

FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 20 - THE GOSPEL AND WORK

Week 1: How Work Fits Into the Gospel; Week 2: How the Gospel Fits Into Our Work

Main Point: *The original purpose of human work was the advancement of human flourishing to the glory of God.*

I. All Christian Receive Two Types of Callings from God

- **Doctrine of Vocation** (from Latin vocare) originally translated to mean “calling”
- **Product of the Reformation (Luther, Calvin, Puritans – 1 Cor 7:17)**

A. Primary Calling – Christians are called by the Gospel into faith through grace (2 The 2:14, Rom 1:6-7, 8:30, Eph 2:10)

1. *Os Guinness: our primary calling as followers of Christ is by him, to him, and for him*
2. Our work does not cause, secure, or contribute to our being called (Eph 2:8-9, Rom 9:10-12).

B. Secondary Calling(s) – how we live in light of our primary calling (Eph 2:10, Col 3:22-24, John 15:16)

1. *Os Guinness: our secondary calling, considering who God is as sovereign, is that everyone, everywhere, and in everything should think, speak, live, and act entirely for him.*
2. We have multiple secondary callings (e.g. husband, father, son, neighbor, Congressional staffer, citizen, DRBC member, unemployed, student, single, etc.)
 - a. Discipleship (Matt 28:19-20)
 - b. Husband and wives (Eph 5:22-33)
 - c. Parents/children (Eph 6:1-4)
 - d. Singleness (1 Cor 7:8)
 - e. Care for others (Gal 6:1) orphans, and widows (Jam 1:27)
 - f. Citizens (Rom 13:1-7, Jer 29:7-8)
3. Two graces (special/saving grace & common/non-saving grace)
4. Christians are to pursue their callings through two primary commandments
 - a. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (Matt 22:37, Mark 12:30)
 - b. Love your neighbor as yourself (Matt 22:39, Mark 12:31)
5. Christians are not called to balance between their secondary callings
 - a. Church (1 Cor 12:12-20 & 27, Heb 10:23-25, Eph 4:1-3)
 - b. Marriage (Gen 2:24, Matt 19:4-5, Eph 5:22-33)

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II. Theology of Work in Light of the Gospel

A. In the Beginning – Work Created

1. God is a worker (Gen 1:1)
2. Work is good (Gen 1:31)
3. Man is God's work product made in His image to work for His glory (Gen 1:26-27, Gen 2:15)
4. Man was equipped for work and given work to do (Gen 1:28, 2:15, 18)
5. God rested from his work (Gen 2:2)

B. After the Fall – Work Cursed

1. Man chose to rebel and work for his own purposes (Gen 3:6)
2. Work becomes toilsome, futile, and compulsory for survival (Gen 3:16-19)
3. Man is separated from God and loses the connection between God, work, and worship (Gen 3:23-24)
4. Man works primarily in his own strength and for his own glory (Gen 11:4)
5. There is no rest from work (Ecc 2:22-23)

C. After the Cross – Work Redefined

1. Jesus Christ worked to redeem us on the cross (John 1:29, Luke 19:10, 17:4, 19:30)
2. Jesus' work changes everything (Rom 6:18, 1 Cor 10:31, Ezek 36:26, Col 3:24)
3. Redeemed people worship God through their work (1 Cor 10:31, Col 3:1-1, John 15:8, Titus 2:10)
4. The Holy Spirit is a worker and equips man again for work (John 14:16, 26, John 16:7-15, Eph 3:16)
5. Man given strength and endurance to continue his work (Phi 4:13, Isa 40:31, 2 Cor 12:9, 1 Tim 1:12)

D. In the New Heaven and New Earth – Work Restored

1. We will work for God in His presence (Rev 21:3)
2. Work no longer toilsome, futile, or compulsory for survival (Isaiah 65:17-25)
3. Our primary work will be to worship God (Rev 22:3)
4. How we served Christ during his absence determines our role in his presence (Matt 25:21, Luke 19:17)
5. Working in the presence of God will itself be restful (Hebrews 4:8-9)