

My Work [as] My Worship

Part 2 – My Worship

Colossians 3.22-24

Review: we work to bring order to chaos by creating and cultivating in God's good world

- Yes, work is broken in some sense but does not hinder us from actually taking responsibility, releasing good, and promoting the validity of the Gospel
- Part 1 = why we work – Part 2 = how we work

Family first (v.18-21)

- Toys, tech, and travel are bad substitutes for what your family really needs – YOU
 - Gospel Transformation – we don't have to seek something from work that we didn't receive (and can never get) by sacrificing our families
 - God has spoken His yes and approval over us in Jesus – our success at work will not answer our questions of adequacy / value
- Don't sacrifice your long-term gains for short-term gains

Work as Worship (v.22-24)

- There is no divide between the sacred and secular ("fearing the Lord")
 - Frees us from hypocrisy "this isn't church, it's just business"
 - Frees us to eternal purpose "what I do matters – releasing good in the world"
 - Frees us to see others who are doing work as doing God's work
 - Those with us, under us, and above us are all part of doing good in the world (and we can speak to them / appeal to them as such)
 - Frees us to love and value other workers as created in God's image (the CEO values the janitor)
 - CFA HQ – Cathy's value of the cafeteria worker
 - When this happens, the tendency is emboldening and giving greater commitment to work
- Spiritual Dynamics are in play ("matter of the heart / serving the Lord Christ")
 - Grow or Shrink: Worship of God
 - If God is worthy in some places, He's worthy in all places – or we can worship as hypocrites
 - Grow or Shrink: Spiritual life – formation or malformation
 - The majority of waking time is spent here – what impact will it have?
 - Grow or Shrink: Plausibility of the Gospel "faithful excellence"
 - Grow or Shrink: Opportunities for Proclamation of the Gospel
 - Grow or Shrink: Common good
 - Yours and others – you can make a lot of money to the glory of God (or for the glory of you)

- Walk in awareness of this – Ginny driving around her building
 - The reason why this kind of thing is necessary is because the world is broken – but the reason it works is because Jesus has pursued us and brought His power to bear on it to heal and bless

Communion

Questions for Discussion

1. What memories do you have how your parents balanced work and life (whether or not you consider it balanced)? How does that affect how you approach that work-life balance?
2. What kinds of wrong / sinful / unhealthy things do we ask of our work that it can never give? How does the Gospel speak to this? (Ex. I ask work for _____, but through the Gospel Jesus gives me _____)
3. When you hear the words “sacred” or “secular,” what are the first images that come to mind? What is one “sacred” item or activity that you can think of in your workplace? Out of the 4 freedoms that the demolition of the sacred / secular divide brings, which one does your workplace need most? Why? What is your responsibility for it?
4. In the sermon, we said that the worship of God can shrink or grow depending on how we approach our vocation. This approach to work can be an experience of worship *and* can be fuel for our worship (because we saw God answer our prayer, help us, etc.). How have you seen these to be true in your vocation? How has your “Monday worship” fueled your Sunday worship?
5. In what ways could your work grow or shrink the plausibility of the Gospel? How have you seen God open doors (for you or others) to share the Gospel as a result of your work? Does any particular person come to mind that needs the Gospel at your work? What is one step you can take toward them?