

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Does Our Work Matter To God?

Overview: Many Christians go to work daily without an understanding of the connection between their work and careers, and what is God's plan and purpose for their life. Most Christians separate their work and faith lives. And every Christian at work or in business faces challenges and test that makes it difficult to live a Christ like lifestyle. Our work does matter to God, and God does want us to work, so how do we fit our faith into our work, our work into our faith, and understand how our work is fulfilling God's will for us?

Hearing Our Stories: Jeff Jones

Segment Questions:

Work is a means to several ends. Go through these five primary reasons that God gives us to work, and address how each relates to your life and God's command.

1. My work serves people. (Who, how, how far reaching?)
2. My work meets my own personal needs. (And what are those needs?)
3. My work takes care of my family's needs. (And what are those needs?)
4. My work earns money to give to others. (In what ways does your support help?)
5. My works shows my love for God, and helps me realize his love for me. (How?)

Can you see how God uses the workplace to train us to be conformed to the image of His Son?

Action Questions:

How can you we use our work to build our faith and strengthen our relationship with God?

Take home question:

By reading David acknowledgement of God's greatness and his amazing gifts to us, we can also see what He asked us to become stewards of on earth. This was our first assignment from God.

Psalm 8:3-8 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

How are we doing?

Prayer: Dear God, we give thanks for the gifts you have given us, and the opportunity to work and to serve you. We pray that our work and our lives satisfy you, and that we come closer to helping fulfill your goal of having everyone human being on earth know, believe in, follow and love your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We will do this through our service to you all the days of our lives. Amen

INTRODUCTION

On March 26th Ron Remak presented on THE MARGIN CHALLENGE, and the need to create Margin in our lives. Ron referenced God taking day 7 as a day of rest and charged us with starting our day 5 to 10 minutes earlier so we would spend time with God, and start our day with a bit of margin. Today's lesson is not to contradict the lesson from March 26th, but it is about the other six days of our week, the work week, and how it fulfills God's plan for us.

Today, through our daily work we serve God. God is Lord of all of life so therefore every event in our life comes under His concern. In the book *Your Work Matters To God*, by Doug Sherman and William Hendricks, they write, "God uses everything in the workplace to train our character. He uses the evils we face, the people we cannot stand, the circumstances of tension and pressure, the tedium of long afternoons, the solicitations to compromise, the irritations of angry customers, the interruptions, the financial reversals, the deals that fall through, even the traffic on the way home (when all the students are back)—He uses all of it to make us more like Jesus." God uses the workplace to train us to be conformed to the image of His Son.

So our needing to work, like everything else in this universe, was designed, created and is overseen by God. To me, work is something that falls into the same category as death and taxes. It is part of life, whether it is at a paying job, or taking care of your home on Saturday, it is part of God's plan. You just cannot get around that fact that God wants us to work, He commanded us to work, and literally on day 1, God modeled for us how to work.

Genesis 1: 1-3. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light." And there was light.

This began the act of working. Then over the next 5 days he separated the light from darkness, created evening and morning, He created land, vegetation, stars, living creatures in the water and on land, and then God created man.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

God's week was no vacation, it was work, and it pleased God when his work week was done and His job was done well.

Genesis 2: 1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the **work** he had been doing; so, on the seventh day he rested from all his **work**. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the **work** of creating that he had done.

And after this work was done, God took up his seat in the "C Suite", and as we read in Genesis 1:26, God commanded man to go to work following the day of rest. So man got his marching orders on what to do starting Monday morning. God clearly was, and is, in charge. But, he wanted leaders, and partners on earth to run the day to day of this operation.

Relevant Verses.

2 Thessalonians 3 ... but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we might not be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, that you might follow our example.

1 Timothy 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him who steals no longer, but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.