

ESTABLISHED  
in creation

# The Goodness of Work

Genesis 2:4-17











# *Millworker*

Millwork ain't easy; millwork ain't hard  
Millwork, it ain't nothing but an awful boring job  
I'm waiting for a daydream  
to take me through the morning  
And put me in my coffee break  
where I can have a sandwich  
and remember.



**James Taylor**

# *Millworker*

So may I work the mills just as long as I am able  
And never meet the man  
whose name is on the label  
It be me and my machine for the rest of the  
morning  
And the rest of the afternoon . . .  
for the rest of my life.



**James Taylor**



Work  
Rest



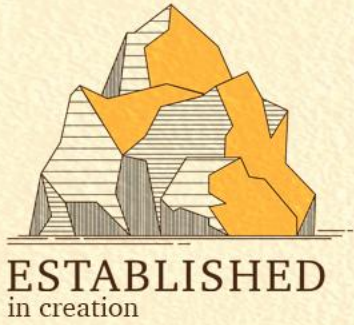




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# Genesis 2:4-17

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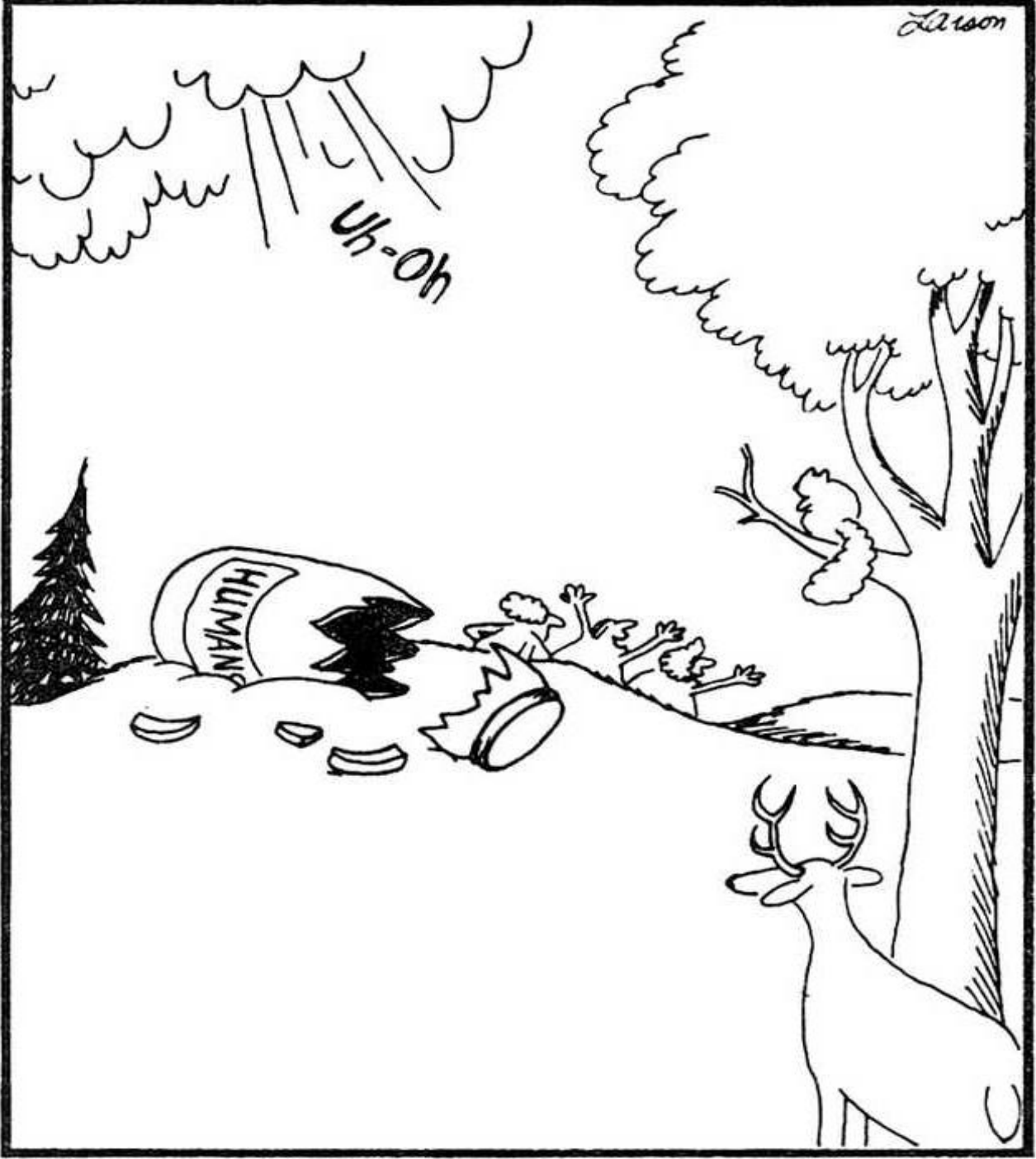
# The Big Idea

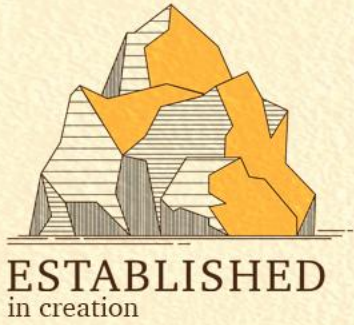
Before the fall, God gave humanity meaningful work in His presence. Work was established as a good thing before sin entered the world.

“Anole”



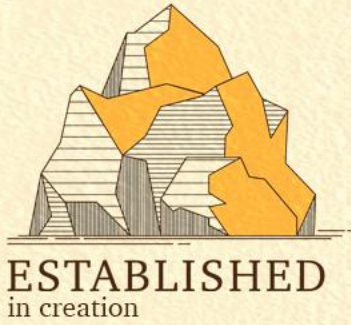
Wilson





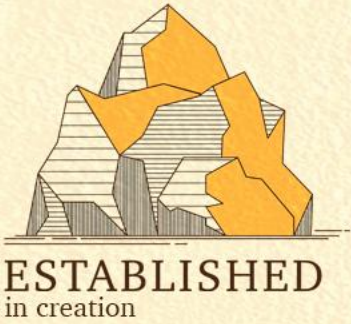
# Lessons of the Two Trees

- God offers life, not mere existence.
- Love requires choice, and trusting obedience is the path to ongoing fellowship.
- Sin is not a design flaw in creation, but a misuse of God-given freedom.



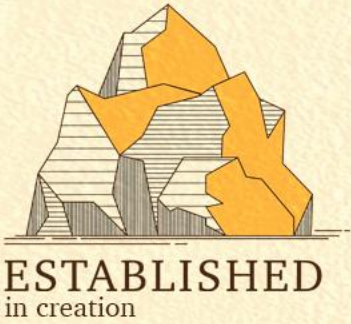
# Genesis 2:15

**The Lord God took the man and put him in  
the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.**



# Psalm 8:4-6

...what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,



# God's Purposes for Man

## **1. Partnership:**

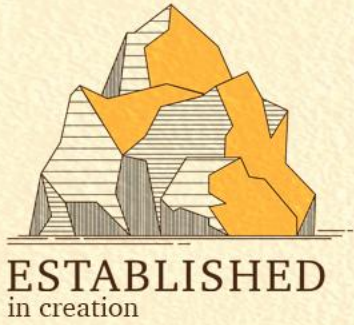
Humanity is invited to work alongside the Creator, continuing the ordered beauty He began.

## **2. Stewardship:**

We manage what is God's, treating the earth as His property, entrusted to us.

## **3. Productivity:**

Work existed before sin, proving that labor is inherently good and fulfilling.



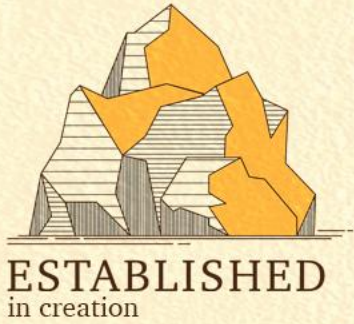
# God's Purposes for Man

## **4. Protection:**

Keeping the garden included defending it from anything that would mar or misuse it.

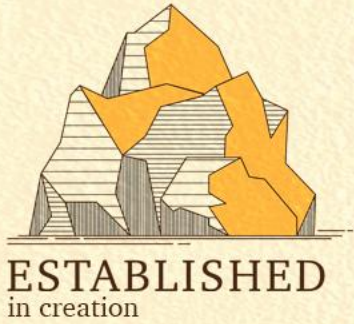
## **5. Responsibility:**

This work mandate is not optional; it defines part of what it means to bear God's image.



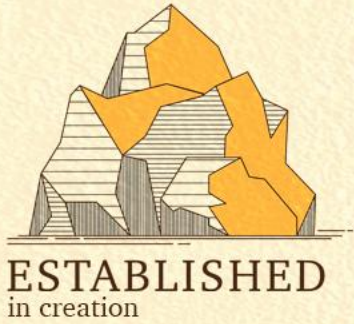
# Summary

Humanity's original job description – (to cultivate and keep) - shows that we are caretakers and co-workers under God's authority. Genesis 2:15 grounds every vocation in worshipful, responsible stewardship of the Creator's world.



# Additional Observations

- God is a wise and powerful Creator of life, beauty, and order
- Humanity's story is rooted in divine initiative, not random chance
- Adam is not left to wander, but is intentionally placed where he can thrive
- God is a generous God, who provides abundantly for his people
- Work predates the fall; labor is a God-given blessing, not a curse

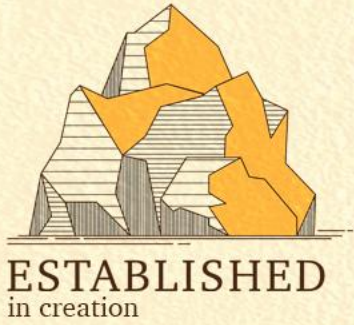


# Survey:

**80%** of younger respondents said that weekends were the only time that they really lived their lives.

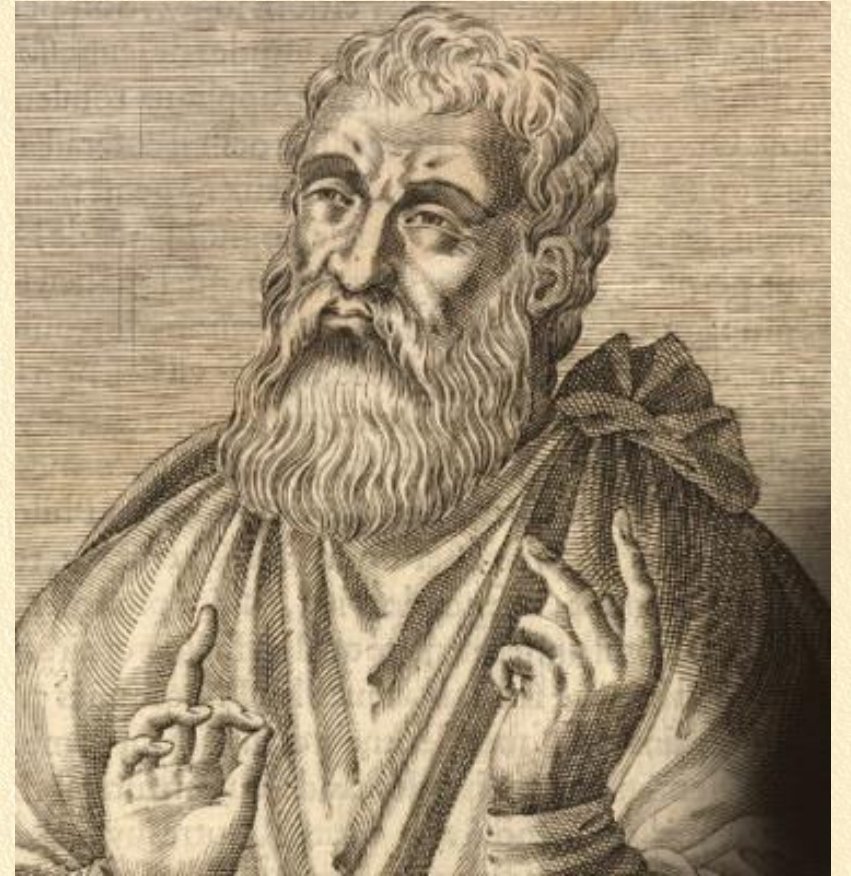
For older people, it was **52%**.

*(Forbes)*



# Justin Martyr - (100-165 A.D.)

"He was deemed a carpenter for He was in the habit of working as a carpenter when among men, making ploughs and yokes; by which He taught the symbols of righteousness and an active life."



*New York Times* Bestselling Author of  
*THE REASON FOR GOD* and *THE PRODIGAL GOD*

# TIMOTHY KELLER



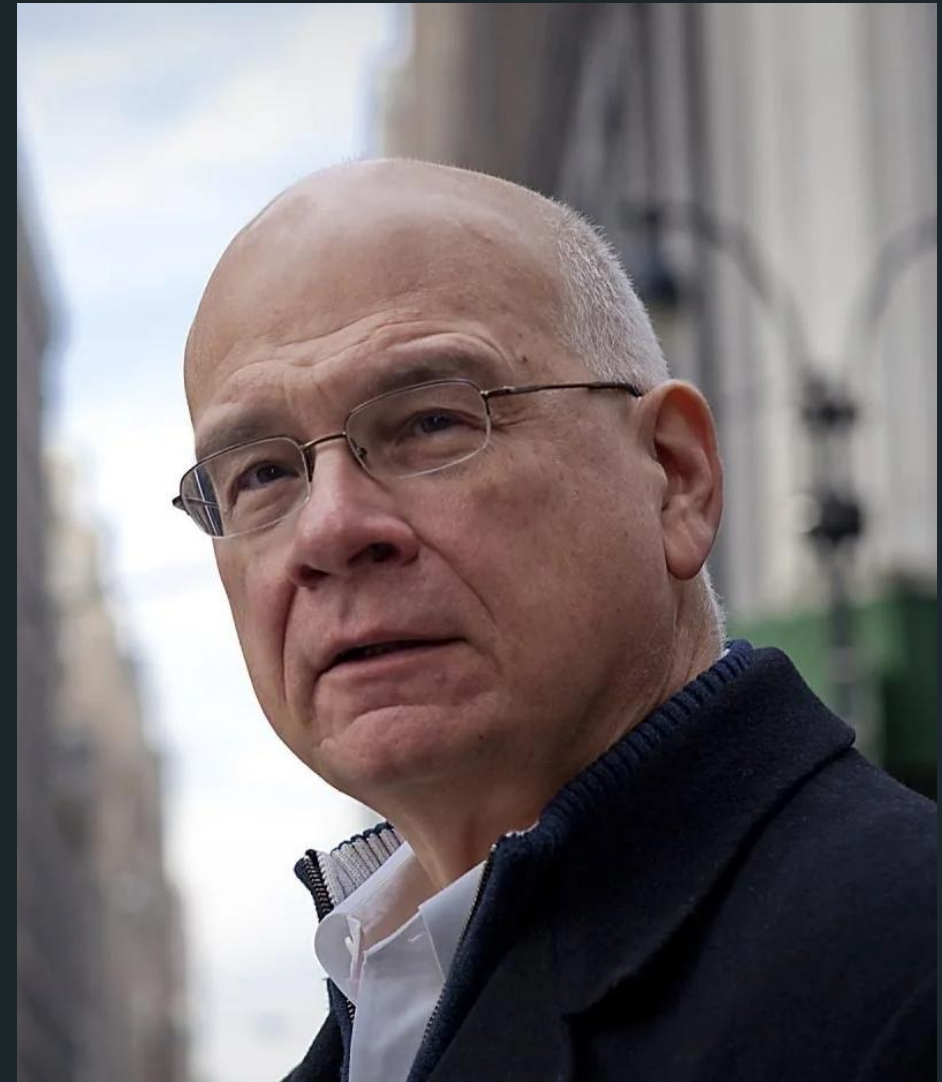
with Katherine Leary Alsdorf

*Connecting Your Work  
to God's Work*

# Every Good Endeavor

“Everyone wants to be successful rather than forgotten, and everyone wants to make a difference in life. But that is beyond the control of any of us.

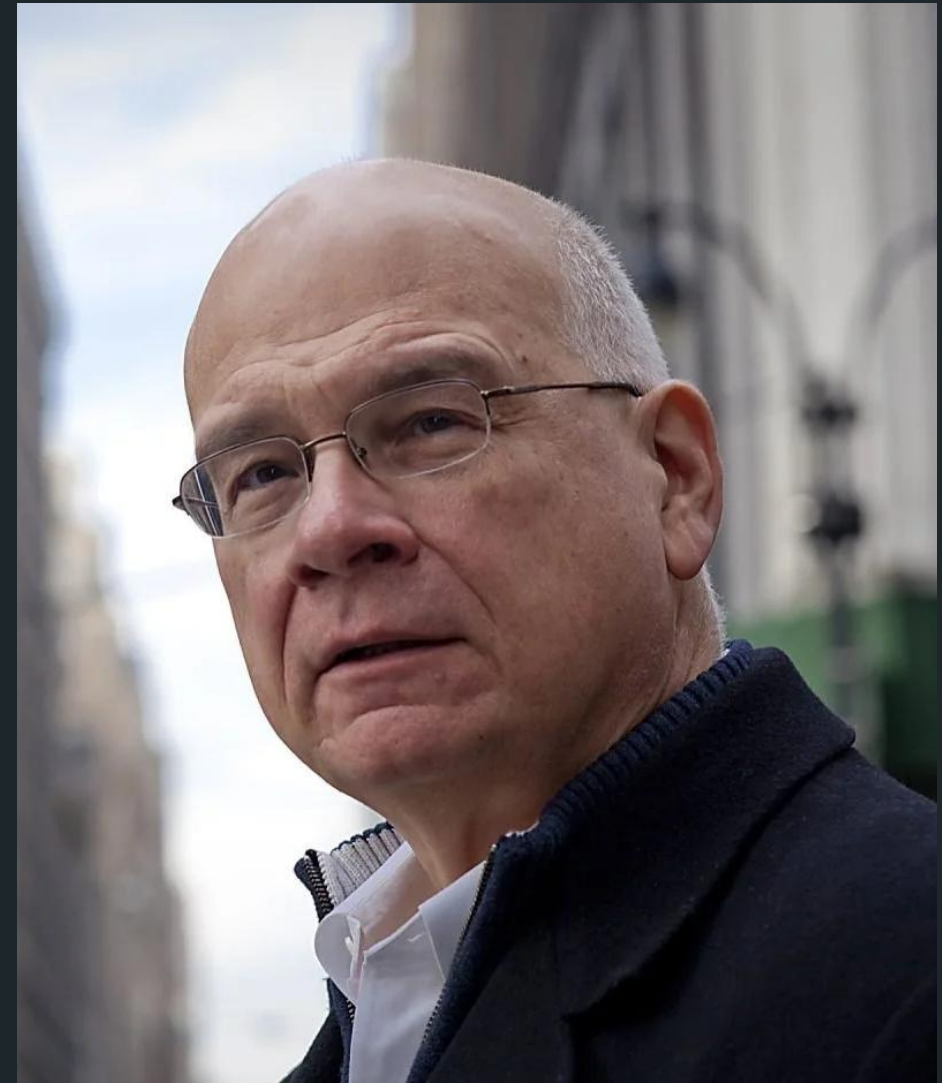
If this life is all there is, then everything will eventually burn up in the death of the Sun, and no one will even be around to remember anything that has ever happened.



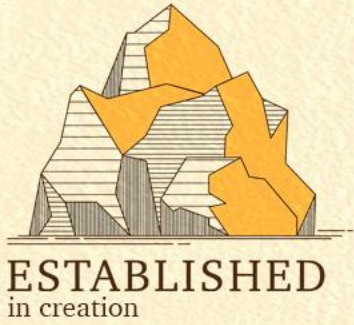
**Timothy Keller**

[But] if the God of the Bible exists and this life is not the only life, then every good endeavor, even the simplest ones, pursued in response to God's calling, can matter forever.

That is what the Christian faith promises.  
‘In the Lord, your labor is not in vain.’”  
(1 Corinthians 15:58)



**Timothy Keller**



# 1 Thessalonians 4:10-12

But we urge you, brothers . . . to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.



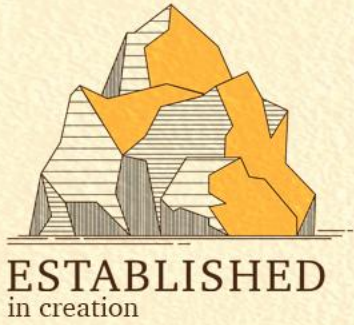
# DIRTY JOBS

with Mike Rowe



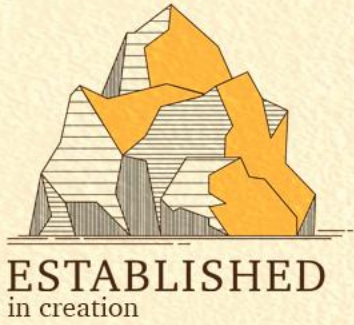
*“To a man who lives for God,  
nothing is secular,  
everything is sacred.”*

*— Charles Spurgeon*



# Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.



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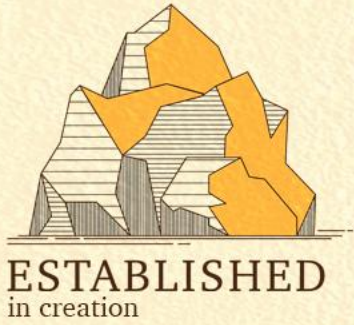


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# Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.



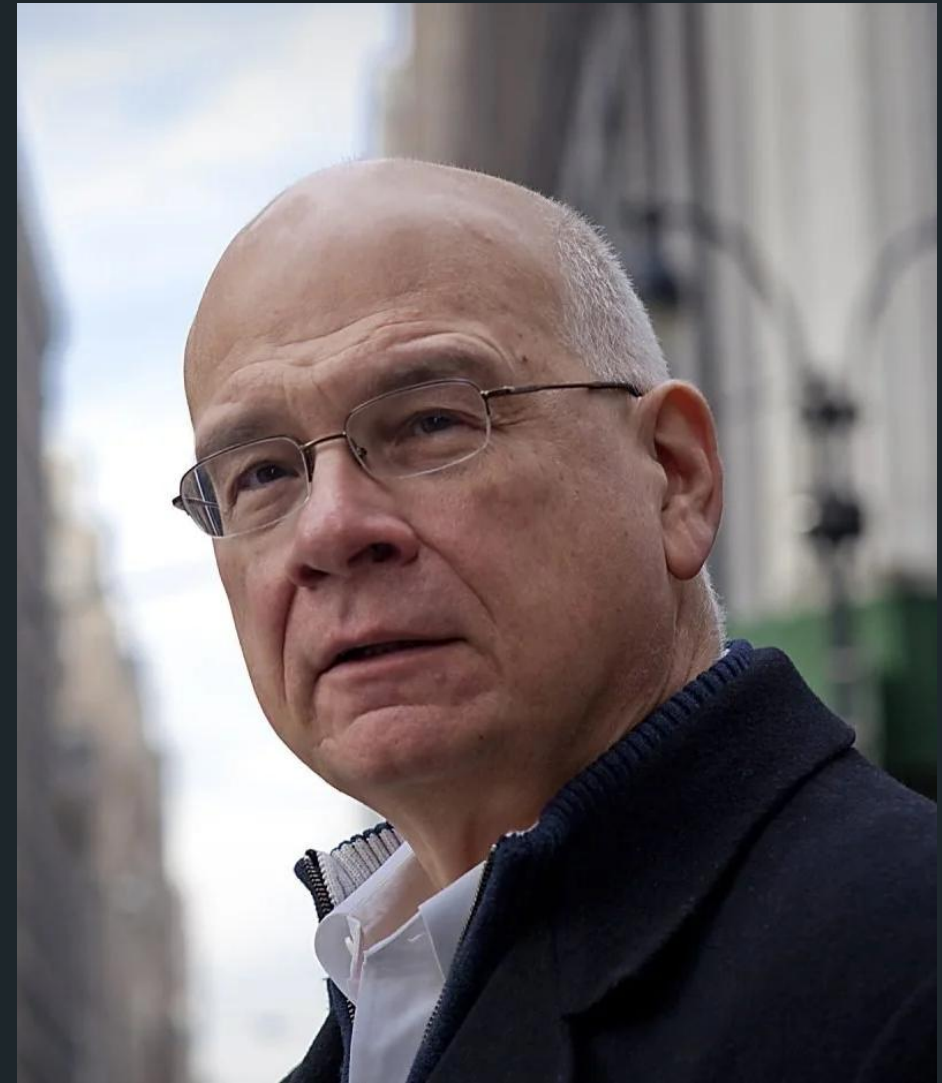


# Isaiah 65:22

They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy (Hebrew: "wear out") the work of their hands.

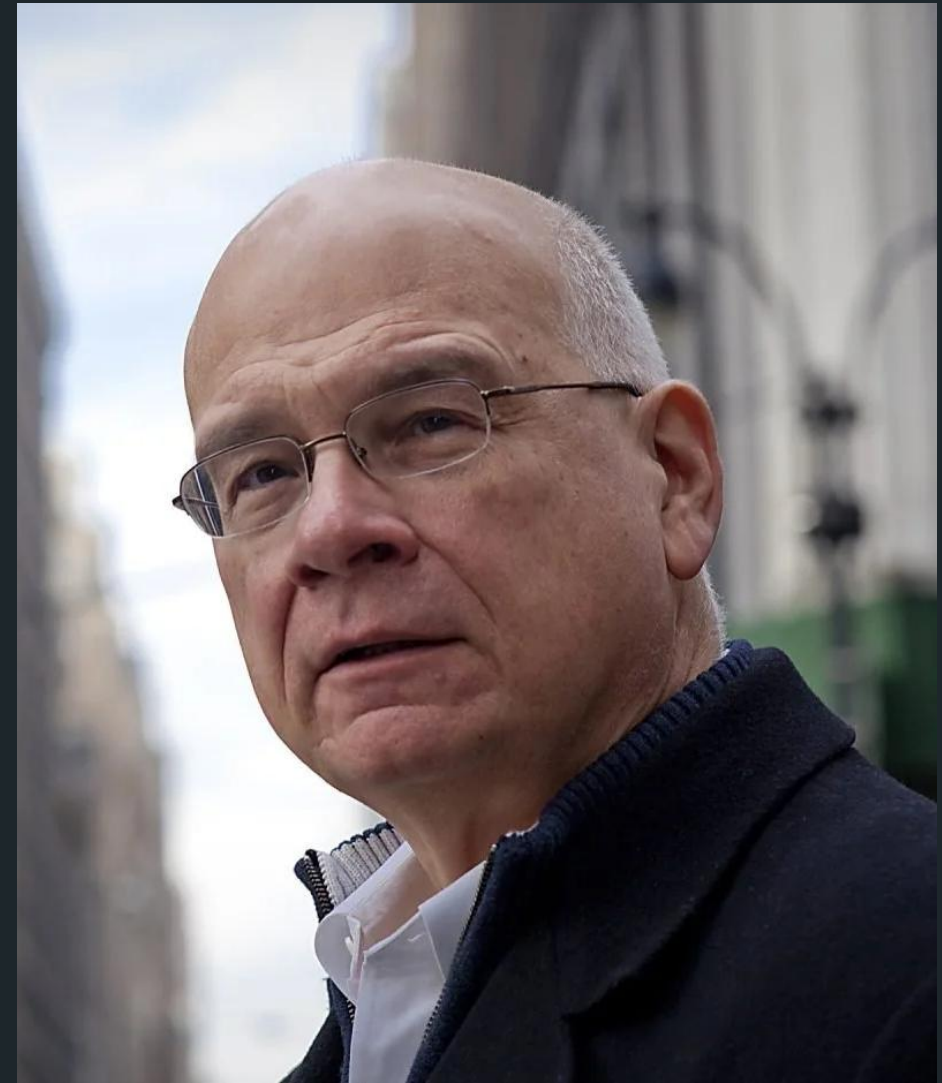
“There will be work in the paradise of the future just like there was in the paradise of the past, because God himself takes joy in his work.

In that paradise, you will be useful in the lives of others to infinite degrees of joy and satisfaction; you will perform with all the skill you can imagine.”



**Timothy Keller**

“You are adopted into God’s family, so you already have your affirmation. You are justified in God’s sight, so you have nothing to prove. You have been saved through a dying sacrifice, so you are free to be a living one. You are loved ceaselessly, so you can work tirelessly in response to a quiet, inner fullness.”



**Timothy Keller**

