



# The Biblical Priorities of Life

“My love is a lot like me  
Wanting nothing less than everything  
But I know, You're the only love that's true  
And only giving makes me close to You”

—Smalltown Poets, “I'll Give”

## Part 8 —“Our Work in the World”— 9/26/21

### Introduction

- As we have seen throughout this study, God's word provides for us a framework by which to rightly order the various relationships of our lives and also casts a vision for how God intends to work in and through us within them. Along with our relationship with Christ and those relationships within our family and church community, all believers have a responsibility to relate properly to the work that God has entrusted to us.

**Key Point:** It is through our work in the world that God uses us to \_\_\_\_\_ His creation while also bringing us to maturity and conforming us to the image of Christ.

### A Biblical Theology of Work

#### God's Good Design

Gen. 1:28a—And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion...

- The Cultural Mandate conveys God's \_\_\_\_\_ which is both spoken over and delegated to the man and woman in order that they might cultivate His creation for His glory.
- The Cultural Mandate conveys God's \_\_\_\_\_ as the work of cultivation would be done for the benefit of the man and woman as well as others.

**Key Point:** The work entrusted to them would involve the cultivation of both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

Gen. 2:15—The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

- The work entrusted to mankind is both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
“work” \_\_\_\_\_ “keep” \_\_\_\_\_
- The work entrusted by God to mankind is to be accomplished as an act of \_\_\_\_\_.  
⇒ The same terms used in this command (*avad*—“to work” and *shamar*—“to keep”) are used of the work of the priests in the OT (Num. 3:7-8; 8:26; 18:5-6).

**Key Point:** Work was intentionally designed by God to be a \_\_\_\_\_ thing!

- \* *Work was to give mankind a sense* \_\_\_\_\_ (*identity*)
- \* *Work was to give mankind a sense of* \_\_\_\_\_ (*responsibility*)
- \* *Work was to give mankind a sense of* \_\_\_\_\_ (*purpose*)

#### The Fall of Work

- Because of the curse, work becomes \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (*Our* \_\_\_\_\_ *of Work*)

⇒ It is frustrating and difficult to cultivate people!

Gen. 3:16—To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”

⇒ It is frustrating and difficult to cultivate things!

Gen. 3:17b-19a—<sup>17</sup>...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground...

- Because of the curse, work in and of itself becomes \_\_\_\_\_. (*Our* \_\_\_\_\_ *of Work*)

⇒ Work can become a source of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Ecc. 2:9-10—<sup>9</sup>So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. <sup>10</sup>And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.

⇒ Work can become an \_\_\_\_\_ that will ultimately fail those who worship it.

Ecc. 2:11—Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

**Key Point:** Although work remains necessary, its intended benefits have become \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Redemption of Work

- **God redeems work by redeeming \_\_\_\_\_.**

1 Pet. 1:18-19a—<sup>18</sup> *knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,<sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ...*

- **Redeemed workers have a \_\_\_\_\_ identity.**

(1) *We are God's \_\_\_\_\_*

Col. 3:23-24—<sup>23</sup> *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,<sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

(2) *We are set apart as believer-\_\_\_\_\_*

1 Pet. 2:9—*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

- **Redeemed workers have the hope of eternal \_\_\_\_\_.**

2 Cor. 5:9-10—<sup>9</sup> *So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

**Key Point:** Those who have been made new in \_\_\_\_\_ can approach their work in the world in a new way.

## General Principles for Our Work

1. **Work for God's \_\_\_\_\_!**

Col. 3:23-24—<sup>23</sup> *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,<sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

2. **Be \_\_\_\_\_ for your work!**

Col. 3:17—*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

3. **Be \_\_\_\_\_ to those in authority!**

1 Pet. 2:18—*Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.*

4. **Be \_\_\_\_\_ with your work!**

1 Tim. 6:6-9—<sup>6</sup> *But godliness with contentment is great gain,<sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.<sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.<sup>9</sup> But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.*

5. **Do not work to gain \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_!**

1 Pet. 2:18—*Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.*

6. **Trust God to \_\_\_\_\_ you in your work!**

1 Pet. 5:6—*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you*

**Key Point:** Serving the Lord and others in our work is one of the main ways that our \_\_\_\_\_ is established and our \_\_\_\_\_ is strengthened!

## Concluding Thoughts

- **Believers should understand that our work in the world can be of \_\_\_\_\_ significance!**

“Everyone will be forgotten, nothing we do will make any difference, and all good endeavors, even the best, will come to naught. Unless there is God. If the God of the Bible exists, and there is a True Reality beneath and behind this one, and this life is not the only life, then every good endeavor, even the simplest ones, pursued in response to God's calling, can matter forever.”

—Tim Keller, *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work*

- **Believers should anticipate an eternity of worshipful and joyful work in the \_\_\_\_\_!**

“There will be work in the paradise of the future just like there was in the paradise of the past, because God Himself takes joy in His work. In that paradise, you will be useful in the lives of others to infinite degrees of joy and satisfaction; you will perform with all the skill you can imagine.”

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## The Redemption of Work

- **God redeems work by redeeming workers.**

1 Pet. 1:18-19a—<sup>18</sup> *knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,<sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ...*

- **Redeemed workers have a new identity.**

(1) **We are God's servants**

Col. 3:23-24—<sup>23</sup> *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,<sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

(2) **We are set apart as Believer-Priests**

1 Pet. 2:9—*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

- **Redeemed workers have the hope of eternal reward.**

2 Cor. 5:9-10—<sup>9</sup> *So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

**Key Point:** Those who have been made new in Christ can approach their work in the world in a new way.

## General Principles for Our Work

1. **Work for God's Glory!**

Col. 3:23-24—<sup>23</sup> *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,<sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

2. **Be thankful for your work!**

Col. 3:17—*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

3. **Be submissive to those in authority!**

1 Pet. 2:18—*Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.*

4. **Be content with your work!**

1 Tim. 6:6-9—<sup>6</sup> *But godliness with contentment is great gain,<sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.<sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.<sup>9</sup> But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.*

5. **Do not work to gain power or position!**

1 Pet. 2:18—*Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.*

6. **Trust God to prosper you in your work!**

1 Pet. 5:6—*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you*

**Key Point:** Serving the Lord and others in our work is one of the main ways that our testimony is established and our faith is strengthened!

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