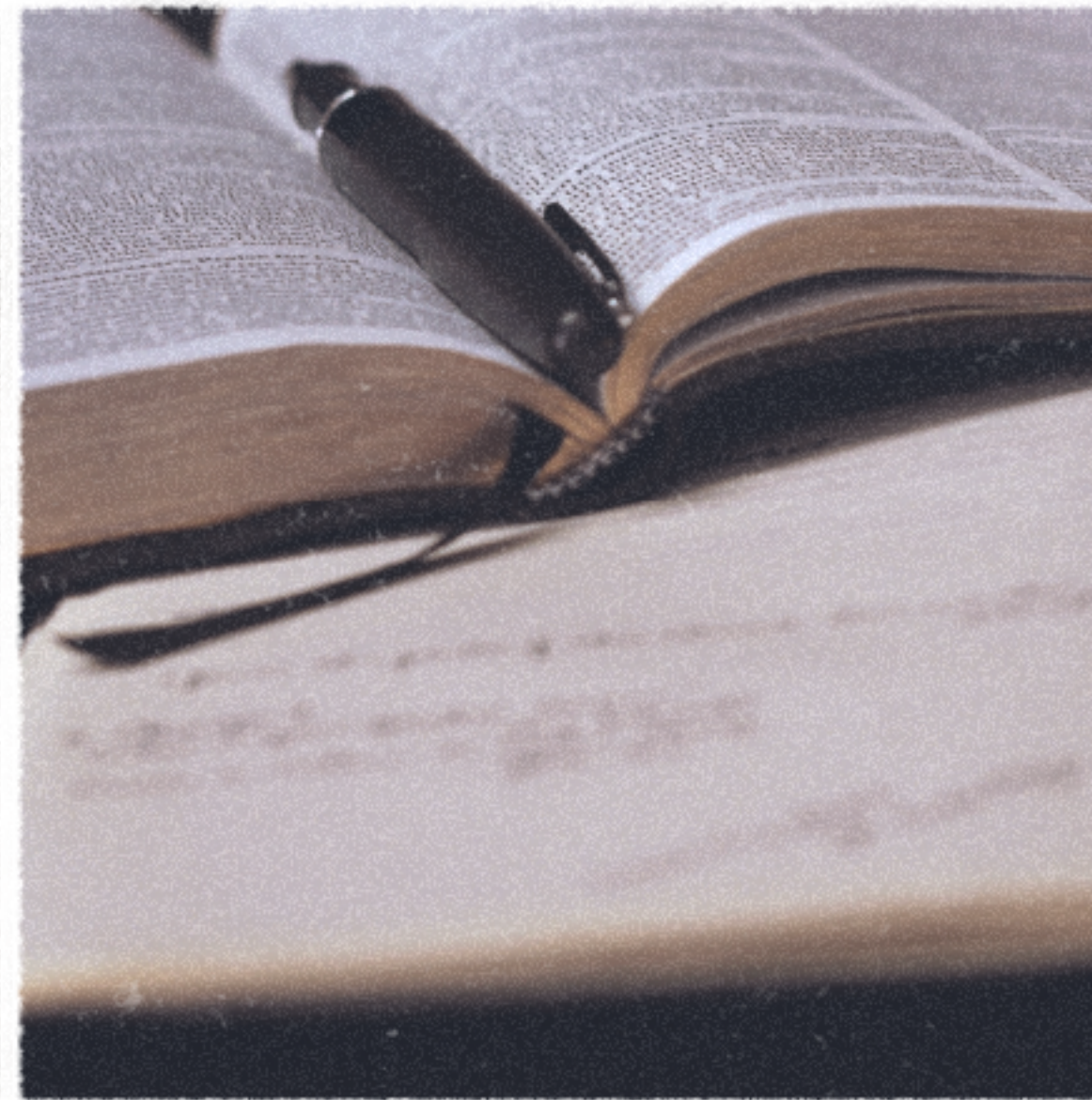




Where is God in my work? What work is God doing?

When Work Seems Fruitless

ECCLESIASTES 2:17-26



ECCLESIASTES 2:17-26

¹⁷ So I hated life, because the things that happen under the sun were **TROUBLESOME [GRIEVOUS, DISTRESSING]** to me. Definitely, everything is pointless—just wind chasing. ¹⁸ I hated the things **I WORKED SO HARD FOR [TOILED]** here under the sun, because I will have to leave them to someone who comes after me. ¹⁹ And who knows whether that one **WILL BE WISE OR FOOLISH?** Either way, **that person will have control** over the results of all my hard work and wisdom here under the sun. That too is **POINTLESS [VANITY, MEANINGLESS]**.



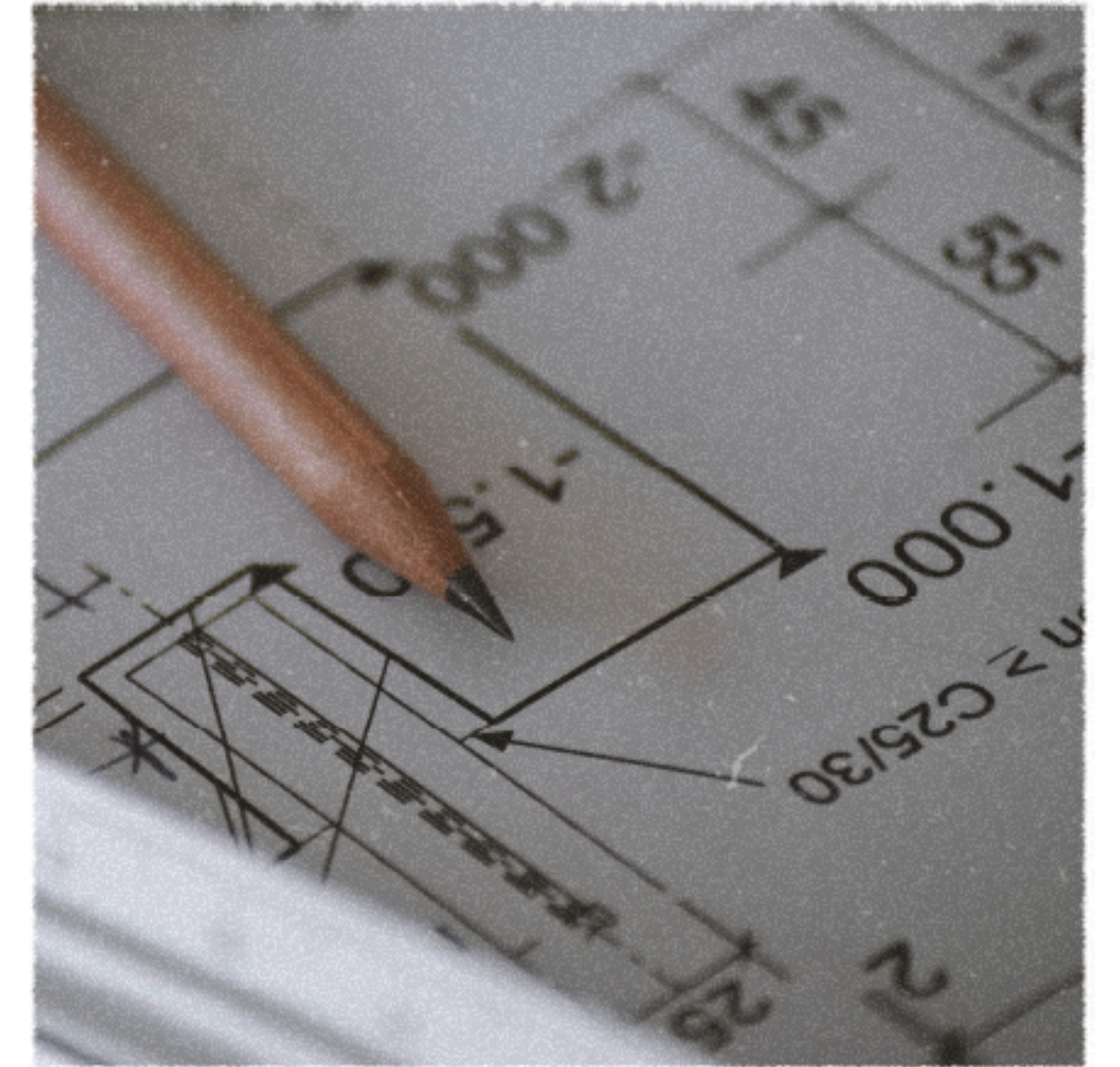
ECCLESIASTES 2:17-26

²⁰ I then **gave myself up to despair**, as I thought about all my laborious hard work under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes those who have **worked hard with wisdom, knowledge, and skill** must leave the results of their hard work as a possession to **those who haven't worked hard** for it. This too is **pointless**—it's a **terrible wrong**. ²² I mean, **what do people get** for all their hard work and **STRUGGLES** under the sun?



ECCLESIASTES 2:17-26

²³ All their days are **PAIN**, and their work is **AGGRAVATION**; even at **night**, their **HEARTS DON'T FIND REST**. This too is pointless. ²⁴ There's nothing better for human beings than to **eat, drink, and experience pleasure in their hard work**.



ECCLESIASTES 2:17-26

I also saw that this is **from God's hand**—
25 Who can eat and find enjoyment
otherwise?— 26 because **GOD GIVES
WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, AND JOY** to
those who please God. But to those who
are offensive, God gives the task
of **HOARDING AND ACCUMULATING**,
but only so as to give it all to those who
do please God. This too is pointless
and a **chasing after wind. [grasping
at smoke]**



“Ecclesiastes is an argument that existential (reason and nature of your existence) dependance on a gracious God – not only an abstract belief – is a precondition for an unshakeable, purposeful life.”

Keller



1. Work Can Appear Fruitless



ECCLESIASTES 2:22-23

²² I mean, **what do people get** for all their hard work and **STRUGGLES** under the sun?



²³ All their days are **PAIN**, and their work is **AGGRAVATION**; even at **night**, their **HEARTS DON'T FIND REST**. This too is pointless.



“Burnout is the chronic experience of being stretched between your ideals for work and the reality of your job.”

**THE END OF BURNOUT,
JONATHAN MALESIC**



GOD @ WORK Where is God in my work? What work is God doing?



2. Work Can Appear Meaningless



one for all & all for fun

M&M'S is a chocolate brand on a mission. We believe in championing the power of fun to create a world where everyone feels they belong.

Our ambition is to upend the expected, break through barriers, and discover the little joys shared in everyday life. Imagine a world with less judgment & more connection & consistent laughter.

Together, we can make this a reality for all funkind.

ECCLSIASTES 2:20-21

²⁰ I then **gave myself up to despair**, as I thought about all my laborious hard work under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes those who have **worked hard with wisdom, knowledge, and skill** must leave the results of their hard work as a possession to **those who haven't worked hard** for it. This too is **pointless**—it's a **terrible wrong**.



How do we respond when work is a place of **STRESS,**
ANXIETY, TRIAL, and **DISAPPOINTMENT** or a
MUNDANE, BORING, GRAY place?



How do we respond when work is a place of **stress, anxiety, trial,** and **disappointment** or a **mundane, boring, gray** place?

2.1 Cynicism



How do we respond when work is a place of **stress, anxiety, trial,** and **disappointment** or a **mundane, boring, gray** place?

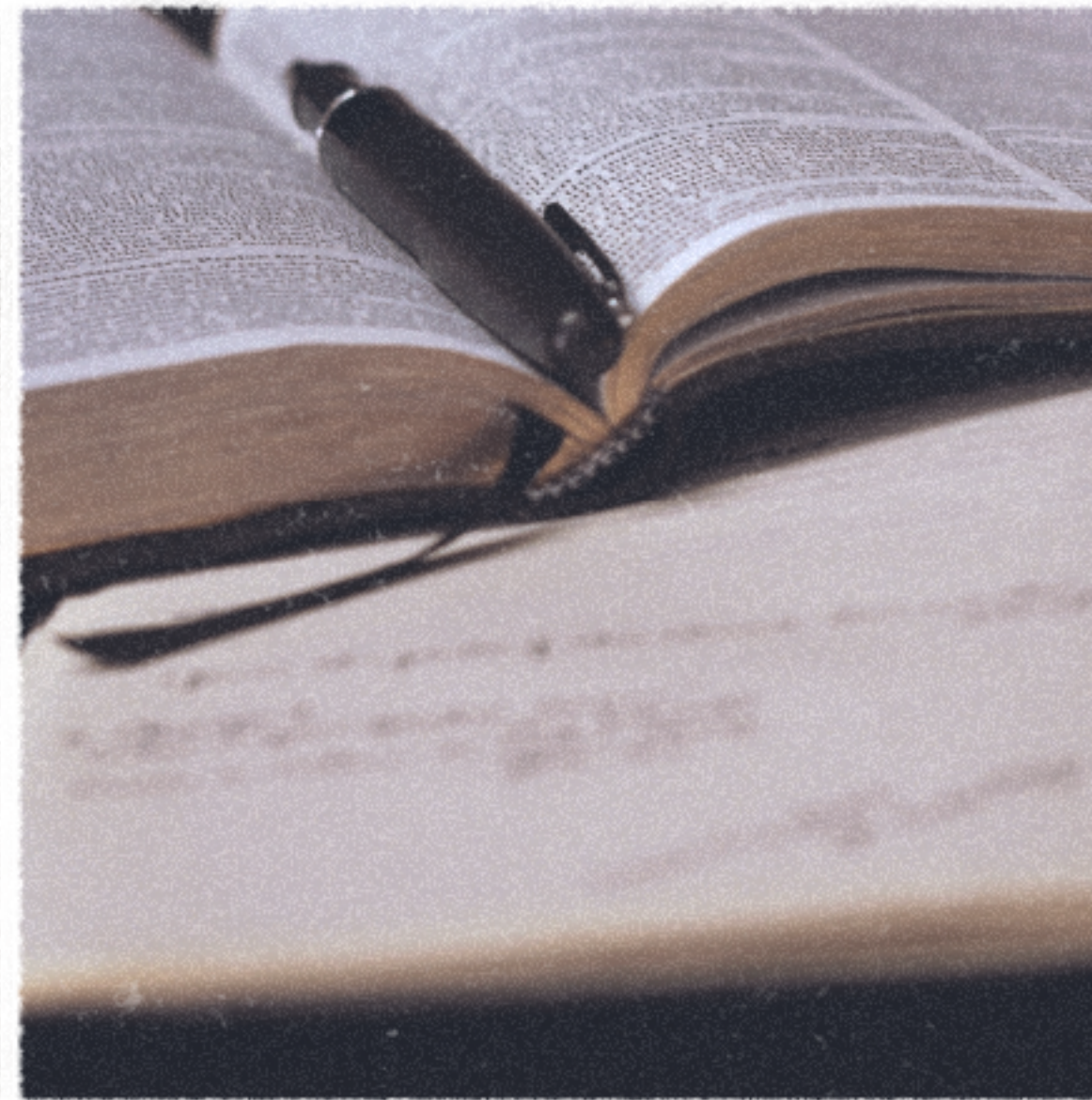
2.2 Idealism



How do we respond when work is a place of **stress, anxiety, trial,** and **disappointment** or a **mundane, boring, gray** place?

2.3 Consolation

WHAT DO WE FOCUS ON?



GOD @ WORK *Where is God in my work? What work is God doing?*

ECCLESIASTES 12:13-14

¹³ So this is the **end of the matter**; all has been heard. **WORSHIP GOD AND KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS** because this is what everyone must do. ¹⁴ God **WILL DEFINITELY BRING EVERY DEED TO JUDGMENT**, including every hidden thing, whether good or bad.



GALATIANS 6:7-10

⁷ Make no mistake, God is not mocked. A person **WILL HARVEST** what they plant. ⁸ Those who **plant only for their own benefit** will harvest **devastation** from their **selfishness**, but those who **plant for the benefit of the Spirit** will harvest **eternal life** from the Spirit. ⁹ **Let's not get tired of doing good**, because **in time** we'll have a **harvest** if we don't give up. ¹⁰ So then, **let's work for the good of all** whenever we have an opportunity, and **especially** for those in the **household of faith**.

