



EPHESIANS

GOD'S PLAN

Redeeming Work

Martin Luther

To serve God simply means to do what God has **commanded** and not to do what God has forbidden. And if only we would accustom ourselves properly to this view, the **entire world would be full of service to God**, not only the churches but also the home, the kitchen, the cellar, the workshop, and the field of townsfolk and farmers.

Martin Luther

In the light of this view of the matter a poor maid should have the joy in her heart of being able to say:

Now I am cooking, making the bed, sweeping the house. Who has **commanded** me to do these things? My master and mistress have. Who has given them this authority over me? God has.

Very well, then it must be true that I am serving not them alone but also God in heaven and that **God must be pleased with my service**. How could I possibly be more blessed? Why, my service is equal to cooking for God in heaven!

Martin Luther

God cannot bear to see anyone neglect the duties of his **calling or station** in life in order to imitate the works of the saints. If therefore a married woman were to follow Anna in this respect, leave her husband and children, her home and parents in order to go on a pilgrimage, to pray, fast and go to church, she would do nothing else but tempt God, confound the matrimonial estate with the state of widowhood, **desert her own calling** and do works belonging to others.

Martin Luther

This would be as much as walking on one's ears, putting a veil over one's feet and a boot on one's head, and turning **all things upside down**. Good works should be done, and you ought to pray and fast, but you must not thereby be kept from or neglect the **duties of your calling and station**.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

To lift up the hands in prayer gives God glory, but a man with a dungfork in his hand, a woman with a sloppail, give him glory too. He is so great that all things give him glory **if you mean they should.**



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