

Work and the Worker

I. THE PLACE OF WORK

The Garden of Eden was a _____ not a _____.

Almost everyone has problems with their job. It is too boring, too time consuming, too pressured, too much to do, too little to do, meaningless, full of conflicts, can't get along with others, the company is bad, persecution.

Even for the Christian in his job, there is confusion, frustration, imbalance, bad attitudes, and in many cases, just plain sin.

A. God's View of Work

1. Old Testament View:

Exodus 34:21 – Everyone is supposed to work. *“Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during the plowing season and harvest you must rest.”*

2. New Testament View:

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 teaches us:

- Earn your own way
- Have a good reputation with the world
- Provide for the needs of the family

“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.”

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12 teaches us the reasons for work:

“For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”

We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not

busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat”.

3. No work is secular - Colossians 3:23

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your _____, as working for the _____, not for _____.”

B. True/False Test

- God loves some things more than others.
- There is a hierarchical view of life: God, family, work, ministry, in that order.
- Reading the scriptures is more important than work at the factory.
- Witnessing is more important than doing Bible study.
- Being a full-time Christian worker is more valuable than being an Engineer or a teacher.
- Churches, pastors and mission organizations are the primary carriers of the Gospel.

II. FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS

A. Premises

1. The gospel is carried primarily by _____ and _____, locally and _____ (Cape Town Survey)
2. We need to _____, _____, _____ and _____.

B. Two Errors in Energizing Lay Men and Women

1. They have not been _____
2. Real disciples go “_____ - _____”

CONSIDER FOUR CONCEPTS

C. Work is _____ Genesis 2:15-17, 2:18-24

1. First divine institution is _____
2. Second divine institution is _____

D. Work is _____ !
Colossians 3:23

E. Work is a calling, not a demand

F. Work is your place of _____ and _____ God.

I Thessalonians 4:11, 12

III. SUMMARY THOUGHTS

- A. Ordinary men and women are the _____
- B. They are the primary carriers of the _____
- C. _____ men and women must be _____, _____, _____ and _____
- D. The Theology of Laity
(Acts 4:12-13 NIV)
- E. OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

1. The Theology of Ministry or Mission - Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

2. The Theology of Sending the Nation to the Nations

In missions, business and work are not so much a platform but a pathway.

Business and work are the new _____

3. The full-time Christian worker

IV. CONCLUSION

In work you are contributing to:

- To society

- To God's Kingdom

Reference: Tim Keller, Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work; (NY, NY: Penguin Group, November 2012)