

**FAITH AND WORK**

# FAITH AND WORK

*Four Points*

1. What work **IS**
2. What work **IS NOT**
3. What **MOTIVATES** our vocation and the **CHOICE** of it
4. What is the **PURPOSE** of work?

# FAITH AND WORK

## *What Work Is*

**GENESIS 1:26-31:** <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that

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## *What Work Is*

**GENESIS 1:26-31:** moves on the earth.” <sup>29</sup> And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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## What Work Is

God said...it is very good, the completion of his creation with man given charge over it.

- *Not much debate*
- *Historical consensus on passage*
- *Be: fruitful, multiply, subdue, have dominion*

The complex interdependent enormous organism called earth needed shepherding and man was appointed that task

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## *What Work Is*

- A. God's gift for man
- B. Not originally toilsome
  - A. Holy and holistic by nature
  - B. Was in place before the Fall

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*Work Is Not*

What happened?

SIN...

- A. Brought infection
- B. Skewed original intention of the gift
  - A. Skewed our perception of work

# FAITH AND WORK

*Work Is Not*

**PSALM 127:1-2:** Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. <sup>2</sup> It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.



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Work Is Not

THE WORLD SAYS:

*Monotonous*

*Hard manual labor, egregious*

*Poor wages, unsustainable*

*Beauty perverted*

*Labor and management disputes*

*Just out of reach*

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*Work Is Not*

WHAT IS THE WORLD'S DEFINITION?

*A necessary evil*

*TGIF*

*Idol of weekend*

SELFISH

PURPOSELESS

FRUITLESS

LUDICROUS FRIVOLITY

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*Work Is Not*

## HOW DOES THE GOSPEL REDEEM WORK?

Christ's redemption was overarching

- It covered every aspect
- Original gift returned opportunistically

# FAITH AND WORK

*What Motivates our Vocation and the Choice of It*

**COLOSSIANS 3:22-24:** Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

# FAITH AND WORK

*What Motivates our Vocation and the Choice of It*

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31-33: <sup>31</sup> So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God

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*What Motivates our Vocation and the Choice of It*

**EPHESIANS 6:5-9:** Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, <sup>6</sup> not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup> rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, <sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. <sup>9</sup> Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

# FAITH AND WORK

*What Motivates our Vocation and the Choice of It*

What did Jesus say was the greatest commandment?

*Love God*

*Love others as self*

Redemption opens the believers' eyes and gives  
power to obey

*Fulfill original mandate Good works (not apart from  
Christ or new creation realities)*

*Work wholeheartedly unto God, He rewards*

*Ultimately we are eternal minded, so our perspective  
is not catering to the World's view on vocation*

# FAITH AND WORK

*What Motivates our Vocation and the Choice of It*

**NOT:**

Get yours

You deserve better

They are not respecting you

Taking advantage of you

Wages are king

Education is king

Prestige is king



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*What Motivates our Vocation and the Choice of It*

**MATTHEW 6:30-34:** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. <sup>34</sup> "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

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*What Motivates our Vocation and the Choice of It*

Or will we choose to dine on anxious bread?

Do you believe God actually sees all?

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*What Is Work's Purpose?*

To honor God in fulfilling His purpose, His plan and  
the use of His gifts given to individuals

*Man as Earth's shepherding*

*Plan is always redemptive*

*Man in His image bestowed with gifts and talents*

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*What Is Work's Purpose?*

Vocation is another language we use to tell the  
redemptive story

*Why don't you fret, strive, claw?*

*Why do you honor, or work when no one else sees, or do  
more than expected or trust even when seemingly  
burned?*

*Why do you love your neighbor as yourself?*

*We obey in fulfilling NOT just His commands but in His  
way by His power, We are now CAPABLE*

*Reward is not just a paycheck, but soul-ish fulfillment*

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*What Is Work's Purpose?*

To mold and shape us

*Character*

*Image*

*Identity*

# FAITH AND WORK

What Is Work's Purpose?

**NOT**

*Identity, rich or low...being careful about the ebb and flow with the winds of worldly instability.*

*To gain financial foothold of security*

*Stepping stone to “real” success*

# FAITH AND WORK

*What Is Work's Purpose?*

**EPHESIANS 2:10:** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

His workmanship-fashioned, shaped, empowered to do good works, including vocation.

*Actions speak louder*

*Are you telling the redemption story with righteous attitude, passion, submission?*

Are you giving fodder to unbelievers to blaspheme God?

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*What Is Work's Purpose?*

Note how many parables, stories, and analogies are used in Proverbs, the Gospels, and letters to the Church that use work as a focal point/center piece.

*Rebuking sluggards and laziness*

*Encouraging hard work*

*Wise financial, business, stewardship “counting the cost”*

*Chastening both workers and bosses alike*

*Arrogance and assumption of building bigger barns*

*Just or even scales*

*Bargain down a worthy purchase then brag about a great deal*



# FAITH AND WORK

## *Application Questions*

- Does my current or future employment by the nature of its makeup honor or dishonor the Lord?
- Do I or will I in my vocation, regardless of circumstances, honor the Lord?
- Do I need to alter my course to enhance the possibilities of my life fulfilling His general calling?

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