

Before the Lesson

Read the Scriptures and overview below before your LIFE Group meets this week.

Scripture Passages: Colossians 1:18, 3:1-3, 16-17, 22-24, Ephesians 1:15-23

Everyone has a job to do because work is simply a part of life. From the beginning God intended for His creation to be productive. His desire was to provide the human race with purpose-filled “work” so that in everything we might point others to our Creator. What about you? Do you feel as though the work you’ve been given affords you the opportunity to point others to God? Do you feel that what you do is important to the Kingdom? Do you feel like what you do even matters to God?

You may be thinking that your job is completely insignificant to God because you don’t work at a church and you’re not a full-time missionary. The fact is, however, that your job is of great importance to God, because if God is over all things (and He is), then He is over your job. He has placed you in your position, be it medicine, manufacturing, marketing, mothering, or a myriad of other job descriptions. He has placed you there, and He has a plan and a purpose for you while you’re there. Don’t let the world fool you – your job doesn’t rule you; God rules your job because God rules over all things. Your job matters to God. So while you’re there, ask God to help you know how you can best *Be the Church ... Everyone. Everywhere. Everyday.*

How can you use your platform (your work) to bring glory to God?

The book of Daniel details the life of a man whose purpose was worshipping and honoring God with His life. Read Chapters 1-6 this week and rediscover the life of a man who used every platform given to him to glorify His creator.

Group Discussion

If we are to **Be the Church**, we must adjust our view of church from structural, institutional, or social, to a spiritual relationship for purposeful living. These were the words of Pastor McKinley in this past week’s message titled, *Your Job Matters to God*. He pointed out three reasons why our jobs matter to God: **#1** Our jobs are to be a primary place of worship, **#2** Our worship flows from our heart attitude, and **#3** We work for God not compensation.

- From Colossians 1:18, what does “that in everything he [Jesus] might be preeminent” mean, and how would you relate the preeminence of Jesus to your job? (Preeminent means *above all, over all, first*)
- Read Colossians 3:1-3. From this passage we see Christ is in authority (seated at the right hand of God) and that if we are “in Christ” we are to set our minds on the things of Christ. How does this mindset change your attitude about your job, your attitude when unfavorable issues come up at your job, and your response to others at your job?

- How might you need to change your attitude or responses so you can point others to God at work? (See Colossians 3:17.)
- How did “the fall” affect God’s original design for work? (See Genesis 1:31, 2:15, 3:17-19.)
- Jesus came to bring reconciliation between God and man, and in doing so He created the opportunity for us to reconcile all things that were damaged by “the fall.” Keeping this in mind, how can Christ’s work on the cross help us regain and recover the dignity and purpose in our daily work that was lost?
- How could this reconciliation cause your work to become worship? (Think about the relationship you have with Christ. How should that affect all you do?)
- Read Colossians 3:23 and Ephesians 6:5-8 (Note that the word “slave” in the Ephesians passage can be applied to “employees.”). If you envisioned Jesus standing behind your employer, your spouse, your children, or others you serve, what difference would it make?
- Discuss this statement: *Who you work for is more important than what you do.* – S. Traeger & G. Gilbert
- What is the heart motivation behind what you do? Is it authentic, sincere, helpful, and humble, or is it for “eye-service,” from the heart of a people-pleaser, and for your own glory? (See Colossians 3:22.) What types of adjustments need to be made in your relationships at work, home, with friends, and with those whom God has placed in your life that are difficult to deal with?
- Did you know that you work for Christ not for compensation? Read Colossians 3:24. From where does your inheritance come? How does that alter your perspective?
- Read Philippians 2:1-8. Discuss the qualities of Jesus in this passage. What attributes may He be trying to refine in you as you learn to worship while you work?

Further Study

Read Philippians 2:1-18 this week, then think and pray through your responses to these questions.

- List the characteristics of Jesus seen in this chapter, then identify two to three character traits God wants to refine in me this week.
- Is there any “rivalry or conceit” that I need to deal with? If so, write it down and take it before the Lord (Philippians 2:3).
- Am I a grumbler or complainer, or do I rejoice in all circumstances? (Compare Philippians 3:14 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.)
- Read Philippians 4:8-9. This week I will adopt a “whatever” attitude. I will think only on those things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise so that peace can reign in my heart at all times and in all circumstances. I will apply this passage to my job, home life, and relationships.
- Use Ephesians 1:15-23 as a prayer for yourself this week before you begin your job each day.

Let this become your motto in all you do ...

***Die to the dream of being a success and live to the dream of being a blessing.* – Matthew Barnett**