

A New Boss: Jesus' Work Changes Our Work

- We work for a new Master (Rom 6:18), and we have a new assignment (1 Cor. 10:31), new hearts (Eze. 36:26), and new rewards (Col. 3:24), and a new goal: faithfulness (Mat 25:21)
- Working for Jesus = Freedom to Trust, Rest, Serve, and Excel

Imaging Christ By Our Work Attitudes

- Not complaining (Php. 2:14-16), happy submission to authority (Col 3:23), unfeigned humility (Php. 2:5-8)

Six Good Questions to Ask Re: Finding Paid Employment

The “Must-Haves” of Paid Employment

1. Can this job glorify God?
2. Does this job permit me to live a Godly life?
 - A. Does this job allow me to be faithful in my other assignments?
 - B. Does this job allow me to be involved in my local church?
 - C. Do the temptations of this job reinforce my besetting sins?
3. Does this job provide for my needs and allow me to be a blessing to others?

The “Nice-to-haves” of Paid Employment

1. Does this job have potential to improve me as a person?
2. Does this job use my gifts and talents?
3. Is this job something I want to do?

Suggested Reading

- *The Gospel at Work: How Working for King Jesus Gives Purpose and Meaning to Our Jobs* (Traeger, Gilbert)
- *Masculine Mandate: God's Calling to Men* (Phillips)
- *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life* (Guinness)
- *God at Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life* (Veith)
- *Biblical Productivity* (Mahaney), available online

A Biblical Theology of Work

Introduction

Big Idea #1: God made work, and He made us to work (2 Thess. 3:10, Prov. 12:11, Eph. 4:28)

*Important distinction: We *all* work.

- **Our Primary Calling:** By Christ, to Christ, for Christ (Rom. 8:30; 2 Thess. 2:14; Rom 1:6; Eph. 2)
- **Secondary Callings:** Serve God in *all* of life (Eph. 2; Col. 3:22-24)

Big Idea #2: As Christians, we should be neither be *idle at work*, nor make an *idol out of work*.

I. Creation

The story of work begins with God, who is a worker.

Gen. 2:2: “By the seventh day, God had finished the *work* he had been doing...”

We are the *work product* of God, made in his image (Gen 1:26)

God put Adam & Eve in the garden to *work* and *guard* it. (Gen. 2:15)

Lesson #1: The original purpose of human work was the advancement of human flourishing to the glory of God.

II. Fall

Because of sin, three things changed about *work*:

1. It is now *toilsome*. (Gen 3:17-19)
2. It is now *futile*. (Gen 3:18)
3. It is now *compulsory* for survival. (Gen. 3:19)

There is also a change in the *workers*:

Some no longer use work to worship God, but to worship idols. They are defined by their work. (e.g. Gen 11:1-4)

Others call on the name of the Lord, and are defined by the name of the Lord whom they worship. (Gen 4:26)

We, too, can be tempted to be defined *by* work—or by freedom *from* work. We should define ourselves not by our relationship to work, but to God.

Lesson #2: The problem with work is a lost connection between God, worship, and work.

APPLICATION: Do you make an *idol* of your work?

1. *Is your work the primary source of your satisfaction?*
2. *Is your work all about being the best so you can make a name for yourself?*
3. *Is your work primarily about making a difference in the world?*

APPLICATION: Are you *idle* in your work?

1. *Is your work is merely a means to an end, a place to serve your own needs?*
2. *Does your work totally frustrate you?*
3. *Has your work become divorced from your Christian discipleship?*

III. Redemption

The work of Christ was redemption—to take away the sin of the world. “It is finished!” (John 19:30).

People are redeemed. **Work** is *not*.

How does redemption change *workers*?

We repent of idolatrous attitudes toward work, because our identity is no longer in work but in Christ. Col. 3:1-3.

We once again work as worship to God. Co. 3:17, 22-23.

Lesson #3: As redeemed sinners, our work can now show off God’s work, to the glory of God. It can be worship again.

IV. Restoration

Romans 8: “creation itself also will be set free from its slavery”

Deuteronomy 6:10-12 “land [with] great and splendid cities which you did not build, and houses full of all good things which you did not fill...”

Isaiah 65:17,23 “I will create new heavens and a new earth ... They will not labor in vain.”