

# CHRIST VS. CAREER

## A TENSION BETWEEN TWO FAITHS

*“this one thing I do... I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

*~ Philippians 3:14*

### 1. Job vs. Career

- a. This one of the idolatries that grips our culture and sits quietly in our churches.
- b. (Warning: this sacred cow is a bull that when provoked will come charging)
- c. Career ~*def.* An occupation, especially one requiring special training, one's lifework.
- d. *Job*: specific, short-term, position done mainly for money; work. ← necessary, godly.
- e. *Career*: long-term professional ambitions, passion/calling, growth path through life.
- f. The importance of a 'good career' is culturally impressed on us above Christ.

### 2. Two Faiths

- a. One says to orient your life around your career, the other to orient life around Christ.
- b. Work as god (career) - defined by your job, most important thing, your worth, hope
  - i. Trust career path - resume, titles, training, credentials, riches - Psa 10:3, 49:6+
- c. Work as good - Acts 20:34; Eph 4:28; 1 Tim 2:2, 5:8; 1 Thess 2, 4:11; 2 Thess 3:6-12
  - i. Trust Christ - He is our salvation, life, purpose, inheritance - Eph 1:11-18
- d. Christ becomes like a neglected child for many Christians who walk by faith in career.

### 3. Two Paths

- a. Parents teach faith of career to their children and wonder why they leave church
  - i. "What do you want to be when you grow up?" "Find your place in this world."
  - ii. Listen to mentors who used time and chance to get where you want to go.
  - iii. Study to get to college, get a good "entry-level" job, grow, achieve, retire.
- b. Church is not where you find a career, grow in your career, advance your career.
- c. Christ teaches to His grace, wisdom, Spirit, charity to walk - Eph 4:20, Col 3, 1Ti 3,4:12
- d. The will of God – 1 Tim 2:4 – salvation and know the truth (is the latter optional?)
- e. Study to shew unto God, walk worthy of your vocation, after Spirit, be faithful, glory.
- f. Raise children to love the Lord, serve family, grow the church, rejoice in the Lord.

### 4. Two Minds

- a. Career teaches you to believe in yourself – Christ says you will fail, so believe in him.
- b. *"Serving Christ requires I sacrifice my career"* ← does not require being irresponsible
- c. Career-minded - willingness to sacrifice family, ministry, Christ for sake of the career
  - i. Career makes you sacrifice life for nothing (plaque, gold watch, beach chair)
  - ii. Christ sacrificed for you to provide peace, joy, eternal life, knowledge, love.
- d. Mind of Christ - Warns against career idolatry, but we don't listen 1Cor 2:16, Phi 2:1-4
- e. Career identity – diminished to your job title, workplace, skills: judged by the world.
- f. Identity in Christ – Saint, ambassador, member (spouse, parent, child, brother/sister)
  - i. Your judge is the Lord (and those that love you/Lord) - 1 Cor 4:1-4, 1 Thess 1:3
- g. Career pushes you to be the best, independent, to be isolated from others for success.
- h. Christ gives you rest, one with Him, unity with spouse, family, church, in love -Eph 4:16
- i. Career professional life vs. personal private life is unnecessary - Phi 3:14

## 5. Two Hopes

- a. Career - ultimate success is in achievement, contribution, climbing career ladder.
  - i. If you do not achieve, contribute, climb, you are failing at your career.
  - ii. Teaches to spend your life to serve yourself in the end: retirement, recognition.
  - iii. At the end of your career, men look for everything Christ provides too late in life
  - iv. Meaning, purpose, love, forgiveness, reconciliation, peace, joy.
- b. Christ - ultimate success is found in glory, judgment seat of Christ, hope for eternity.
  - i. Teaches you to be an unashamed workman, serving others with truth.
- c. Christ does not reject doctors, lawyers, engineers, but as jobs, not your life. Col 3:4
  - i. If your profession/"career" prevents you from serving Christ, change it. 1Tim4:8
- d. On mountain peak of career you're alone, family are colleagues, then you leave it all.
- e. The mark you reach when serving Christ is glory with all saints in joy forever. Rom 8:18