



## WORK DOESN'T SATISFY.

“WHAT HAS A MAN FROM ALL THE TOIL AND STRIVING OF HEART WITH WHICH HE TOILS BENEATH THE SUN? FOR ALL HIS DAYS ARE FULL OF SORROW, AND HIS WORK IS A VEXATION.”

**ECCLESIASTES 2:22-23**

### WORK AS A FUNCTIONAL SAVIOR:

“Work is not all there is to life. You will not have a meaningful life without work, but you cannot say that your work is **the** meaning of your life. If you make any work the purpose of your life – even if that work is church ministry – you create an idol that rivals God.”<sup>1</sup> – **Tim Keller**

### WE LIKE FUNCTIONAL SAVIORS, BECAUSE...

1. It feels like we are the master, so it holds no real authority in our lives.
2. It feels like we control the limits, so it doesn't threaten our personal autonomy.
3. It feels like we have designed the fruit we consume.

**BUT** we have really gulped poison.

Functional saviors can never truly satisfy, can never save, and their end is destruction.

**Jeremiah 2:11-13** – “Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

### THE FUTILITY OF WORK AS A FUNCTIONAL SAVIOR:

#### **UNDER THE SUN...**

1. We work for our own gain, but we aren't even the ones who get to enjoy the bounty.
2. Work is toil and striving, full of sorrow and vexation.

### WORK AS A GIFT:

**Genesis 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.’”

### MEANINGFUL WORK AS A GIFT

#### **If work is not our meaning, how then is it meaningful?**

1. We work for God's enjoyment, not our gain.
2. By working for God's enjoyment, we walk in our created purpose.
3. Through work, we reflect the image of God to the world.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

**Jesus' redemptive touch is the difference between meaningless and meaningful work.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Tim Keller, *Every Good Endeavor*, p. 27.