

Video: OR: Working on House

If you work 8 hours a day, (which most work more!) then you spend 1/3 of your waking hours at work!
Despite the fact that we spend so much of our life at work, many of us have no idea what God has to say about it.
Unfortunately, for most of us, we allow the culture around us to dictate how we work rather than God.

For the next 2-3 weeks I want to look with you at work...and learn together HOW we should be approaching this area of life
Many of us have never considered work from a spiritual perspective, and because of that we are all upside down!
If we are going to get our lives in order...Live Up in A Down World, then we need to see work from God's perspective.
Work is one of the most critical areas of life...and God has a LOT to say about it!

1. Work Was Created By God As A Blessing For Us!

- Work reflects God's creative nature and makes us like Him 1:26 *Created in His image* 2:2 rested
- Work Gives us the opportunity to partner with Him in His activity 2:8 He planted (fixed) we keep
- Work Provides meaningful purpose for us 2:15
~Work: Lit = (*dress, to serve, to till*) (Gardener)
~Keep: Lit = (*to Guard, to protect, attend, take heed to*) (Caretaker) Watch over,
- Work Provides for our needs: 1:29 (more immediate in Garden)

Applic:

1. Work was always intended by God to be a GOOD thing!
2. Work was designed to connect us with God
3. Work had purpose and significance and important outcome

BUT!

2. Sin Corrupted Work And God's Blessing Was Turned Into A Curse.

- Pleasant, Productive labor turned into Painful toil 3:17-18
- Blessing of beautiful place became curse of Banishment to wilderness 3:18, 23
~2:15 Put in the Garden of Eden (place perfectly established and created by God)
~18 Field (wild place) (Place outside the Garden where plants were wild (Jungle!!!) Desert
~23 Banished (Send away, cast out, throw away, push out)
- Presence of God became the absence of relationship
~3:8 God came to walk with them in the Garden in the cool of the evening
~3:23-24 God established a guardian angel to keep them from the Garden AND the presence of God
- Purpose became Pain Instead of tending and keeping...Toiling and Sweating
- Life became Death Traded Tree of Life for the Wilderness without God...Result was Death!

Applic:

1. Sin Ruined everything! We woefully underestimate the impact of sin...EVERYTHING was affected!
2. What we have...is NOT what God created or intended!
3. God gave us blessing and relationship and Purpose...We exchanged that for curse, separation and emptiness

BUT!

3. A Relationship With Jesus Redeems Not Just Us...But Our Work As Well.

If we work UP...instead of DOWN...God redeems our work: But, we have to be intentionally biblical, not cultural
There is more to life than just "survival"...Empty Provision...Power...Purchasing Power...

If we start to work in a way that honors God...if we allow Him to redeem not just us...but our WORK!

- Jn 4:24: Redeemed work returns us to fulfilling God's intention by doing His work
- Jn 6:27: Redeemed work provides us an opportunity to touch eternal things
- Jn 9:4: Redeemed work requires us to understand we have limited opportunity
- 1 Cor 3:13 Redeemed work will be judged by God, not our bosses!
- 1 Cor 10:31 Redeemed work reflects the character of God and the quality of our relationship with Him!

CONCL

Those reasons...Help us to do what Peter tells us to do:

1. Live such good lives 1 Peter 2:11-12
2. Respect:
3. Submit: Voluntarily Allow them to be over you;

BECAUSE HOW YOU WORK...REFLECTS ON YOUR ULTIMATE BOSS!

ILLUS: When I was in construction: "You Can't See It From My House!" YOU CAN SEE IT FROM HIS!!!

Do you need to make some adjustments in how YOU work? Do you need to develop a different attitude? Ask for Help?