

## **Ephesians 6:5-9**

### ***Remade Work That Lasts***

### ***Made for Mission - Part 2***

#### **WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?**

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Christ's inward work remakes our outward work into lasting work.

#### **STRUCTURE OF THE PASSAGE**

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- I. Exhortation to Bondservants (vv. 5-8)
- II. Exhortation to Masters (v. 9)

#### **GOSPEL CENTRALITY**

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Jesus comes alongside the anxious and the apathetic, calling them to be a part of the royal family and to represent the Lord as priests, giving us all a new job title as bondservants to the King. Jesus demonstrates his solidarity with sinners on the cross where he took on our sin and became a curse for us that even the worst of us could become like Him.

#### **KEY TERMS/THEMES**

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1. **Work** – activity which cultivates, restores, and preserves what is good in the world.
2. **Bondservant** (*doulos*)– someone who is legally bound to work for someone else. Approximately one-third of the Roman world, of various socio-economic levels, were bondservants. See also, Col. 3:22.
3. **Eye-service** (*ophthalmodoulia*) – service that is performed only to make an impression in the owner's presence; when we work for the eyes of man we are not working from a heart for God.
4. **Cultural or Creation Mandate** – God's command to his image bearers to go out and to create culture that reflects his glory. God's command to His people begins with Him blessing them. God's favor and grace is upon them, and it is out of that blessed relationship with the Creator that they are to go out and do what God commands (Gen. 1:28).

## **KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN**

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- How is God using work to shape you? How is God using your work to serve others?
- Does your work fit into the fill or subdue category of the creation mandate (Gen. 1:28)? How are you being called to cultivate, restore, and/or preserve in your work?
- Is your rhythm of work and rest working for you (and those around you)? Why or why not? Think of and share one aspect of your heart/feelings re: work that you want to ask God to change.
- How can you and your family and/or life group 'practice together?' How can you rehearse the narrative of the gospel together?

## **RESPONDING IN PRAYER**

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- Pray for one another – that Christ would do the inward work needed by the power of the Spirit in order to remake our outward work into lasting work.
- Pray for your work and the work of other believers – that it would be better than expected, more respectful than deserved, and more creative than others could have hoped.
- Pray for those among your family, friends, and community who have not put their trust in Jesus – that they would respond to the gospel and trust in the finished work of Christ.