

Every Good Endeavour 3 – A Transformed Attitude to Work

SMALL GROUP NOTES

Tim Wilson 11/05/2014

Theme

Continuing the 'Every Good Endeavour' series looking at the impact of the gospel to shape, and ultimately transform, our attitude to our work and therefore how we act and conduct ourselves when we are working.

Scriptures

Colossians 3:22-24

Ecclesiastes 2:18-23

Romans 6:22

Outline

The command in Colossians 3:23 to 'work heartily as for the Lord and not for men' and then in v.24 to work as if 'you are serving the Lord Christ' on initial reading can seem simple and obvious. Yet on closer examination of our heart there is the potential that either:

- Work has become an idol either in itself or as a means to other idols (a good thing becoming a God thing or anything that delivers the control, security, significance, satisfaction and beauty that only God can give) such as:
 - Success/Glory/Desire to Win
 - Money/Prosperity
 - Status/Reputation/Identity
 - Power, or
- Work is demotivating as a result of unemployment or underemployment

The outcome of both the above attitudes and approaches is that work becomes meaningless and pointless.

The power of the gospel is that it enables to 'serve the Lord Christ' in our work as:

- We are now His, he has bought us with a price and we have become slaves of God
- Our lives are now a living sacrifice for Him
- We can now live fully in the present with the eternal perspective we now have
- We are set free to Enjoy Working
- We are free from the pressure of making a name for ourselves
- We now desire to please Him

As we take hold of this truth about our new identity God will start to change our character as part of our sanctification and the fruit of that will be that we can begin to:

- Work with 'Sincerity of Heart' (v.22) demonstrated by:
 - Working Hard but Working Effectively and Smart
 - Working with Integrity and Acting Justly
 - Loving Kindness and Goodness – treating people well, not showing partiality

- 'Work Heartily (v.23) demonstrated by:
 - Working with Cheerfulness and Joy
 - Working with Authenticity
 - Recognising Working can be hard, tough and stretching
 - The development of endurance and resilience

Questions for discussion

My suggestion is that you give time to each person in the group (may need to break into smaller groups) to share about their work and their current attitude to it using the framework above to ask:

- If in any way work has become an idol or means to an idol
- If work is demotivating as a result of unemployment or underemployment
- Is there evidence/fruit of working with 'sincerity of heart' and working 'heartily'
- Is there current temptation or pressure to act unjustly and/or cut corners

Tags

Work, Attitude, Identity in Christ, Serve, Idol, Unemployment, Underemployment, Sanctification