

The Christ | Work
Redemption Hill Church | Simon Murphy
2nd August 2009

Christian theology about the person of God holds everything together. **We are all for Him!**
Genesis 2.15 and 3.17-19, 23:

In your lifetime, the average person spends 100 000 hours working their jobs. If you live in Singapore, that's about 150 000 hours. We separate work and life. But our work is our life. **We say things like:** I owe, I owe, it's off to work I go. TGIF. Someone's got to pay the bills, bring home the bacon.. We have Monday blues and TGIF. On the hamsters wheel.

And scripture seems to affirm it:

2 Thessalonians 3.10: "If a man won't work, he won't eat".

Proverbs 6.6: "Go to the ant you sluggard".

Ecclesiastes 9.10: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might".

Jeremiah 48.10: "Cursed is the man who is slack in doing the Lord's work".

Matthew 25.23: "Well done good and faithful servant, you have been faithful in little.."

1Tim. 5:8: "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

Colossians 3.23-24: "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."

1. So what does the bible tell us about work in God's Kingdom?

In Genesis 1 we see God is a worker works for 6 days and then rests. Jesus said 'My Father is working' (John 5.17). Jesus worked. He swung a hammer, manual labor. He was faithful to his task 'I have completed the work you gave me to do' John 17.4

There is work in paradise before sin!

1.28: Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over it.

2.15: The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden, and there it divided..

It shows us as God's estate manager, cultivating and protecting God's garden. As God's representatives we have dominion, not lordly and exploitative, but a responsible stewardship, a facilitating servanthood. Servant Kings. Our work is stewarding God's creation.

We must enjoy God's creation and life and rejoice in Him and knowing Him.

The Lord created work for our benefit. It's part of our design to work, we need to do something. Desert Island. There is a sense of purpose and destiny and fulfillment in the heart of man.

Therefore work is not simply paid employment, it's stewarding and partaking of creation and life. **Jesus wasn't paid to go to the cross, yet he said it was His work.** Our jobs are a part of it, but not all of it. The rest is life, societies church family, culture, mothering, people, greening is all part of it. But we must have an income to pay the bills.

The holiness of our vocations. Show how they all fit together for the glory of God. Your bread in the morning: Farmer, Miller, Baker, Driver, Shop steward, etc.

2. Work Outside God's Kingdom / Paradise. Sin the PROBLEM

Work becomes hard: "This is the world that we live, I feel myself get tired" Sin affects everything, the ground, theology etc. Adam will suffer when he is a farmer. Hardship enters, work becomes laborious. It becomes toil. It's not as sweet as it used to be. **To bring home the bacon is hard. It's hard to catch the pig!**

Laziness: The guy who is a professional video gaming guy but he doesn't what a CV is!

It becomes distorted: All things lose their values and meaning when taken out of the glory of God, when we see God's call, gifts, abilities outside of Himself.

Ecclesiastes: "Under the sun" is when you remove the glory of God. Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (the purpose of creation). Toil is vanity, meaningless. 2.1: Test of self indulgence (sex etc). What will please and bring pleasure? 700 Concubines/

1. Work is directed towards our glory instead of stewarding the glory of God.

Abusing People. Coworkers, push others out the way, corporate ladder.
Do deals are terrible for people (sweatshops) but good for us.

2. Work becomes the source of our identity instead of an outworking of our identity.

Fear of man, saying yes to the boss all time. Stay late but FB all the time.
Burn your business cards
Me personally

3. Work is for salvation not out of salvation.

We get our sense of value / identity from what we do.
From a salvation point of view God makes this very clear "What must we do to do the work that God requires?" The work of God is this, to believe in the one he sent" John 6.29

The problem is that we sacrifice to our idols. Like our marriage children, our values, health etc.

Jesus came to redeem creation for the glory of God (deal with sin)

a. Deals with our idols

We can be normal. Not for money, self, value etc. We don't need to selfishly abuse people, etc.

We are to be honest, honor our employees

b. Makes us live for the glory of God

Fidel Castro and Christians.

We see work as not just commercial, but as all we do under God. Mothering etc. loving God and people. Serving at church, it's our work and joy.

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Cor 10.31)
Sweep the streets to the glory of God. A bus driver is as holy a calling as mine.

The results of Christian thought in the world.

How we need Jesus to save us from sin, deliver us and reorganize us.