

WORK AND THE WORKER

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Message 2



Thunderbird Ejection

0.8 SECONDS



Thunderbird Ejection



Wright Brothers first
flight - 1903

God's View of Work



THE OLD TESTAMENT VIEW

“Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during the plowing season and harvest you must rest.”

Exodus 34:21

THE NEW TESTAMENT VIEW

“...and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, **so that** your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and **so that** you will not be dependent on anybody.”

I Thessalonians 4:11,12

THE REASONS FOR WORK

“For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”



THE REASONS FOR WORK

.... We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat”.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

No Work is Secular

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,”

Colossians 3:23

True/False Test

- God loves some things more than others
- There is a hierarchical view of life: God, family, work, ministry, in that order
- Reading the scriptures is more important than work in a factory
- Witnessing is more important than doing Bible study
- Being a full-time Christian worker is more valuable than being an engineer or a teacher
- Churches, pastor and mission organizations are the primary carriers of the Gospel

FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS

PREMISES

1. The gospel is carried primarily by lay men and women – locally and globally
2. We need to recognize, engage, energize and employ them

FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS

Two Errors In Energizing Lay Men And Women

1. They have not been discipled
1. Real disciples go “full time”

THE THEOLOGY

Work Is Established By God

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

Genesis 2:15 (NIV)

TWO INSTITUTIONS GOD ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE FALL

1. Work
2. Marriage

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”

Genesis 2:24 (NIV)

WORK IS HOLY, NOT SECULAR

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters”

Colossians 3:23

WORK IS A CALLING,
NOT A DEMAND

WORK IS YOUR PLACE OF MINISTRY AND SERVING GOD

“Do you see a man skilful in his work?
He will stand before kings; He will
not stand before obscure men.”

Proverbs 22:29

SUMMARY THOUGHTS

- Ordinary men and women are the Body
- They are the primary carriers of the Gospel
- Lay men and women must be valued, heard, equipped and sent

The Theology of the Laity

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”

Acts 4:12-13 (NIV)

THE ISSUES WE MUST CONSIDER

The Theology of Ministry or Mission

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

Ephesians 4:11-12 NIV

The Theology of Sending the Nation to the Nations

- In missions, business and work are not so much a platform, but a calling
- Business and work are not a cover story, but a pathway for the Gospel

The Theology of the Full-Time Worker

- Where do full-time people fit?
- Do we need them?

Most definitely!!

THEOLOGY OF WORK APPLIED

Meaningful Contribution

- To society
- To God's Kingdom

“Then Moses said to the Israelites, “See, the Lord has chosen Bezalel, son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills – to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic crafts.

And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work, as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers – all of them skilled workers and designers. So Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord had given

ability and who was willing to come and do the work. They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning.

Exodus 35:30-35; 36:1-3 (NIV)