

## **Faith and Work - Part 2**

### **Work in Light of the Fall and Redemption**

**Because of the Fall, work will often be...**

- **Unfruitful (Genesis 3:16-19) – met with many difficulties and frustrations**

- We will often be unable to accomplish all that we envision in our work due to the way sin has distorted...
  - Our Relationship with God (Gen. 3:8-10)
  - Our View of Ourselves (Gen. 3:7)
  - Our Relationships with Others (Gen. 3:12, 16)
  - All of Creation (Gen 3:17, Romans 8:20-22)
- The things that we accomplish will often only come about through much pain and toil (Gen. 3:16-19).
- However, it is still through work that God provides for us (Gen. 3:16-19).

- **Unfocused (Genesis 11:1-9, Eccl. 4:1-8) – motivated by wrong pursuits**

- In God's original design, the focus of work was to cultivate His creation according to His commands in a way that leads to human flourishing.
- But due to sin in our lives and the world, now we often...
  - Disregard God's commands for our own desires (Gen. 11:4).
  - Use God's creation for our benefit rather than cultivating it for His glory and for the good of others (Gen. 11:3-4).
  - Are driven by envy and put others down rather than build them up (Eccl. 4:4).
- However, by God's grace, God still uses wrong pursuits for His glory and for the good of others.

- **Unfulfilling (Eccl. 2:18-24) – not delivering what we hope**

- Even when our work accomplishes certain goals, it will often feel like vanity and leave us unsatisfied (Eccl. 2:22-23).
- Fulfillment will often be fleeting as we are never sure who will inherit our work and what they will do with it (Ecc. 2:18-19).
- However, in His grace, God still offers enjoyment in our work (Eccl. 2:24-25).

## How should Christians respond?

- **Keep a Proper Perspective of Sin**

- Don't be naive to the sinful patterns and pursuits of the world (we must be wise as serpents and innocent as doves).
- Don't be naive to the tendency towards sin even in Christians and in your own heart.

- **Keep a Proper Perspective of Grace**

- Because of common grace, even non-Christians can work in accordance with God's design.
- Because of redeeming grace, there is forgiveness for the ways you have sinned, which give you the freedom to confess and offer forgiveness to others.

- **Keep a Proper Perspective of God's Redeeming Work**

- Because Jesus has come and will one day return, we know that the effects of the fall are not eternal.
  - *"No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow, Far as the curse is found,"*
- God sees all of our work and promises heavenly rewards.

- **With a Proper Perspective, We Can Be Transformed Not Conformed (Rom. 12:1-2)**

- We have new identities.
  - *3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. - Colossians 3:3-4*
- We have new mindsets.
  - *4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, - Philippians 2:4-5*
- We have a new boss and new rewards.
  - *23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. - Colossians 3:23-24*

## Discussion Questions

- How has sin and the consequences of sin had an impact on your work? Has this led you to become more frustrated with work? Or has it turned work into an idol?
- How does your perspective of work often drift away from a biblical perspective? How could you correct your perspective on a daily basis?