

# Vacation, Calling, and Career

Colossians 3:17-24

## I. General Background

**Gen. 1:28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

**Gen. 2:15** The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

**Gen. 3:17-18** And 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; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

## II. Christ and our career

### A. Find your identity in Christ

- We are saved in Christ

**Col. 1:13-14** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- We have fullness of life in Christ

**Col. 1:19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

**Col. 2:9-10** For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him,

- Our main purpose is to seek Christ and His life

**Col. 3:1-2** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

- Christ gives you all that you need

**Col. 3:12-13** Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

**Col. 3:14-15** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

**Col. 3:17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Col. 3:23-24** Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Test question: *Do you find your identity in Christ?*

## **B. Be diligent**

**Col. 3:23-24** Whatever you do, **work heartily**, as for the Lord and not for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Test question: *Are you diligent?*

## **C. Provide for you and your family**

**Col. 3:23-24** Whatever you do, work heartily, **as for the Lord** and not for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

**1 Thess. 4:10-12** for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, <sup>11</sup> and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, <sup>12</sup> so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

Test question: *Will this career enable you to provide for you and your family?*

## **D. Use God given opportunities**

**Col. 3:23-24** Whatever you do, work heartily, **as for the Lord** and not for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

**1 Cor. 7:21** Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity)

Test question: *Will this career be the best use of God given opportunities?*

### **E. Use God given gifts**

**Col. 3:23-24** Whatever you do, work heartily, **as for the Lord** and not for men,<sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

**1 Pet. 4:10** As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace

Test question: *Will this career be the best use of God given gifts?*

### **F. Be a blessing for others**

**Col. 3:23-24** Whatever you do, work heartily, **as for the Lord** and not for men,<sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

**Eph. 4:28** Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Test question: *Will this career bring a blessing for others?*

### **G. Serve the Lord**

**Col. 3:23-24** Whatever you do, work heartily, **as for the Lord** and not for men,<sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. **You are serving the Lord Christ.**

Test questions:

*Will this job or career help you to be a better Christian?*

*Will it help you to be a better husband/father, wife/mother?*

*Will it help you to serve God and His kingdom better?*

## **How to choose your career?**

### **Seven test questions:**

- *Do you find your identity in Christ?*
- *Are you diligent?*
- *Will this career enable you to provide for you and your family?*
- *Will this career be the best use of God given opportunities?*
- *Will this career be the best use of God given gifts?*
- *Will this career bring a blessing for others?*
- *Will this job or career help you to be a better Christian?*