



Key References:

Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV)

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Genesis 2:15 (ESV)

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Genesis 3:17–19 (ESV)

¹⁷And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Colossians 3:17 (ESV)

¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:

How does the world view work as a curse? What is the ultimate goal of people’s working lives that Paul mentioned? Why retirement the ultimate goal for so many people?

Paul said: “*The lie is that work is a curse.*” **As believers do we have the same view of work as the world, or are we different?**

1 – CREATED TO WORK

Read Ephesians 2:8-10. **What does this reveal about how work relates to salvation? What are the 4 truth can we gain from verse 10 about works? How should each one of these truth make us different from the world?**

From your knowledge about Adam and Eve before the fall; **what was God’s original plan for humanity and work?** Read Genesis 2:15. Based on God’s original plan for work; **do you think there will be work for us to do in heaven and on the new earth?**

Paul said: “*The curse is; work will be difficult, and it won’t always give you the outcome you want.*” **How does that statement match up with your experience of work? How does it match up with Genesis 3:17-19?**

2 – WORK IS WORSHIP

Read Exodus 36:1-2. **Where does this scripture say that skill and intelligence comes from? How then is using our talents a form of worship to God? How does Colossians 3:17 also speak into this piece of worship?**

Go around the group and answer this; **what are your gifts, and how can you bring them into your workplace? For those of you who are retired, or not employed, how has God still called you to work?**

3 – WORK IS NOT DIVIDED AS SACRED AND SECULAR

We tend to divide everything into what is secular and what is spiritual and put more weight on what is spiritual. **Is it right to separate work into these two groups, or are they both sacred? How can we bring our spiritual-selves into the workplace?**

4 – WORK IS MINISTRY

How can we minister to our workplaces? How can believers redeem workplace environments? What testimonies do you have of when God used you to effect positive change in your workplace?

Additional References:

Exodus 36:1–2 (ESV)

“Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the LORD has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded.”² And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work.