

Work as Worship

Introduction

- A. **On average, we spend 91,000 hours in our lifetime at the work place. If we attend church services faithfully 3 times a week for our entire life, we may spend around 7,000 hours in worship at the church building.** When we talk about our experiences with God, it generally takes place during our worship or perhaps during our study of the Bible. **What about the rest of our lives? What about the time that we spend working on the job?**
- B. **We spend 40 + hours a week on the job versus approximately 3 hours a week in worship or Bible study.** We may wonder at times about how worthwhile our job is. **Although, we need the salary, it is never pleasant to have to go to work or to a job that you hate and do not feel is worthwhile.**
- C. **There was a California man know as “lawn chair Larry”, who was so bored with his life, that he decided to do something about it.** He took his lawn chair, some beer, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, and 45 helium filled weather balloons. He tied it to the back of his pickup. The balloons were inflated and the man was strapped into his lawn chair. The ropes were cut.
- The two pilots that reported the unidentified flying object at approximately 16,000 feet. He said: **“I’m not sure how to report this, but I just saw a man strapped into a lawn chair with weather balloons, dead and with a gun.”**
 - Helicopters rescued the strange object. He was not dead. He explained what had happened. He had planned to lazily rise and when he got high enough to shoot a few of the balloons and level off. Then, he would eat his sandwich and drink his beer. Then he would shoot a few more of the balloons and land safely in the Mojave Desert.
 - Instead when the ropes were cut, he had shot up like a rocket. So, he did the only thing he could do and that was drink the beer and he eventually passed out. After talking with police, reporters asked him a few questions. Finally, he was asked why he did this? **He simply replied that I just got tired of sitting around.**
- D. **This may be how we feel about our job at times. We are just wasting time. I want to suggest a new way for us to live on the job, where we spend the majority of our time as Christians. How do we make our work matter? The answer to the question will come out of the book of Genesis 1-3, where we’ll see what God’s design for work really is, and what He’s doing to redeem it.**

#1: Problem: God Made Work to be Worship, But We Corrupted It With Sin

- A. **We need to understand that God created humanity to be His representative to the earth as we bear His image (Genesis 1:26-28).** We are to bear the characteristics of God in our treatment of our world as we rule where God has given us dominion. This involves every aspect of our lives.
- B. **God commissioned humanity to engage in the creative work He began, and that was worshipful. “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it” (Genesis 2:15).** It becomes clear that as Adam fulfilled what God had created him to do, he was doing what God wanted him to. His fulfillment of God’s plan was his worship to God. **When God gives us an ability and when we use it in the best way that we can, that is worship to Him!** This work was good and served God’s purpose.
- C. **Humanity corrupted what God made good (Genesis 3:1-7, 17-19).** The fall changed everything. What had been fruitful labor, now becomes toil and sweat. The ground will now produce thorns and thistles. **The ground that man was to till would now be cursed. The principle applies to all that we do.**
- D. **We feel that corruption to this day—so we wonder if our work is worth it.**

#2: Solution: God, Through the Gospel, Redeems Our Work

- A. **God did not leave us without hope for our work.** He told the serpent: **“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel” (Genesis 3:15).** Despite the curse that came because of the fall, God did not give up on men and women and already had plans to give us a second chance through Jesus Christ.
- B. **Jesus’s perfect life redeems not just our spiritual selves, but our entire lives.** Paul writes: **(2 Corinthians 5:16-21).** As a result of Jesus’ incarnation and death on the cross, we and everything about us has been redeemed. The old has gone and the new has come!
- C. **In light of the gospel, our work is worship and witness (1 Peter 2:9-25; Colossians 3:17).** The KJV speaks of Christians being a **“peculiar people.”** **We are God’s chosen people living this out in our world and that changes everything!** We are different in how we work on the job. **We show our faith is real when we demonstrate:**
 - **the Highest standard of excellence,**
 - **the Highest standard of integrity,**
 - **the Highest standard of grace, and**
 - **patience and the willingness to give people a second chance, while helping them to improve, and**
 - **the highest level of compassion and generosity on the job.**

D. Our work is redeemed and people are drawn to Christ, not by the preacher only but by the every day living out of our Christian faith in the work world. We, truly, become the light of the world.

Conclusion

- A. *God created work to be worship.*** God has given us the ability to do something well, when we do that to the best of our ability and do it with a commitment to living out our Christian faith every day, we are worshiping God.
- B. *Through the gospel, Jesus has redeemed every part of our lives and we can worship Him with our work.***
- C. *If you are interest in knowing more about this subject and what it means for your life, please consider the following.*** On February 23rd, 2018, we will host a *Work as Worship Webinar* here at our building. (*Websites*). We are one of over 2,000 churches that will be hosting this webinar on that date. The cost is \$25 a person and this covers the cost of the lunch and credit card expenses. Registration for this webinar began already.
- D. *Business people are able to talk with people and visit nations that Christian ministers and missionaries can never go (the Middle East, China, Russia and other places).*** Billy Graham said: *“The next big revival will come from the workplace.”*

Example: Genesis 39:1-6a, 20b-23; 41:37-40: saved the world by allowing God to work through him!