

## VOCATION: The Art of Work

### The Art of Discerning

Ephesians 2:10

What we **know** and **embrace** about work:

#### Knowing...

- 1) God is a worker, and so are those made in his image.
- 2) God partners with people in his creative and redemptive work.
- 3) God glorifies himself and blesses others through work.

#### Embracing...

- 1) I have a calling from God (vocation), just like the pastor.
- 2) My job, as well as how, where, and why I do it, matters to God.
- 3) God is my supervisor, and I ultimately work for him.

**Discern:** Perceive, recognize something, *from discernere: to separate, part*

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* **Ephesians 2:10**

**Main Idea: The Art of Work is Predicated on Discerning my Calling from God**

#### Three Aspects of Discernment from Ephesians 2:10

##### I. Intimacy with God

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* **Acts 1:8**

*“We must therefore make it our primary goal not just to hear the voice of God, but to be mature people in a loving relationship with him. Only in this way will we hear him rightly.”* **Dallas Willard**

##### II. Understanding Myself

*“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’”* **Matthew 16:24**

- **Personality Traits:** Introvert/Extrovert, Goofy/Serious, Quiet/Loud
- **Spiritual Gifts:** Teaching, Mercy, Giving, Administration, Service
- **Reactionary Tendencies:** Adversarial, Avoidant, Protective,
- **Sinful Temptations:** Pride, Lazy, Controlling, Fearful, Materialistic
- **Worldly Attractions:** Wealth, Safety, Freedom, Respect, Uniformity

*“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”* **Romans 12:1-2**

*“Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”*

**Psalm 37:4**

##### III. Gaining Experience

*“Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.”*

**1 Corinthians 7:17**

**Intimacy with God is impossible without being saved.**

*“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”* **Ephesians 2:13**

**Josiah Maddox’s Ordination and Installation:** It was through this very process that God called someone out from among you to serve in a pastoral capacity. Josiah was raised here at Salem Church, served in volunteer and staff capacities for many years, and, over the past two years, God has been stirring his heart toward greater responsibility within the local church. (1 Timothy 3:1 – *if anyone aspires to the office*)

**Process:** After Josiah let us know his desire, the elders and I prayed about it, and the Lord lead us to proceed. The process involves an extensive questionnaire on Josiah’s calling, theology and personal practice. The ordination council reviewed this document and met with Josiah and Josie to discuss his calling. After prayerful consideration, we were enthusiastic and unanimous that God was calling this man to be a pastor, and, specifically, to be the Campus Pastor of Salem Church’s Clove Lakes Campus.

**We did not call Josiah, God called Josiah. We affirm that calling!**

*“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”*

**Acts 13:2-3**

**Installation:** Josiah is now ordained and installed as the Campus Pastor of the Clove Lakes Campus of Salem Church. Josiah will take responsibility for leading this campus to Love God and Love People, to Make Disciples and Multiply Churches and to Connect, Grow, Serve, & Go!

#### Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Hughes & Laney (2001)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson, R.T. France (1994)
- *Critical & Explanatory* – Jamieson, Fausset & Brown (1997)
- *Bible Knowledge Commentary* – J.F. Walvoord & R.B. Zook (1985)
- *Faithlife Study Bible* – J.D. Barry (2012)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Editor Trevin Wax (2017)
- *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible* – Richard J. Erickson (1995)
- *Every Good Endeavor* – Timothy Keller (2012)
- *Hearing God* – Dallas Willard (1984)

