

First Friends Church
“Work As Gospel Partnership”
3-18-18

Question: What does the Gospel have to do with our work?

“Work” – Mental and physical effort expended to produce or accomplish something.

“Job” – Specific part of work; assignment, duty, responsibility.

Theme Verse: Colossians 3:²³ *Whatever you do, **work** at it with all your heart, as **working** for the **Lord**, not for men,*
²⁴ *since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are **serv**ing.*

Answer: The Gospel “Good News” includes the truth that God has created us to partner with him through our work in His good world. *Work is NOT a consequence of sin or a necessary evil to be delivered from.*

Gospel Good News About Work: Ephesians 2:8-10

- Saved **BY** God’s grace through Jesus’ *work* on the cross.
- Saved **THROUGH** our faith response not our work.
- Saved **FOR** partnership with God in our *good work*.
 - We are His “*masterpieces*”!

I. Work is Good Because God Works - Genesis 1, 2:2-3

- A. God worked (created) and said, “*It was good*”.
- B. God is still working: “*My Father is always working, and so am I.*” (Jesus) John 5:17
- C. We are created in God’s *image* to do good work.

II. Work is God’s Divine Design – Gen. 2:15

“*The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to **work** it and take **care** of it.*”

- A. We are partners, managers, and stewards of God’s good world. “*Rulers*” now and forever – 1:28

III. Work is Productive (“fruitful”) – Gen. 1:28

- A. God created us to partner with Him for our provision.
 1. *Cultivate, Seed, and Harvest* – Galatians 6:7

IV. Work is Relational – “*Not good to be alone*” – Gen. 2:18

- A. Work is designed to bond us in partnership with others.
- B. Work is more efficient together than alone – Eccl. 4:9

V. Work is Rewarding

- A. Reward – “*inheritance from the Lord*” Col. 3:24
- B. Provision – “*laborer worthy of wages*” 1 Tim. 5:17-18
- C. Fulfilling – joy, significance, security, purpose, etc.
- D. Seasonal – Rest and re-creation necessary “6:1” ratio

VI. Work Glorifies God – Work is Worship & Witness!

1 Cor. 10:³¹ “*...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*”

- A. Excellence – *WHAT* we do: Quality & Quantity
- B. Character - *HOW* we do it: Attitude & Integrity
- C. Motive – *WHY* we do it: Worship & Service
- D. Time – *WHEN* we do it: Rest & Re-creation
- E. People – *WHO* we do it with: Respect & Submission
- F. Location – *WHERE* we do it: Home & Employment

* **Caution:** If we worship our work it becomes “idolatry”!

VII. Work is Redemptive – *Sin & death no longer reign!*

Next Week: “Work is Hard” – The Curse (Gen. 3)

Sin has had devastating consequences on the “work” God has given us. But the Gospel brings REDEMPTION to God’s world through our work. *Thy Kingdom come!*

VIII. Application Question: What would change tomorrow if you performed your “work” as worship unto God?

Resources: “*Every Good Endeavor*” Tim Keller
“*Business By The Book*” Larry Burkett,
www.thehighcalling.org

www.workasworshipnetwork.org