

God has a lot to say about our hands.

Message:

God says we should work with our hands but we tend to want to play:

- *Proverbs. 10:4 "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich."*
- *Proverbs. 12:24 "The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute."*
- *Proverbs. 19:24 "A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again."*

God says that lazy hands will bring you trouble in this life, but think about a saved person with lazy hands standing before Christ one day in Heaven. There is no benefit to lazy hands in this life or eternity. God hates laziness!

God says you should avoid sinning with your hands:

- *Proverbs. 6:17 "...hands that shed innocent blood,"* God HATES this.
- *Ecclesiastes. 4:6 "Better is a handful with quietness, than both hands full with travail and vexation of spirit."*

I have lived long enough to see that sinful actions usually catch up to you and bring a lot of trouble. Living a life as pure as possible is very satisfying and brings rewards for all eternity. Hands that are into mischief will bring you stress in this life and, if you are not saved, will be in torment for all eternity.

God says that your hand is not worth your heart or soul:

- *Matthew 5:30 "And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into Hell."*

God is not telling you to literally go cut off a hand. He is illustrating how much more valuable your eternal life is than the parts of your body while you are here on earth. Nothing that your hands do on this earth is worth making a choice to turn away from God and refuse salvation.

I have seen so many people say that they would not ask Jesus into their heart because they would have to give up something sinful in their life. Is anything here in this life worth giving up eternal happiness and being in the presence of God?

He gave us an example-His hands were used as a carpenter but much more, look at the scars:

- *Rev. 1:17-18 "And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."*
- *Rev. 5:1 "And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals."*
- *Rev. 14:14 "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle."*

Our hands will never accomplish what Jesus' hands did because His hands were pierced as He was nailed to a cross so He could pay for our sins.

However, since he offered so much to give us liberty from the penalty of sin, we should try to make our hands as effective as possible.

Remember that we will stand before Him and He will review the work of our HANDS.



Working Hands Challenge

Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor devise, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."

God says we should work with our hands but we tend to want to play:

This week keep a record of how much time you spend doing the following:

Watching TV, Movies, Playing video games, etc.

Reading the Bible.

Doing Homework.

Playing Sports.

Praying.

Time on the Computer for Play or Entertainment.

Chores or other helpful work.