

4Ws

work
matters

WORK MATTERS!

MARCH 20, 2022

WORSHIP

Praise Him Forever, Still
Standing, Eternal God,
Unbroken Praise

WELCOME

On a scale of 1-5, 1 being
the lowest and 5 being the
highest, rate your enthusiasm
for work. Why did you give
that rating?

WORD

COLOSSIANS 3:22-24

²² Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.
²³ Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,
²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

How many hours do you spend working? You spend your waking hours most of the time at work. You have three spheres of influence – family, your friends, and the workplace where you spend most of your time. People don't realize that work is designed by God. It is the call of God. It is the worship of God. There is much theology that goes along the idea of work. Theology impacts your attitude, behavior, and even the way you work.

Today, there is a "Great Resignation" around the world – because the pandemic has highlighted the stress of the usual demands of work. But it is possible to enjoy work if we have the right perspective!

1. PLAN OF GOD

Genesis 2:7-9, shows that work is a plan of God – yes, even in paradise! God modeled work by His creation. The word "cultivate" means to work. God could have made everything such that man will not have to do anything to make things flourish. However, we're made in the image of God, and we will not find fulfillment until we see work as a blessing.

People who are able to work but don't, lose their joy, are anxious, and are left unsure and fearful.

Work is part of God's plan for us to partner with Him. In fact, in **Revelation 22:3-5**, there is no more curse in heaven, yet there will still be work to do – we shall reign with Him!

God gives a clear command in **Exodus 20:9-11** to describe the details of work – six days of working, and a day for resting. God never gets tired, He does not need to rest – but since He designed us, He desired to model this concept to us. Any responsibility given to you is work, and you got to do it to the best of your ability. We were made to work!

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 is an example of the Apostle Paul's stand on the importance of work. He speaks of a strict standard, because when we work, we become blessed and become an instrument to bless others.

2. CALL OF GOD

Call (Latin: vocare), the root word of "VOCATION", roots us back to God. Everything we do is a calling from God! This is important, because until we understand God's calling, we will never understand what we are doing. The Master was the One who called us! **Galatians 1:5** describes Paul's calling as coming from God, and his pleasure of serving God by fulfilling this call. Paul shared the background of his calling in **Acts 22:8-10** where Jesus appeared to Paul despite his past actions and even his unbelieving heart. He was transformed just by meeting the Master along that Damascus road! Paul learned that there was something God appointed for him to do. Have we all come to know what God has appointed us to do and fulfill?

WORD

There are myths going around in Christianity:

- Myth of Clergy vs Laity
- Myth of Full-time vs Part-time
- Myth of Secular vs Sacred

Whatever we do, at home, in the kitchen, at work, school, or office – we do everything for the Lord. Anything you do with the wrong motive becomes secular. He is the One who calls us and appoints for us to do specific missions in this life! **1 Peter 2:9** reminds us we are “**chosen**”, that we are part of a “**royal priesthood**”, and a “**holy nation**”. Our job description is clear – to “**proclaim the excellencies of Him**” in whatever we do! Further, in **1 Peter 4:10-11**, we were told that we received a “**special gift**” and we are to “**employ it in serving one another**”. You don’t just look for a job because it pays you the highest, but to consider where you can bless the Name of God the most! We work with the strength that God supplies us, and the aim is that “God may be glorified through Jesus Christ”!

All work are of equal value; **Exodus 31:1-6** is an example of this, when God called by name, Bezalel and Oholiab to do manual labor/artistic design for building the Tabernacle! If you are a child of God, you will value your calling! God calls us (salvation), and God cleanses us (sanctification), for the purpose of doing His work for us (service). Work is SACRED!

3. WORSHIP OF GOD

In **Genesis 2:15**, the word “cultivate” is from the Hebrew word, AVODAH, the same word for worship! We see this in **Joshua 24:15**, where all the appearances of the word “serve” is still AVODAH – working is worshipping the LORD! We have a choice-- who will we worship? What are things we serve? Is it money? Pleasure? Choose to work because you are SERVING and WORSHIPPING GOD!

When you go to work to worship God, how will you behave? Paul addresses slaves in **Colossians 3:22-24**. Slaves had no rights yet Paul pointed out that IN ALL THINGS they are to obey their masters; no matter the work assigned, to do it heartily. Truly work becomes worship when you do it FOR THE LORD rather than FOR MEN. Are you doing your best for Jesus? It is indeed the Lord Christ whom we serve!

What are your gifts, opportunities, and life realities? How do you use all of that to do God’s work? An example of this will be Aquila and Priscilla (**Acts 18:2-3**) – tentmakers working with the Apostle Paul to spread the good news. **Romans 16:3-4** describes them as “fellow workers in ministry”. **Acts 18:24-25** also describes them as Bible teachers who corrected Apollos. Their house (**1 Corinthians 16:19**) had people meeting there, like a small group! Indeed, whatever we do for God will never be in vain.

Matthew 25:21 perfectly ends this message – my we bring joy to our Master as we do our best in the work He has given us to do! Today, we may not gain the rewards we expect, but remember – our Heavenly Master appreciates, and will reward us for sure!

DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Self-Check.**
What’s your attitude towards work?
- 2. Setting It Right.**
How did it change after hearing the message? What will you do right this time?
- 3. Living It Out.**
How will you honor God through your work and win people for the Lord?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE
IN ACTION

Pray for those who need a fresh perspective and attitude about work that they will choose joy despite circumstances and challenges. Extend care by checking up on them and listening to their heart’s concerns in whatever season of life they may be in. Encourage at least one person by praying for them and share the love of Christ, share the gospel that will strengthen and help them endure and overcome.

WEEKLY
PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines; their repentance and salvation
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop; peace and order be restored, lives spared. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ; refugees be given safe passage into surrounding nations.n

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

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