

VOCATION: The Art of Work

The Art of Knowing

Psalm 104:14-15

Sacred/Secular Divide: Many of us separate our lives into two different categories: the sacred and the secular. Private life, family life, church life all seem sacred. Our work and careers seem secular, and that God doesn't care as much about them.

"...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." **1 Corinthians 10:31b**

New Series: Today we begin a series looking at the concept of "vocation", a fancy word for job. This term comes from the Latin *vocare*, which means to call. Over the next four weeks we will look at the concept of calling and discover the "art" of work. We begin this journey with the Art of Knowing...

"You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart."

Psalms 104:14-15

Main Idea: Embracing My Vocation Requires Knowing the One Who Called Me

What I Must Know about the One Who Calls from Psalm 104:14-15

I. Knowing God's Identity as a Worker – *"You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants..."* **Vs. 14a**

God is a worker, and his work typically falls into two broad categories: Creative and Redemptive:

God's Creative Work

"And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done." **Genesis 2:2**

God's Redemptive Work

"But Jesus answered them, 'My Father is working until now, and I am working.'" John 5:17

God continues to exist as a worker all around us, and his work reveals some amazing things about his character and nature:

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." **Psalm 19:1**

II. Knowing God's Intention to Partner with People – *"...for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine..."* **Vs. 14b-15a**

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it." **Genesis 2:15** // **God left creation incomplete on purpose...**

"For we are God's fellow workers." **1 Corinthians 3:9a**

III. Knowing God's Emphasis on Blessing Others – *"...to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart."* **Vs. 15b**

The purpose of God's work, partnered with our work, is that it is a blessing to others.

"Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need." **Ephesians 4:28**

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." **Philippians 2:4**

If all this is true, then three concepts must be embraced...

- I have a calling from God, just like the Pastor
- My job, as well as how, where, and why I do it, matters to God
- God is my Supervisor, and I ultimately work for him

Main Idea: Embracing my Vocation requires Knowing the One who Called Me

"Knowing God" is possible only through a relationship with his Son, Jesus Christ.

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6

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)
- *Biblical Wisdom for the Great Resignation* – Chip Roper (2021)
- *FRED Economic Data (2022)*
- *Every Good Endeavor* – Timothy Keller (2012)

