

How Can I Serve God at Work? Pt. 2 (2022.04.10 Sabbath school Class)

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"How Can I Serve God at Work?" (2 of 2) in the RHB series, "Cultivating Biblical Godliness."

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We're beginning our, or we're actually we're finishing our study on. How can I serve God at work? If you don't have a booklet, there's still a few back on the back table.

We?

Last week we made it up through point 10. We're going to have a bit of a recap this morning. Um, I do want to thank each of you for giving me some really good feedback this week. And so I'm going to try to incorporate those suggestions. By the way I think severally all have asked me what's going on with the books up here.

I have an answer. You have to wait till lunch time to find out.

So let us pause a minute and pray that God would use these things. We're about to learn for our good follow. We do. Thank you, that we can come before you this day. We can secure face on this Lord's Day and that as we go through this book and consider the principles set for here.

From scripture, she would open our hearts to your Word that we would hear with our minds and our hearts, as we seek to and follow you more closely. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

So the first point from last week is, What is work? And the definition is job or labor. So, One of the things I wanted to continue to point out about that section, Is especially that work is broader than job or labor. That's from which we derive our income and it also might be different depending on what stage we are in life.

You know, whether we're children, teenagers, young adults, enter in the workforce or at the end of our working time and enter retirement. There's a number of things that continues to be our work that is not necessarily just what we are compensated for. One of the things John 17:15 applies to this in a way of how sometimes we just want to get away from work.

I'm sure I'm not. The only one that has stopped at in time to time. So one of my, one of the suggestions I had this week was this is in Jesus's prayer for his disciples in John. 17:15 says I did not pray that you should take them out of the world but that you should keep them from the evil one.

So right there, we hear that. We're continue to supposed to supposed to be part of the world working in the world but not part of the world. I should say that. I saw Josiah Brown. Thank you for that. But so, um and that Jesus would keep us from the evil one.

And in our work is certainly one of those places that we need to consider that thoughtfully. The next point is God's works and we are called to bear His image. We talked about being image bears last week.

Followed by God derives satisfaction from his work and gives us the ability to do so ourselves. 0.4 says God provides for us through our work. Of course he does that and also allows us to provide for others. Oh, through our work.

Point five is man works in obedience to God's commands And so at this point, I'm going to ask Matthew McGarvey. If he would read the fourth commandment as it is presented on page, 19 in the booklet and a six days may work be done but in the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, Holy to the Lord whosoever.

Doeth, any work in the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever for in six days. The Lord made heaven and earth and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed. Thank you. I would like to reiterate one of the things about working and we we talked about this last week but how important it is to consider our work in light of God's Word of the commandments of the gospel.

And I think that especially in our culture, but I believe it's probably been throughout history. One of the temptations that we face. And, and I'm talking about among Christians is allowing work, or our vocation, or the busyness that we feel to somehow give us a justification to skip over especially the fourth commandment.

So I wanted to dwell on that, just a moment, think about how easy it is to be distracted by work. Y'all all know pretty much recently, they're in the middle of one of these, that I wanted to hear very much. We had an alarm go off at work and I had to go to respond to that.

So, I use my own self as an example there, but I would like to point out that if we are all thoughtful about, you know, each of the commandments, especially that one, and how easy it is, how many people around us or breaking the Sabbath and how it looks like we could possibly fall into that very easily.

So our next point is the sixth one. It says God holds us accountable for our work once we talked about that last week and that what he expects of us, the second, the seventh one. God provides particular gifts to meet particular needs.

Another thing I had pointed out to me, I'd like to point out to you is referred to Ephesians 4.

And especially verse 7 and 8, says but to each one of us, this is talk about spiritual gifts but to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore he says when you send it on high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts to men.

And so, Ephesians 4 talks about these gifts and how he's equipped us for our work through these gifts. So the word gift literally means donation. It appears in connection with spiritual service only in Ephesians 4:7 and 8. And Paul explains the phrase, he gave gifts to men as the Christ as the ascended Christ.

Giving to His church, persons call to and equipped for the ministries of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. Also through the enabling ministry of these persons Christ, bestows a ministry role on every Christian.

So a mid, many debated questions. Regarding spiritual gifts and your testament. Three certainly. Stand out first. A spiritual gift is an ability to express, celebrate, display. And so communicate in Christ in a way that builds up and strengthens, strengthens the faith of other Christians and enlarges the church. Secondly, spiritual gifts may be broadly classified as either abilities of speech, or of loving practical helpfulness, in Romans 12:6 through 8.

Paul's list of gifts, alternates between the categories of prophecy, teaching and exhorting. They are all gifts of speech, serving, giving, leading and showing mercy. Our gifts of helpfulness. However, much they differ as forms of human activity. All are of equal dignity when properly used, the gift that one has according to a first Peter 4:10 and 11.

And then third. No, Christian is without some gift of ministry. Don't say that again. No, Christian is without some gift of ministry.

That's from first Corinthians 12:7 and Ephesians 4:7 than it is. Every believer's responsibility to find, develop, fully use whatever capacities for service, God has given them. So now in our review, the Fall impacts on our work. The next point that we went over last week, we don't need to forget how profound of an effect, it has on our work.

And then the ninth point, right? Where we ended last week is work. Is both individual and social. We went over a few things there, so now we're going to start back with point 10. So on page 27 God takes pleasure in the beauty of work.

Scripture does not frame our work and the calling to work. Simply in terms of functional utility, we are complex. Human beings with various interests, aptitudes and passions. So, the work we are called to is multi-dimensionally

Pay attention to the complexity that he has built into the creation, which he describes is very good. We had this talk in our house last night. I think again this morning we have been hatching eggs and we were talking about what an amazing thing. You can take something that we had for breakfast this morning and put them in an incubator or under a hen for 21 days.

And that edible egg yolk turns into a completely functioning baby chick and it just never ceases to amaze me how awesome God is in the simple, things like that. So He takes pleasure in that. And certainly we can also take pleasure in it and recognize what he has done for us.

So if we are to praise and glorify God, as he deserves, we would do well to open our eyes to the various dimensions that are part of our daily work. We serve a God who desires to be worshiped in the beauty of holiness, and we are instructed whether you eat or drink whatsoever.

You do do all to the glory of God. That's first Corinthians 10:31. Point 11 is Christ worked as part of his active obedience.

Cultivating biblical godliness as it. Regards. Our daily work begins with understanding our work in this

scriptural matter, beginning, each day, with intentional consciousness, of what it is, we're called to do and praying God's Spirit may sanctify our motives our salts, our actions to conform us to His image. Also, in the workplace Orients us in a an entirely different manner for most other workers.

I would encourage you to do that. It does work. It works amazingly. Well, I have sure all of y'all to faced challenges and if you start the day off, Think of the Lord and the Lord's will and to honor him all of the issues that we might have seem to fall into place so much better.

I see some nodding heads, I know a number of y'all have had those same things happen. So, point 12 is vocation We all face the question. How do I know what God is calling me to do? Well speak, especially to the teenagers and young adults who are looking forward to that.

But it works for all of us again as we talked about earlier in different seasons in our life It would pay us to continue to ask that question to ourselves from time to time. So the first of these is what are my gifts. And of course, we don't want to fall into this trap of an exaggerated self-importance, nor a false modesty that fails to account for what God has given you.

There's that's, that's the two ditches, one or the other. So we want to get in the middle of that. If possible Second. What is your passion glorifying? God, through our work will come more easily. When I work, engages. Our passions, Of course, y'all all know this about me as a mechanic.

I can't think about anything with how engine runs and how it sounds. So That's my passion. So I get to enjoy working without really working. Of course, sometimes our passions and gifts are different and it is helpful to recognize both. Next question is, what is your temperament? You know some of us are people persons others?

Not so much. So So I'm like short-term projects some enjoy and prefer long-term projects and work. And then the last question is, what are the needs of God's kingdom? And that question surprised me just a little bit. So I thought about it a bit and it is, you know, it's certainly should be in those that group of questions and maybe at the first It is important to examine our gifts not just in terms of the impact on our own career but also in regard to the broader needs of God's church and kingdom.

So in conclusion, We have sought to establish from the scriptures that doing our work well is to be human. And the most positive man is image bearer of God sense of that word, The vast majority of those who go to work each day with only self-satisfaction earnings or status as their motivation.

Go home each night disappointed. However, the believer with a biblically informed perspective goes to work. Each day with loftier expectations Work is ordained by God. A place where we can use the gifts that we have been given and discover more of the glory that he has embedded in his perfect creation and to be use to him in his kingdom.

So that concludes the book