

# Forging A Head Bootcamp

November 3 - 5, 2006

**Man and His  
Work...**

**Bless the Work of our  
Hands**

*unless otherwise noted*

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# Psalm 128

**1** Blessed *is* every one who fears the LORD,  
Who walks in His ways.

**2** **When you eat the labor of your hands, You  
*shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.***

**3** Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine  
In the very heart of your house,  
Your children like olive plants  
All around your table.

**4** Behold, thus shall the man be blessed  
Who fears the LORD.

**5** The LORD bless you out of Zion,  
And may you see the good of Jerusalem  
All the days of your life.

**6** Yes, may you see your children's children.  
Peace *be* upon Israel!



# Assertions



- The primary audience for this Psalm is men
  - V. 3 “Your wife...”
  - V. 4 “Thus shall the man be blessed...”
- As a result of “fearing the Lord” and “Walking in His Ways”
  - You will labor!
  - That labor will be the normative way that God provides your basic provision
  - And other benefits
    - Happiness
    - Wellness



## So What?

- In the beginning...
  - After God designed man
  - He gave him work!
  - He told him to take dominion over the earth
- Has anything changed?
  - Rebellion led to the curse...
  - We now work by the sweat of our brow
  - We don't fear God and walk in His ways

*One thing changed. God has revealed His Way of Salvation through the cross!*



## Matthew 25:14-30 (14-19)

**14** "For *the kingdom of heaven is* like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. **15** "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. **16** "Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. **17** "And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also. **18** "But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. **19** "After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.



## Matthew 25:14-30 (20-23)

**20** "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' **21** "His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' **22** "He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' **23** "His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'



## Matthew 25:14-30 (24-28)

**24** "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. **25** 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is* yours.' **26** "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. **27** 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. **28** 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.

A blacksmith is shown working with a glowing red-hot piece of metal on an anvil. The blacksmith's hands are visible, holding a hammer and tongs. The background is dark, and the bright orange and red glow of the metal is the primary light source. The image is partially obscured by a dark red curved shape on the left side.

## Matthew 25:14-30 (29-30)

**29** 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.'

**30** 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

# What's the Point



- God expects us to work and profit
  - Figurative?
  - Is it about "talents" or "money"?
  - 'You wicked and lazy servant'
- Try these out:
  - In all labor there is profit,  
But idle chatter *leads* only to poverty. (Prov 14:23)
  - "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " (Acts 20:35)
  - If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.  
(2 Thess 3:10)
  - But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Tim 5:8)

# What is Work?



- In all labor there is profit,  
But idle chatter *leads* only to poverty. (Prov 14:23)
- “Labor” does not have to be for “the man”
  - **Hebrew Word:** [bx#u#](#)
    - **Transliterated Word:** *etseb*
    - **Definition:** *a hurt, pain, toil:--*
      - —NASB Greek-Hebrew Dictionary
    - physical or mental work, esp. of a hard or fatiguing kind; toil.\*
- “Profit” does not have to be measured in dollars
  - **Hebrew Word:** [rt\\*om](#)
    - **Transliterated Word:** *mothar*
    - **Definition:** *abundance, preeminence:--*
      - —NASB Greek-Hebrew Dictionary
    - advantage; benefit; gain.\*

\*labor. (n.d.). *Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.0.1)*. Retrieved September 26, 2006, from Dictionary.com website: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/labor> &

\*profit. (n.d.). *Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.0.1)*. Retrieved September 26, 2006, from Dictionary.com website: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/profit>

# Life of Leisure?



- The goal of the natural man
  - TGIF
  - Can't wait to retire
  - What game is on tonight?
- Not the man of God
  - He leads a strenuous life, though not in his own strength (see Psalm 127)
  - He is designed for work (see Genesis)
  - He is called to work
  - Solomon found leisure/pleasure to be folly & vanity
    - Nothing *is* better for a man *than* that he should eat and drink, and *that* his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God. (Eccl 2:24)
    - Whatever your hand finds to do, do *it* with your might; (Eccl 9:10a)

A blacksmith is shown working with a glowing red-hot piece of metal on an anvil. The blacksmith's hands are visible, holding a hammer and tongs. The background is dark, and the metal is bright orange-red. The scene is set in a workshop or forge.

## Acts 20:17-20,33-35

<sup>17</sup> From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. <sup>18</sup> And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, <sup>19</sup> "serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> "how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house,...

<sup>33</sup> "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.

<sup>34</sup> "Yes, you yourselves know that **these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me.** <sup>35</sup> "I have shown you in every way, **by laboring like this, that you must support the weak.** And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "



# Have You Heard This?

- “I’d really like to go into full-time ministry (and be supported).”
  - This was a foreign concept to Paul
  - He didn’t want church leaders to think this way...
  - Church leaders should be the most self-sufficient, generous workers/givers of them all
  - Like Paul, they should “covet no one’s silver or gold or apparel” (Acts 20:33), “not be greedy for money” (1 Tim 3:3, Titus 1:7) and be “blameless, as a steward of God” (Titus 1:7)



## And If You Are Not a Leader?

- You better be working
  - Don't expect a hand-out from the church if you are not... (2 Thes 3:6-15)
  - Don't expect anyone else to take care of your family
- If you are not providing, you are
  - "worse than an unbeliever" (1 Tim 5:8)
  - a "tax collector" (Matt 18:17)



# Not Just Providing

- You are to be satisfied with food and drink, however...
- Take dominion!
  - Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen 1:28)
  - So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move *on* the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. (Gen 9:1-2)
  - And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen. (Matt 28:18-20)



# How Much Should I Work?

- Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates. For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. (Ex 20:9-11)
- Recreation & Entertainment?
  - Occasional feasts (celebrating God's provision)
  - "You shall involve your children in team sports, have 'family nights' on Fridays, do something fun every Saturday, play catch with your son at least two nights/week, get an X-Box for each child seven years old or older, have date nights with your wife and daughter, cheer on all hometown sports teams, rent "family movies", and watch profanity-free TV daily" (2 Opinions 3:12)



## But What About Time w/ Children

- *It is* good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth. (Lam 3:27)
- That our sons *may be* as plants grown up in their youth;  
*That* our daughters *may be* as pillars,  
Sculptured in palace style;  
(Psalms 144:12)
- Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine  
In the very heart of your house,  
Your children like olive plants  
All around your table. (Psalm 128:3)

# Youth?



- Biblically, 12-30ish
- If they are to be grown up plants
  - They are “producers”
    - Olive plants vs. olives
    - Fruitful vine (Prov. 31)
  - How do they get this way in their youth?
    - They are nurtured and trained in it while they are “immature”
    - By whom?



# Who Trains Them How To Work?

- "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, **when you walk by the way**, when you lie down, and when you rise up." (Deut 6:7)
- Child labor laws were designed by people who want to separate your family, so they can be trained away from you to learn about a world without God and work for godless corporations (because they've never learned to produce for themselves)
- In the Scriptures, where do first see "corporations"?
  - 2 Opinions 2:17
  - The family is the fundamental economic unit in God's economy!

## But How?

- Man has work to do
- God gave him a helpmeet
  - She is not to be another man's helpmeet...
  - Unless sold into slavery due to debt
- Who teaches the children to contribute?



# Face Value



- Who trains them up?
- How do they train them up?
- What does this imply about how you spend your day, men?
- Is there a difference between training up boys and girls?



## Titus 2 (1-8)

**1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:** **2** that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; **3** the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- **4** that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, **5** to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, **that the word of God may not be blasphemed.** **6** Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded, **7** in all things showing yourself *to be* a **pattern of good works**; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, **8** sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

## Titus 2 (9-15)



<sup>9</sup> Exhort *bondservants* to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all *things*, not answering back, <sup>10</sup> not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts**, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, **zealous for good works**. <sup>15</sup> **Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.**

# Sound doctrine



- Older women teach younger women
  - Keepers at home
  - Submissive to their own husbands
  - Loving husband and children
  - So, the word of God will not be dishonored
- Older men, teach younger men
  - To be sensible
  - Doing good works
  - Pure in doctrine...
- Under grace!
  - Deny ungodliness & worldly lusts

# Face Value



- Men & Women are different
  - In design
  - In roles
- Men train men
- Women train women
- Men lead homes
- Wives submit
- If you deny this with words or life you blaspheme the word of God!

# Counter-Culture



**God's Word isn't invalidated by a culture that rejects it. God's people are (at least) less effective and (at most) dishonor God when they embrace the culture rather than His Word.**

# Judgmental?

- Are you being judgmental to all these people who
  - Work outside the home?
  - Wives working outside the home?
  - Have women or others train their boys?
  - Have daughters outside the home?
- Fear God, not Man...
- I'm a product of the same disease...
- Let God's work speak for itself, and "work out your salvation" (Phil 2)



# Bold Witnessing



- Are you being wimpy to say it doesn't always dishonor God?
- Aren't we dishonoring God whenever we aren't totally inline with His patterns?!?

A blacksmith is shown working with a glowing red-hot piece of metal on an anvil. The blacksmith's hands are visible, holding a hammer and tongs. The background is dark, and the bright orange and yellow light of the fire is prominent. The image is partially obscured by a dark red curved shape on the left side.

# 1 Corinthians 7:17-24 (17-20)

17 Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches. 18 Was any man called when he was already circumcised? He is not to become uncircumcised. Has anyone been called in uncircumcision? He is not to be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is the keeping of the commandments of God. 20 Each man must remain in that condition in which he was called.

A blacksmith is shown working with glowing red metal in a forge. The blacksmith's hands are visible, holding a hammer and tongs. The metal is bright orange and red, indicating it is very hot. The background is dark and industrial.

# 1 Corinthians 7:17-24 (21-24)

**21 Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that.** 22 For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brethren, each one is to remain with God in that condition in which he was called.

# God's Truth...

- We are called while in a situation...
- It is beneficial to get into a better, "free" situation
- But if we "cannot" we are not "in sin" (rather suffering the consequences of sin)
- What we need to examine is
  - Is our situation an inherently sinful one?
  - What is the difference between "cannot" and "will not"?





## Is Working for a Corporation Sinful?

- You are under contract, not a slave
- The most they can legally do is end your contract
- You have to examine whether you are ready to walk away when
  - You are asked to do something that will cause you to sin
  - You are asked to do something that causes your devotion to your employer to take precedence over your devotion to God

# Corporations



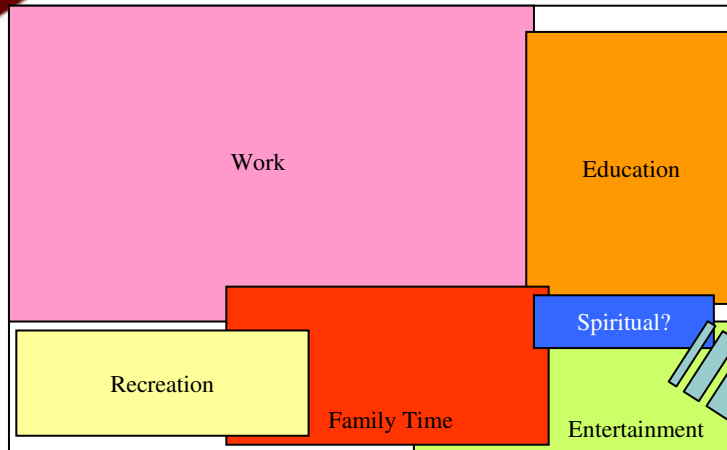
**What do they typically miss in the way they work?**

# “Holystic”



- Multiple full-time responsibilities
  - Work with your hands (1 Thes 4:11-12, Acts 20:34-35, Col 3:23-24)
  - Leading family (Deut 6:5-9, Eph 5:22-6:4)
  - One anothers (Acts 20:18-20, Rom 12:10, 13:8, 14:19, Gal 5:13, Eph 4:2, 32; Phil 2:3; Col 3:9,13,16; 1 Th 3:12, 4:9, 5:11-15...)
- How
  - Older & younger together, men train men, women train women (Titus 2)
  - As unto the Lord (Col 3:23)
  - “Christianity is not a plug-in, it’s an operating system” (Mark 12:28-31)

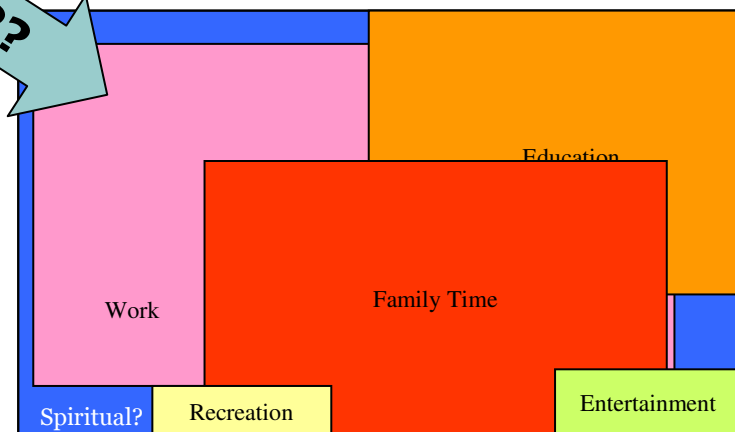
# Getting From Here to There???



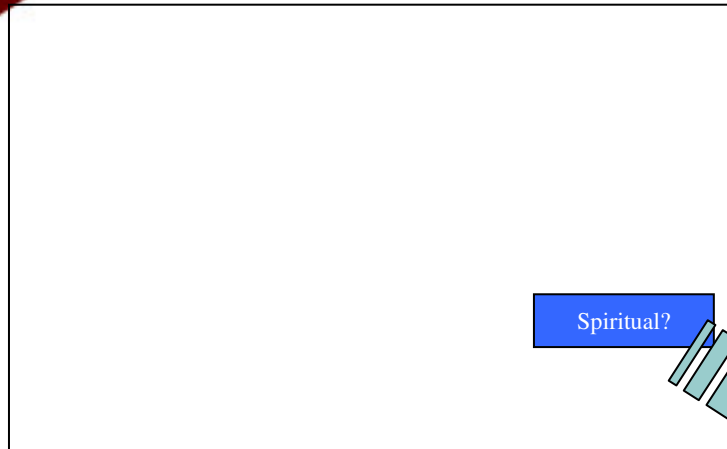
## ○ Go forward, humbly

- Take bold steps (of any size)
- Focus: not on the size of the boxes, but harmony of boxes

- Question everything
  - Education (homeschool?)
  - Work (vs. "job")
  - Church (vs. "club")
  - Others (vs. Scripture)

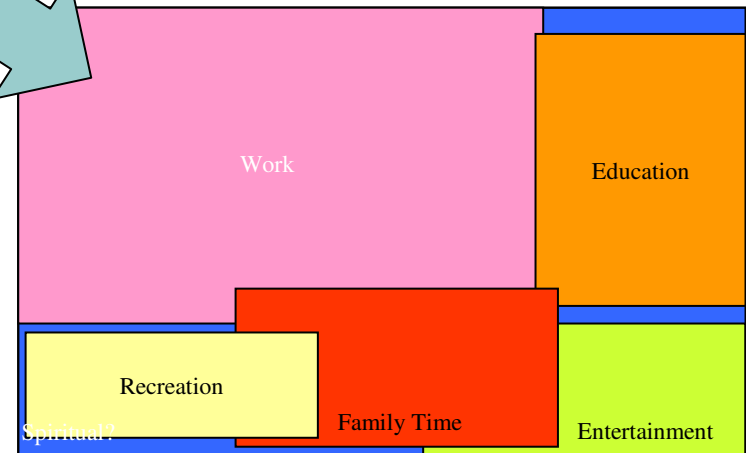


# First Steps



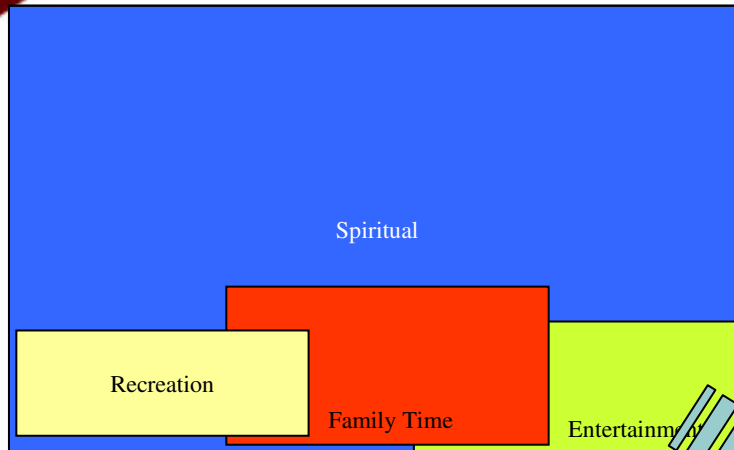
- Humbling Ourselves – we are not our own!
- Am I spending my time in the fear the Lord?

- Confess & Repent
- Commit yourself to His Ways (from His Word)
- Don't be shy, but be bold!

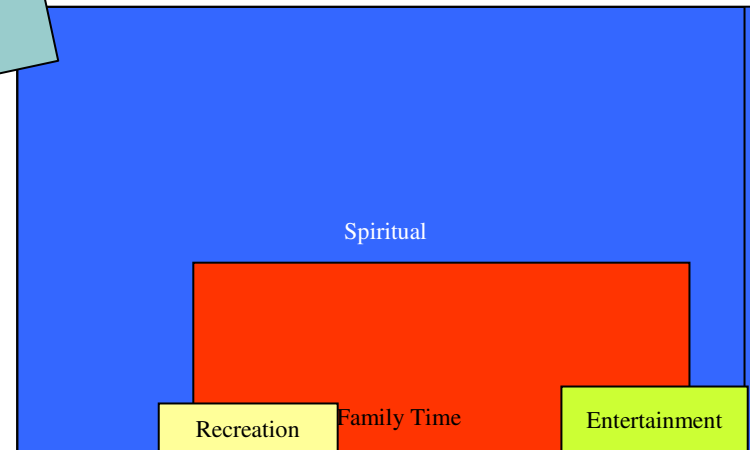
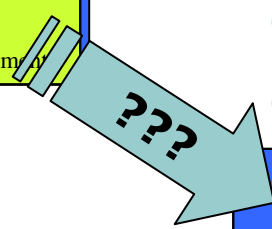


# 2nd Steps

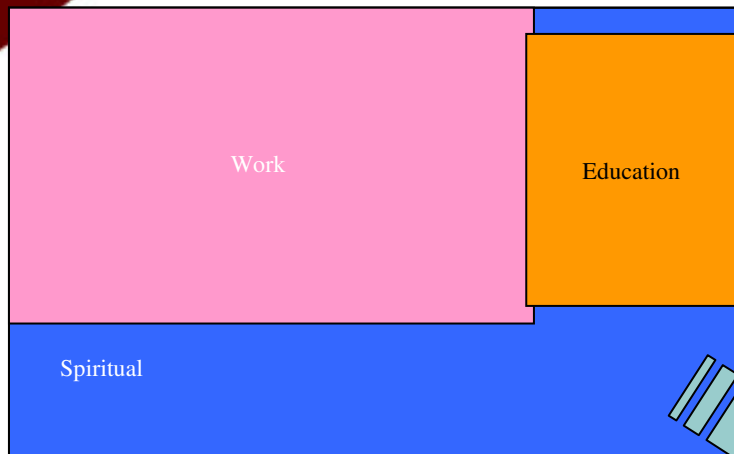
- Identify Rec & Entertainment
  - Producing?
  - Consuming?
- Confess & Repent!
  - Time spending
  - Money spending



- Study scripture
  - Individually
  - Together
- Examine direction for boys & girls

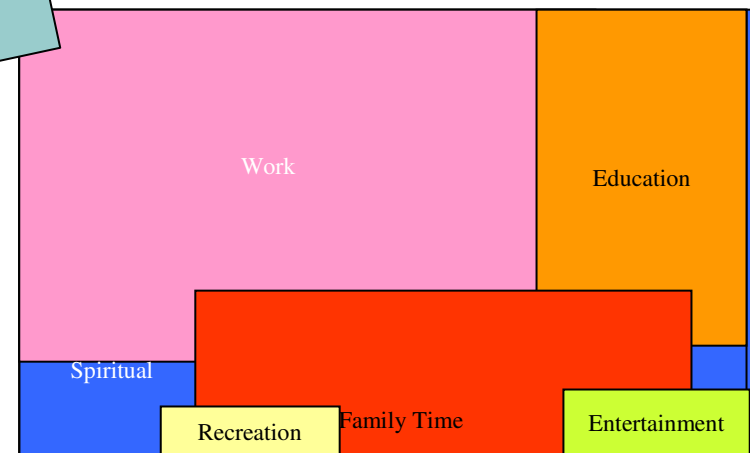
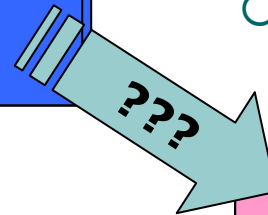


# 3<sup>rd</sup> Steps



- Re-visit "education"
  - Who said you need Physics? etc.
  - How about Graphics?
- Hospitality!!!
  - Start w/ co-workers?

- Begin producing (or learning to)
  - For your own family
  - For neighbors/others
  - For future ventures
- Buy tools, not toys



# Remaining Challenges



- Boys
  - Mommy still main influence
  - “Friends” still significant influence
  - Learning depends on motivation & lack of mentors (often disconnected from Dad or other godly men)
- Girls (including Wife)
  - How to be a helpmeet?
    - Domestic helper & dominion helper?
  - Daddy, the protector, rarely present
- Wife
  - Running the show during the day...
  - How to shift gears when Husband shows up
- Coming Home?
  - Out of (or reduced) debt
  - Profitable business (discipline)

A blacksmith is shown working with a glowing red-hot piece of metal on an anvil. The blacksmith's hands are visible, holding a hammer and tongs. The background is dark, and the metal is bright orange-red. The title "Get Your Heart Right!" is overlaid on the top left of the image in white text.

# Get Your Heart Right!

- Confess & Repent
  - of wrong attitudes about work/leisure
  - about men & women's roles
  - allowing the world to define what/when/how they need to learn
- Foster producer mentality
  - Money must be secondary
  - Serving must be primary
  - Respond to "Hospitality Commands"

# Fruit



- Improved platform for training
- Depth of the riches of God's word
- Witnessing around your table
- Purity of heart & mind
- Fruitful plants vs. "man-eating sponges"