

Toward a Theology of Work

— A Tentative Approach Starting from *Laborum Exercens*

(An abstract)

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This paper starts with a summary of the encyclical *Laborum Exercens* (1981). Then it critically engages with some important commentators. We focus the discussion on the subjective aspect of work — namely the theological anthropology behind various theologies of work. It furthers the discussion by surveying the conception of work of Karl Barth, whose theology of work also hinges upon his theological anthropology. It then sets work and the Sabbath in dialectical relationship as the context of discussion, and it proposes a relational approach to the theology of work based on a relational anthropology.