HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

Your Business Is God's Mission Field

Living To Please God | Part 4 | 1 Thessalonians 4

INTRODUCTION

Most of us spend more of our waking hours at work than anywhere else. Whether you run a company, work an hourly job, attend school, keep a home, or have retired, you have a "business" that fills your days. Yet many believers keep their faith in one box and their work in another. Dr. Dodd reminds us that God cares deeply about how we work, because our daily lives are on display to everyone around us.

In *1 Thessalonians 4*, Paul continues to teach the church how to live in a way that pleases God. Having already called us to please God intentionally, authoritatively, sexually, intellectually, and in brotherly love, he now speaks to our working lives. "Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody" (*1 Thessalonians 4:11-12*). In other words, we are to live pleasing God professionally.

KEY POINTS

1. Live A Quiet Life

A quiet life is one without needless drama, lived in God's peace even in the middle of a busy workday. Jesus was never anxious. Though His public ministry lasted only three and a half years, He often invited His disciples to get away and rest. He moved from peace to peace, and He wants the same for us. Dr. Dodd once counseled a pastor who was unhappy and praying to move to another church. His advice applies to every workplace: God will never make you happy somewhere else until you get happy right where you are. If we do not let God settle our hearts, we will carry the same restlessness from job to job, and the same difficult people will keep showing up with different names and faces.

2. Mind Your Own Business

Paul tells us to focus on our own business rather than everyone else's. Many people are eager to fix others, yet those who most want to fix others often need the most fixing themselves. So what is our business? It is to hear from God and to be His representative wherever He plants us.

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

Your Business Is God's Mission Field

Living To Please God | Part 4 | 1 Thessalonians 4

3. Work With Your Hands

Paul was not only an apostle; he was also a tentmaker who worked hard to support himself. Our culture often treats retirement as the finish line, but there is always work for us to do, whether that is a career, schoolwork, caring for a home, or serving in retirement. Dr. Dodd also offers a caution: be careful not to let relationships at work take the place of the relationships God has given you at home. For married believers, the relationship with a spouse matters far more than friendships at work. Whatever our work, we are to give it our very best, because the way we work and treat others wins the respect of outsiders and honors Christ.

4. Your Business Is God's Mission Field

Wherever you work, God has placed you there on purpose. As a banker once told Dr. Dodd, "People don't bank with banks. They bank with bankers." It is all about relationships. Customers and coworkers notice how we treat them, and God will open windows of opportunity to point them to Jesus. We must never separate our spiritual lives from our business lives. In a culture where profanity grows darker every day, the way we speak can set us apart. When Isaiah came into the presence of God, he cried out, "I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips" (*Isaiah 6:5*). The presence of God brings conviction of sin. That is why the church needs worship leaders who lead us into God's presence, not just Christian entertainers.

If you are a believer, the Holy Spirit lives in you and goes with you into every workplace. His work is to convict the world of sin, and your presence should make a difference. Dr. Dodd believes we have not seen true revival because believers have not taken their business seriously as a mission field. God does not measure success by numbers. All it takes is one man or one woman fully committed to Christ, and God can begin to move.

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

Your Business Is God's Mission Field

Living To Please God | Part 4 | 1 Thessalonians 4

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Dr. Dodd says God will never make you happy somewhere else until you get happy right where you are. Where in your work or daily life do you need God's peace to replace restlessness?

2. How might your coworkers, classmates, or customers describe the way you work and treat others? What would you like them to see in you?

3. Say it out loud: "My business is God's mission field for me." Who has God placed in your path at work that He may want you to encourage or point to Jesus?