Crossroads International Church Dr. Rick Griffith

17 August 2014 Message 6 of 17

NLT 30 Minutes

**Workaholic Woes**

Title

***Ecclesiastes 4***

**Topic:** Workaholism

**Subject:** Why avoid being a workaholic?

**Complement:** Workaholics have no comforters, rest, beneficiaries, friends, or followers.

**Main Idea:** Work at not becoming a workaholic.

**Purpose:** The listeners will replace workaholism with the desire to please God.

**Meditation:**

**Reading:**

**Song:**

# Introduction

### Interest: We live in a workaholic “paradise.” Everything around us tells us to work longer, harder, and smarter. [Forbes](http://www.forbes.com/2008/05/21/labor-market-workforce-lead-citizen-cx_po_0521countries.html) reports…

Work

#### “If you thought *you* worked long hours, consider 39-year-old Lee from South Korea. A civil servant at the ministry of agriculture and fisheries, Lee gets up at 5:30 a.m. every day, gets dressed and makes a two-hour commute into Seoul to start work at 8:30 a.m. After sitting at a computer for most of the day, Lee typically gets out the door at 9 p.m., or even later.

Korea business

#### By the time he gets home, it’s just a matter of jumping in the shower and collapsing into bed, before starting the whole routine all over again, about four hours later. This happens six days a week, and throughout almost all of the year, as Lee gets just three days of vacation. That’s right. Three days.”

#### And did we mention Lee has a wife and three teenage kids? “I get to see them for 10 or 15 minutes a week, and then just on the weekend,” he says of his children before adding that, on weekends, he usually gets interrupted to go to the office.

Balance

#### Lee, who sometimes has to sleep at the ministry of agriculture and fisheries by lying on top of his desk, might seem like a workaholic that needs to get his priorities straight. But his schedule is completely normal in South Korea, where the average employee works 2,357 hours per year–that’s six-and-a-half hours for every single day of their life [45 hours a week]. According to a 2008 ranking by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, South Koreans work the longest hours per year, on average, out of every other OECD member.

Korea Chart

#### “It’s the culture,” says Lee. “We always watch what the senior boss thinks of our behavior. So it’s very difficult to finish at a fixed time.” Leaving at the official time of 6 p.m. could mean not getting a promotion or raise. What would happen if Lee took a month’s vacation? “My desk would surely be gone when I got back.”

Stickies

Korean Factory

### Need: Do you feel better or worse now?

#### Are you are a workaholic? Why do you work at the job you’re at right now? What motivates you to work?

Nametag

#### I suspect many of us are saying, “Well, I enjoy my job—but it would be nice to enjoy it less hours each week!” You will be happy to learn that the number of work hours is apparently going down in most countries…

Chart

Enjoy less

#### Who wants to be a workaholic? By the way, *what is a workaholic?* We could think it’s someone who works long hours, but who is to judge how many hours that would be? I suspect it’s really about working so hard that other more important things suffer, so today we will talk about those things to answer this question…

### Subject: Why avoid being a workaholic?

Subject

### Background: Solomon was a workaholic and saw many others who were workaholics, so he penned his observations for our benefit. Our series is called “Work and Wisdom Don’t Last” because…well…neither really does!

Series

Solomon

### Preview: Irving L. Jensen calls this chapter the curses of the lonely workaholic. There are five such “woes” he lists here. I like his outline but prefer instead to call this chapter “Workaholic Woes.”

Woes

Curses

### Text: Ecclesiastes 4 calls us to avoid workaholism by giving us five woes of the workaholic.

(What’s the first workaholic woe?)

# I. Workaholics have no comforters (4:1-3).

Comforters

[Workaholics oppress people so much one wonders if it’s better to have never existed at all.]

## Workaholics often oppress others but no one comforts the workaholic (4:1).

### Who is the object of the second “they have no comforter” (1)?

Who Needs Comfort?

#### Is it the victims (NLT)? “The repetition of the words **they have no comforter** emphasizes [the] plight [of the oppressed]” (BKC).

• Victim

• Workaholic

#### Or is it the oppressors (NAU, NIV)?

##### “I saw the tears of the oppressed—and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors—and they have no comforter” (4:1b NIV).

##### “And behold I *saw* the tears of the oppressed and that they had no one to comfort *them*; and on the side of their oppressors was power, but they had no one to comfort *them*” (4:1b NAU).

#### It seems more natural to me that the second one who needs comfort here is the oppressor himself. That is the nearest referent.

### Most of us have little compassion on workaholics. We say, “Why should I comfort them? They are the *perpetrators*, not the victims!” But we should also recognize that overwork often stems from fear—and that fear oppresses others—but we need to have a heart for the oppressors too.

Comfort him?

2-3

## Death may be better than the oppressed life (4:2).

## "People" never conceived are better off than the dead or the oppressed (4:3).

Rest

# II. Workaholics have no rest (4:4-6).

[The compulsive competitor never gets real rest—due to poison envy!]

Poison Envy

## The compulsive competitor only achieves futility in life (4:4).

4

6

## The lazy sluggard destroys himself (4:5).

5

## The balanced worker is better than the compulsive competitor (4:6).

### The [Economist](http://www.economist.com/blogs/freeexchange/2013/09/working-hours) reports, “The Greeks are some of the most hardworking in the OECD, putting in over 2,000 hours a year on average. Germans, on the other hand, are comparative slackers, working about 1,400 hours each year. But German productivity is about 70% higher.”

Greek Chart

### Singaporeans say 31% work late! Really?

Singapore 31%

Balance or rest

### Balance is the key as the compulsive competitor never gets real rest.

(So workaholics have neither comforters nor rest. Solomon continued his observations of meaningless work with an insight concerning a man who had no one to share the fruits of his labor…)

# III. Workaholics have no beneficiaries (4:7-8).

Beneficiary

[The workhorse can’t stop working even though he has no heir.]

## He works his tail off even though he only needs to support himself (4:7-8a).

7-8a

## He never has "enough" money (4:8b).

8b

## He asks himself if all his work is really worth not enjoying life but doesn’t make any changes (4:8c).

8c

(In verses 7-8 we see a man who labors in loneliness—the "self-made man." What he doesn’t realize about relationships is that friendships benefit *both* persons who invest in the relationship. Solomon goes on to state some positive benefits of friendships in verses 9-12. This is needed because…).

# IV. Workaholics have no friends (4:9-12).

Friends

[Lonely bosses don’t see the value of relationships.]

Loneliness

## Friends accomplish more than two independent workaholics (4:9).

9

### We often think of this only applying to marriage.

### But it’s really about friends in light of the sole workaholic.

Friends

## Friends help each other when weak (4:10).

10

## Friends comfort each other when vulnerable (4:11).

11

## Friends protect each other when attacked (4:12).

12

### There is strength in numbers as two are better than one.

Rope

### But what is this three-strand rope?

#### Many apply this to marriage.

Marriage?

##### God’s math is God plus husband plus wife = one.

1+1+1=1

##### So the three-strand rope appears in ceremonies today.

Ceremony

##### In fact, Susan and I had these verses read at our own wedding.

Susan & I

##### BTW, next month our oldest son Kurt embarks on this strand making! He will marry Cara on September 12—and I am privileged to conduct the service!

Kurt & Cara

##### But how sad it is when people like Robin Williams experienced depression—a man who brought so much laughter to others experienced three marriages. Last Monday before he committed suicide his wife went to her bedroom and he went to his own…

Williams  
(4 slides)

#### But the third strand may as well be that third person in our lives.

3 friends

##### Sadly, some prefer to have a Moomin instead. A what? A Moomin is a big stuffed animal to sit with people at restaurants in Japan. Unfortunately, they are horrible for conversation…

Moomin  
(2 slides)

##### Unfortunately, also, workaholics often work alone.

Work alone

(The final workaholic woe is that…)

# V. Workaholics have no followers (4:13-16).

Followers

[They’re not teachable—so those who come later don’t want to imitate them.]

Desert

## Being poor, young and wise is better than being rich, old and foolish (4:13).

13

### A Korean Worker (DS Sim Oct 7th 2013) shared at the Economist [Comments](http://www.economist.com/blogs/freeexchange/2013/09/working-hours) section:

#### I am from South Korea. I work for one of the companies which belong to Hyundai Motor Group. I get up at five, get to work by seven, and I don’t know when I can leave work. The labor contract says I am supposed to work by five, but the salary is given supposing that we work until six. The problem is I have never left my work at six. I always work overtime, usually until seven thirty or eight, and I don’t get paid for my daily additional work.

Korean

#### When I am done with my daily work and try to leave, I find my bosses and all the staff still there working. I am the newest employee, which means I am the LOWEST among everybody, and the military and collectivist culture prevalent here does not let me leave earlier than people HIGH up above. When I dare to leave for home in this situation, it means I accept that I will become an official outcast.

#### When I bow to everybody to leave for home, my coworker, who is also an associate as I am, but has worked for three more years, asks where I am going. He even says he is irritated that I leave earlier than him while he has so much left to do.

#### My boss likes hanging out with his working group members. When he suddenly feels like having dinner and drinking outside, he gathers people in his working group and we have no choice but to follow him. I should give up all my personal schedule for those unexpected and sudden gatherings. Yesterday he got annoyed that I made my personal appointment with my German friend who dropped by to meet me during lunchtime. He is visiting Seoul very briefly, and I don’t know when I can ever meet him again.

#### During weekends, we, new employees, would practice dancing, or get drafted to go to a trip with team members, or do all the sundry other things that the company requires us to. We, newest, thus lowest employees dance in front of every staff and directors when there is a party thrown by the company.

#### In this hellish situation, I find it almost impossible to make any personal plans and build my own individual life for myself. I always dream of leaving this inferno. I want to get a life.

#### It is not just me. Almost everybody working in this country is suffering from the same horrible thing every day for life. I want to get out of here. We want life.

### Interesting, isn’t it? Here is a younger, wiser, poorer worker—and one who is smarter than foolish, old, rich co-workers. Do you think that young Korean worker will want to follow his boss into workaholism of his own?

(But why is being a wise, young, poor man better than being a foolish, old, rich man? Because of fame’s fatal flaw…)

## Although one from humble roots can become a popular king, even **his** prestige, power and influence are transitory (4:14-16).

14-16

### We see this time and again in our day as well. Today’s head-of-state or dictator becomes tomorrow’s prisoner.

### This especially applies to youth. Justin Bieber is the craze but he will soon be forgotten so the youth of tomorrow will say “Justin who?” “Oh,” you young people will tell your children, “He was the idol when I was your age.”

• Bieber

### The point? Fame and prestige do not last! What the workaholic gives up his health and family for ultimately fades into oblivion.

Subject

(So why avoid being a workaholic?)

# Conclusion

### To avoid the woes of a workaholic:

MPs

#### No Comforters (4:1-3)

#### No Rest (4:4-6)

#### No Beneficiaries (4:7-8)

#### No Friends (4:9-12)

#### No Followers (4:13-16)

### Work at not becoming a workaholic (MI).

MI

### How can you tell if you are a workaholic?

MPs

#### Do any of these signs describe you or your motives for work?

#### What really drives you in your work?

#### What is God requiring you to do about it?

### What’s the cure for workaholism? When you have…

#### No Comforters (4:1-3)

##### Pay attention to how other people respond to you—do you raise or lower morale?

##### Love people, use things—not the other way around.

#### No Rest (4:4-6)

##### Walk slower—help bring down Singapore’s reputation as having the fastest walkers in the world!

##### Read—learn about things other than your work!

#### No Beneficiaries (4:7-8)

##### Say “enough” in terms of money.

##### Say "no" in terms of tasks. I had to do this very thing this week in appealing to one of my superiors that I would like an exemption from yet another task put on me. I risked my position but safeguarded my marriage.

#### No Friends (4:9-12)

##### Schedule relationships—put relationships on your calendar.

##### Take walks—with others you care about.

#### No Followers (4:13-16)

##### Put people over paper—or humans over handphones! Be the kind of person you want to follow!

##### Make your spiritual disciplines priority—so you will leave a legacy of spiritual values.

### Prayer

Black

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

# Questions

### Who is the object of the second “they have no comforter” (1)?

#### Is it the victims (NLT). “The repetition of the words **they have no comforter** emphasizes [the] plight [of the oppressed]” (BKC).

#### Or is it the oppressors (NAU, NIV)?

##### “I saw the tears of the oppressed—and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors—and they have no comforter” (4:1b NIV).

### Who is the "neighbor" here (4)? How well do the man and his neighbor work together?

### Compare the NASB and the NIV in their translations of the end of verse 8. What’s the difference? Which do you think best fits the context? To what extent does this man describe you?

### How do you deal with the Christian motive of doing good for your fellow man with the profit motive in our society (4:4-8)?

### Why did God make man such a social being (4:9-12)?

### How many people are spoken of in 4:13-16? Who are they?

### What do you think Solomon wants to communicate in 4:14-16a? Can you think of any biblical examples of this truth?

### What common characteristics can you find for the three motives for work described in this passage? What do they all have in common (4:4-16)?

### How do you deal with the Christian motive of doing good for your fellow man with the profit motive in our society (4:4-8)?

**Next Week’s Topic: Curses of Materialism, Part I (5:1-9)**

Be thinking about these questions…

1.Why is listening more important than talking to God? How is this done in your life?

2.How do you try to "use God" in your own life? Be honest!

3.What relationship does worship have with wealth according to verses 1-9?

4.Look up verse 9 in three or more different translations (e.g., NASB, NIV, LB). Which of the alternate translations best fits the context? Why?

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

### Text

**Looks Can Fool You**

[Printer Friendly](http://illustrationexchange.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=181c69bf3d2275e6dc9157a34&id=2be6475763&e=aa849ca33b)

Author: [Illustration Exchange](http://illustrationexchange.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=181c69bf3d2275e6dc9157a34&id=4caca34280&e=aa849ca33b)

Scripture: John 7:37-38

Source: An interview with Collette Nelson, by Bryant Gumbel, REAL SPORTS, July 22, 2010

[Visit the source](http://illustrationexchange.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=181c69bf3d2275e6dc9157a34&id=5435f23640&e=aa849ca33b)

Aptly described as a "cross between Britney Spears and Thor," Collette Nelson is a champion, female body builder. With bulging biceps, chiseled abs, thunderous thighs, and perfect pecs--all shimmering with contour enhancing oils and the orange glow of that notoriously fake, spray-on tan that has become the trademark of the sport--she is the epitome of the ideal female physique (at least in the world of female body building).

Even if you don’t appreciate the aesthetics of her iron woman physique, you can certainly appreciate her commitment to ultimate fitness, right? I mean, what could be healthier or more ideal than a person pumped up to their prime?

Well, it seems that all is not as ideal as it appears.

"You’re the most unhealthy the day of a show," says Collette. "You’re dehydrated. You’ve eaten limited food. You’ve been over trained. You’re taking some type of diuretic, whether it be natural or not. That day of the show, I’ve gotta tell you, you look like perfection, but inside you’re just, you’re barely hangin’ on."

*\*Click the link to source above to view Ms. Nelson in full competitive form.*

**Application:**

Isn’t it true that we are our most unhealthy at those times when we’re trying hardest to impress others?

When we look to others for the approval we should be seeking from God, we become spiritually dehydrated and malnourished. We may look like perfection on the outside, but inside we’re just barely hanging on. As Collette put it, "You’re the most unhealthy the day of a show!"

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them" (John 7:37-38).

### Robin Williams hanged himself on 11 August 2014 at age 63

#### “In mid-2014, Williams had admitted himself into the [Hazelden Foundation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazelden_Foundation) Addiction Treatment Center in [Lindstrom, Minnesota](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindstrom,_Minnesota), for continued sobriety treatment related to his alcoholism.[[114]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robin_Williams#cite_note-114)

#### According to his publicist, Williams suffered from depression.” (Wikipedia). He also was addicted to cocaine.

### Korean Worker (DS Sim Oct 7th 2013) at the Economist [Comments](http://www.economist.com/blogs/freeexchange/2013/09/working-hours)

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#### When I am done with my daily work and try to leave, I find my bosses and all the staff still there working. I am the newest employee, which means I am the LOWEST among everybody, and the military and collectivist culture prevalent here does not let me leave earlier than people HIGH up above. When I dare to leave for home in this situation, it means I accept that I will become an official outcast.

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#### During weekends, we, new employees, would practice dancing, or get drafted to go to a trip with team members, or do all the sundry other things that the company requires us to. We, newest, thus lowest employees dance in front of every staff and directors when there is a party thrown by the company.

#### In this hellish situation, I find it almost impossible to make any personal plans and build my own individual life for myself. I always dream of leaving this inferno. I want to get a life.

#### It is not just me. Almost everybody working in this country is suffering from the same horrible thing every day for life. I want to get out of here. We want life.

# Possible Applications

### Tex

What is the driving force in your work (4:6)? What should it be?

### t

**Workaholic Woes**

***Ecclesiastes 4***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The reasons to avoid being a workaholic are no comforters, rest, beneficiaries, friends, or followers.

# I. Workaholics have no comforters (4:1-3).

## Workaholics often oppress others but no one comforts the workaholic (4:1).

## Death may be better than the oppressed life (4:2).

## "People" never conceived are better off than the dead or the oppressed (4:3).

# II. Workaholics have no rest (4:4-6).

## The compulsive competitor only achieves futility in life (4:4).

## The lazy sluggard destroys himself (4:5).

## The balanced worker is better than the compulsive competitor (4:6).

# III. Workaholics have no beneficiaries (4:7-8).

## He works his tail off even though he only needs to support himself (4:7-8a).

## He never has "enough" money (4:8b; cf. Luke 12:13-21).

## He asks himself if all his work is really worth not enjoying life but doesn’t make any changes (4:8c).

# IV. Workaholics have no friends (4:9-12).

## Friends accomplish more than two independent workaholics (4:9).

## Friends help each other when weak (4:10).

## Friends comfort each other when vulnerable (4:11).

## Friends protect each other when attacked (4:12).

# V. Workaholics have no followers (4:13-16).

## Being poor, young and wise is better than being rich, old and foolish (4:13).

## Although one from humble roots can become a popular king, even **his** prestige, power and influence are transitory (4:14-16).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will replace workaholism with the desire to please God.

PREACHED MAIN IDEA & OUTLINE

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: We live in a workaholic “paradise.” Everything around us tells us to work longer, harder, and smarter.

### Need: Are you are a workaholic? Why do you work at the job you’re at right now? What motivates you to work?

### Subject: Why avoid being a workaholic?

### Background: Solomon was a workaholic and saw many others who were workaholics, so he penned his observations for our benefit.

### Preview: Irving L. Jensen calls this chapter the curses of the lonely workaholic. There are five such “woes” he lists here.

### Text: Ecclesiastes 4 calls us to avoid workaholism by giving us the woes of the workaholic.

# I. Workaholics have no comforters (4:1-3).

## Workaholics often oppress others but no one comforts the workaholic (4:1).

## Death may be better than the oppressed life (4:2).

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# V. Workaholics have no followers (4:13-16).

## Being poor, young and wise is better than being rich, old and foolish (4:13).

## Although one from humble roots can become a popular king, even **his** prestige, power and influence are transitory (4:14-16).

# Conclusion

### Work at not becoming a workaholic (Main Idea).

### How can you tell if you are a workaholic?

#### Do any of these signs describe you or your motives for work?

#### What really drives you in your work?

#### What is God requiring you to do about it?

ORIGINAL MAIN IDEA & OUTLINE

**Subject:** Bad motives for doing your job

**Complement:** include envy, greed, and prestige.

**Main Idea:** Bad motives for doing your job include envy, greed, and prestige

# Introduction

### Why do you work at the job you’re at right now? What motivates you to work?

### Today we’re going to look at four motives that inspire people to work. In fact, these four enticements inspire people to **over**work. The incentives are elaborated upon in Ecclesiastes 4:4-16.

# I. Power is a meaningless motive for work (4:1-3).

[Oppression hurts people so much one wonders if it’s better to have never existed at all (4:1-3).]

## The people with power oppress others while no one comforts them (4:1).

## Death itself may be better than life under oppression by others (4:2).

## "People" who were never conceived are better off than the dead or the oppressed (4:3).

# II. Envy is a meaningless motive for work (4:4-6).

## The compulsive competitor only achieves futility in life (4:4).

## The lazy sluggard destroys himself (4:5).

## The balanced worker is better than the compulsive competitor (4:6).

(So the first useless incentive for work is rivalry against a fellow employee. Solomon continued his observations of meaningless work with an insight concerning a man who had no one to share the fruits of his labor…)

# III. Greed is a meaningless motive for work (4:7-12).

## An insatiable covetousness provides the stimulus for some men to work themselves to their grave in loneliness and futility (4:7-8).

### He works his tail off even though he only needs to support himself (4:8a).

### He never has "enough" money (4:8b).

### He never asks himself if all his work is really worth not enjoying life (4:8c).

(In verses 7-8 we see a man who labors in loneliness-- the "self-made independent man." What he doesn’t realize about relationships is that friendships benefit both persons who invest in the relationship. Solomon goes on to state some positive benefits of friendships in verses 9-12).

## Strong friendships are mutually beneficial (4:9-12).

### Friendships provide mutual specialization yielding greater productivity (4:9).

### Friendships provide mutual assistance when helpless (4:10).

### Friendships provide mutual comfort when vulnerable (4:11).

Moomins can help! http://edition.cnn.com/2014/05/15/travel/japan-moomin-cafe/?utm\_source=Illustration+Exchange&utm\_campaign=5e292b4244-Featured&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_96c014eddc-5e292b4244-274535173

### Friendships provide mutual protection when attacked (4:12).

(We’ve seen that both envy and greed are poor incentives for labor, and now King Solomon continues to give us the final meaningless enticement to work hard…)

# IV. Prestige is a meaningless motive for work (4:13-16).

## It is better to be poor and wise (and without influence) than to be powerful (rich, influential) and foolish (4:13).

(Why is it true that being a wise, poor man is better than being a foolish, rich man? Because of fame’s fatal flaw…)

## Although one from humble roots can become a popular king, even **his** prestige, power and influence are transitory (4:14-16a).

## Prestige (which is attained and soon lost) is a vain and wasted pursuit (4:16b).

# Conclusion

### We’ve discussed three improper motivations for doing our jobs: envy, greed, and prestige. Solomon described each of these incentives as vanity and striving after wind.

### There’s another interesting way to outline this passage (Irving L. Jensen, adapted):

**The Curses of the Lonely Workaholic (4:1-16) He has…**

No Comforters (4:1-3)

No Rest (4:4-6)

No Beneficiaries (4:7-8)

No Friends (4:9-12)

No Followers (4:13-16)

### How can you tell if someone is a workaholic?

Do any of these signs describe you or your motives for work?

What really drives you in your work?

What is God requiring you to do about it?



**Rick Griffith**

17 August 2014

Message 6 of 17

**Workaholic Woes**

***Ecclesiastes 4***

# Introduction

### We live in a workaholic “paradise.” Everything around us tells us to work longer, harder, and smarter.

### Are you are a workaholic?

### Why \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ being a workaholic?

# I. Workaholics have no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (4:1-3).

## Workaholics often oppress others but no one comforts the workaholic (4:1).

## Death may be better than the oppressed life (4:2).

## "People" never conceived are better off than the dead or the oppressed (4:3).

# II. Workaholics have no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (4:4-6).

## The compulsive competitor only achieves futility in life (4:4).

## The lazy sluggard destroys himself (4:5).

## The balanced worker is better than the compulsive competitor (4:6).

# III. Workaholics have no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (4:7-8).

## He works his tail off even though he only needs to support himself (4:7-8a).

## He never has "enough" money (4:8b).

## He asks himself if all his work is really worth not enjoying life but doesn’t make any changes (4:8c).

# IV. Workaholics have no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (4:9-12).

## Friends accomplish more than two independent workaholics (4:9).

## Friends help each other when weak (4:10).

## Friends comfort each other when vulnerable (4:11).

## Friends protect each other when attacked (4:12).

# V. Workaholics have no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (4:13-16).

## Being poor, young and wise is better than being rich, old and foolish (4:13).

## Although one from humble roots can become a popular king, even **his** prestige, power and influence are transitory (4:14-16).

# Conclusion

### \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at not becoming a workaholic (Main Idea).

### How can you tell if you are a workaholic?

#### Do any of these signs describe you or your motives for work?

#### What really drives you in your work?

#### What is God requiring you to do about it?

**Thought Questions**

1. Read all of Ecclesiastes 4 aloud. What examples in your experience have you seen that relate to verses 1-8?

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1. Why did God make man such a social being (4:9-12)?

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1. How many people are spoken of in 4:13-16? Who are they?

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1. Which of the five woes can you best relate to? What should you do?

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