NOW THE WHOLE EARTH HAD ONE LANGUAGE AND THE SAME WORDS. AND AS PEOPLE MIGRATED FROM THE EAST, THEY FOUND A PLAIN IN THE LAND OF SHINAR AND SETTLED THERE. AND THEY SAID TO ONE ANOTHER, "COME, LET US MAKE BRICKS, AND BURN THEM THOROUGHLY." AND THEY HAD BRICK FOR STONE, AND BITUMEN FOR MORTAR. THEN THEY SAID, "COME, LET US BUILD OURSELVES A CITY AND A

GENESIS 11:1-4

TOWER WITH ITS TOP IN THE HEAVENS, AND LET US MAKE A NAME FOR OURSELVES, LEST WE BE DISPERSED OVER THE FACE OF THE WHOLE EARTH."

GENESIS 11:1-4



GOD'S PURPOSE IN OUR LABORS

GENESIS 111 v. 1-4

"WORK IS WHERE I FIND MY IDENTITY."

GENESIS 111 v. 1-4

WHEN WE REJECT OUR GOD-GIVEN IDENTITY, WE WILL ALWAYS TRY TO CREATE AN IDENTITY FOR OURSELVES.

FOR MY PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED TWO EVILS:
THEY HAVE FORSAKEN ME, THE FOUNTAIN OF
LIVING WATERS, AND HEWED OUT CISTERNS FOR
THEMSELVES, BROKEN CISTERNS THAT CAN HOLD
NO WATER.

JEREMIAH 2:13



THE ECONOMISTS OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY DID NOT FORESEE THAT WORK MIGHT EVOLVE FROM A MEANS OF MATERIAL PRODUCTION TO A MEANS OF IDENTITY PRODUCTION. THEY FAILED TO ANTICIPATE THAT, FOR THE POOR AND MIDDLE CLASS, WORK WOULD REMAIN A NECESSITY; BUT FOR THE COLLEGE-EDUCATED ELITE, IT WOULD MORPH INTO A KIND OF RELIGION, PROMISING

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IDENTITY, TRANSCENDENCE, AND COMMUNITY. CALL IT WORKISM. THE DECLINE OF TRADITIONAL FAITH IN AMERICA HAS COINCIDED WITH AN EXPLOSION OF NEW ATHEISMS. SOME PEOPLE WORSHIP BEAUTY, SOME WORSHIP POLITICAL IDENTITIES, AND OTHERS WORSHIP THEIR CHILDREN. BUT EVERYBODY WORSHIPS SOMETHING. AND WORKISM IS AMONG THE

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MOST POTENT OF THE NEW RELIGIONS
COMPETING FOR CONGREGANTS. WHAT IS
WORKISM? IT IS THE BELIEF THAT WORK IS NOT
ONLY NECESSARY TO ECONOMIC PRODUCTION,
BUT ALSO THE CENTERPIECE OF ONE'S IDENTITY
AND LIFE'S PURPOSE...

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• IS YOUR MOOD OVERLY AFFECTED BY YOUR WORK?

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