



The Biblical Priorities of Life

"I don't know why you care
I don't know what's up there
I don't know how it's done
Just take me to your leader, son
I see you've got the joy
I've seen you live it, boy
It's real, it's free, it's fun,
So take me to your leader, son"

—The Newsboys, "Take Me to Your Leader"

Part 9 — "Establish the Work of Our Hands"— 10/3/21

Introduction

"From morning to night [the average person] does not touch anything he has produced himself, in which he can take pride."
—Wendell Berry, *The Unsettling of America*

Ecc. 9:7-10—⁷ Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do. ⁸ Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head. ⁹ Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. ¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

Key Point: Although our experience of life in a fallen world involves frustration and difficulty, it is possible for believers to experience God's goodness as we bear _____ through Him in the various relationships and responsibilities that have been entrusted to us.

Embracing the Biblical Priorities of Life

The Foundational Principles

- We are commissioned by God to _____!

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..."

* This necessarily involves personal _____.

* This necessarily involves personal _____.

- The work of cultivation is frustrating and difficult because we live in a _____ world!

Gen. 3:16-17—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." ¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

* _____ resist the work of cultivation.

* _____ resist the work of cultivation.

Key Point: We should understand the various relationships and responsibilities of life in light of God's _____ plans and purposes for His creation.

The Framework & Vision

1. _____

John 15:1, 4-5—⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

2. _____

Psa. 128:3a—Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;

3. _____

Psa. 128:3b—your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

4. _____ (_____)

Eph. 4:15-16—¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

5. _____

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

Key Point: As we serve God and others in these relationships and responsibilities, He is at work both _____ and _____ us.

Psa. 1:1-3—¹ Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ²but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Cultivating While We Still Can — Psalm 90:12-17

- The biblical priorities of life give us an appreciation for the various _____ of our lives.

Psa. 90:12—So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

- The biblical priorities of life remind us that true _____ in life comes from knowing and serving the Lord.

Psa. 90:14—Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

- It is in and through the biblical priorities of life that God most often shows His _____ to us and others.

Psa. 90:16—Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

- The biblical priorities of life teach us _____ upon God for all that is needed in our work of cultivation.

Psa. 90:17—Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

Key Point: It is through the various relationships and responsibilities of our lives that God establishes our _____ as His servants.

Concluding Thoughts

1. Jesus is the Good _____ who tends us as His flock!

John 10:14-15—¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

2. Jesus is the _____ who provides all we need to bear fruit!

John 15:4-5—⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.



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* *People resist the work of cultivation.*

* *Things resist the work of cultivation.*

Key Point: We should understand the various relationships and responsibilities of life in light of God's good plans and purposes for His creation.

The Framework & Vision

1. Jesus Christ

John 15:1, 4-5—⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

2. Marriage Partner

Psa. 128:3a—Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;

3. Children

Psa. 128:3b—your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

4. The Body of Christ (The Church)

Eph. 4:15-16—¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

5. Work

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

Key Point: As we serve God and others in these relationships and responsibilities, He is at work both in and through us.

Psa. 1:1-3—¹ *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ²but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*

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