

Faith and Work/Vocation, part two

Review: The foundation for work, God's design for work, the purpose of work

The Distortion of Work

¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; **in pain you shall bring forth children**. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." ¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' **cursed is the ground because of you**; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ **thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you**; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ **By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread**, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Gen 3:16-19)

For the **creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope (Rom 8:20)

[Read: Ecclesiastes 2:18-23]

Freedom From the Idol of Work

¹ Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ 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. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a 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."

⁵ And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let **us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech**."

(Genesis 11:1-7)

Over-identification with work: work for self-satisfaction // working to make a difference in the world)

Freedom From Idleness in Work

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: **If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat**. ¹¹ For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to **do their work quietly and to earn their own living**. (2Th 3:10-12)

...aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to **work with your hands**, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one. (1Thessalonians 4:11-12)

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, **so that he may have something to share with anyone in need**. (Ephesians 4:28)

A New Master

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? **You are not your own**, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God**. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

⁵ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ **rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man**, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁹ 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. (Ephesians 6:5-9)

The Power for Work

You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God. (1 Corinthians 7:23-24)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1)

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:23-24)

The Rest From Work

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work.... ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore **the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy**. (Exodus 20:8-11)

¹² "Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work... ¹⁵ **You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt**, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. (Deuteronomy 5:12-15)

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls**. For **my yoke is easy**, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)