

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

## (#86) The Proverbs of Solomon 14:23- No "Communism" Here!

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

### **Proverbs 14:23:**

In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty.

Since God established the "work ethic," where there is no "labor," there is no "profit" (capital, benefit, earnings). In the Garden of Eden, God gave man a job, "to tend and keep it" (**Genesis 2:15**). After Adam sinned, God expelled him with a job: "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread" (**Genesis 3:19**).

God's endorsement of this principle, through Solomon, was:

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might.  
(**Ecclesiastes 9:10**)

The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eats little or much; but the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep.  
(**Ecclesiastes 5:12**)

A communistic welfare state, which takes from the workers and re-distributes to non-workers, promotes slothfulness:

The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. He covets greedily all day long, But the righteous gives and does not spare. (**Proverbs 21:25-26**)

This proverb, and similar wisdom, is echoed in Christ's Law:

- Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. (**Ephesians 4:28**).
- The person who labors, labors for himself, for his *hungry* mouth drives him on. (**Proverbs 16:26**)
- For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. (**2 Thessalonians 3:10**).

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- God’s damnation is upon all efforts to by-pass His “work ethic” principle: covetousness, stealing, extortion, excessive or punitive taxes, scams, schemes, gambling and lotteries ([1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#)).

Solomon also showed the “vanity” of giving workers’ profits to non-workers: Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity. Therefore I turned my heart and despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun. For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ([Ecclesiastes 2:18-21](#))

Whatever “profit” that comes from honest “labor” belongs to the “laborer” and no one else! Losing control of what one has worked for kills any incentive for working. Since God charged men with “work,” Marxism/ socialism is a direct attack on manhood, and an enslaving of womanhood who must do man’s work! “Idle chatter” (empty talk) profits nothing, and destroys people who believe it. All who talk about work instead of working are leading to “poverty” and NOT “profit!” Marxism, and all who follow it, is rebellion against God that impoverishes nations. It has never been a success, and never will! Jesus shows a spiritual application when He said:

‘Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.’ Then they said to Him, ‘What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.’ ([John 6:26-29](#))

Neither physical nor spiritual “profits” are for those who “will not work!” America was rich as long as it was not a “welfare state” that “re-distributed” the wealth of its workers! All economies bankrupt when workers’ profits are used by non-workers!

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***All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.***