

DON'T GO QUIET

Welcome // name // newbies // online ...

In 2nd week of short series looking at how the resurrection changes everything.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Resurrection is victory through Jesus / NOT through Jesse /
You & I have NO BOAST ... NO POWER ... NO
CONTRIBUTION to this victory. / We live IN Jesus'
victory!!!

Lets tease this idea of victory out a little bit more.

What happens when we hear our side is victorious?

- Hurricanes (Game 7 2OT victory over Capitals!!!)
- Good news!!!

Now the 'Canes haven't won the Stanley Cup ... the FINAL VICTORY hasn't happened.

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But what if you could be assured that they would?

What if you were a Carolina player and could see into the future and the 'Canes win?!

That would bring about a big change in you ... at least it should.

It should bring new confidence to every game you face off against an adversary. → [not a reason to excuse yourself from doing battle]

The team still has to get out and play each game.

Each game you still have an opponent that wants to beat you (in hockey that is quite literal).

You still have to play hard... even though you know that the victory is in hand.

... the opponent is going to check you into the boards ... you might get a puck to the face ...

There will be bruises and scars along the way as we battle toward sure victory.

But in the hard moments we don't lose hope ... b/c we know.

That is what the Resurrection life is like for us Christians.

We know in Jesus we are going to win the Stanley Cup!
[Eternal Life]

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Jesus says to us, go and make disciples ... [get on the ice / play good hockey] ...

Whether your a veteran or a rookie ... it's a pretty awesome thing to know you've been signed on to the winning team!!!

If you are here and not on Jesus' team ... he is calling you switch teams and put on his jersey.

The point is this ... being on Jesus' team isn't riding the bench.

We don't put on the pads & uniform for looks ... [praying "please don't put me on the ice!!!"] it's saying coach put me in!!!

1 Corinthians 15:58

58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, **always abounding in the work of the Lord**, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

The Resurrection Brings Us Back Into God's Work

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I'm not saying give your two weeks notice tomorrow b/c God has a job with a paycheck waiting for you.

God isn't posting on Zip Recruiter.

But make no mistake ... the Christian life is a draft into the work Jesus is doing in the world.

The Great Commission is not the Great Suggestion.

We are called to go and make disciples.

This isn't a 40hr/wk job.

Working with God is a bit different to the idea we have of work.

For many of us work (or school) is a compartmentalized part of our life.

We put in the hours, go home, and leave work at the office/school.

→ Would be weird if we tried to do our Dad role at the office. Or tried to do our occupational role at home ... [:-) The kids don't need a used car salesman ... need a parent].

[PAUSE]

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So, we leave work at work... and then we get home and might pick up a different type of work.

- As spouses / parents / children / roommate ...

We step out of one compartmentalized role and step into a new one.

But when we step into the new life in the Resurrection we are stepping into work for God and with God.

This work isn't compartmentalized. [15 min in the morning / Sundays]

No! It encompasses our whole life.

Let me explain it this way ...

SHOW CIRCLE 1 SLIDE

God's work is our Primary Calling

- follow Jesus [disciples and disciple-makers] ... this is at the center of who we are ... this flows into everything else we do ... which are the Secondary Callings.

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Secondary (or Specific) Callings

- These are the different roles we do as people
 - employee / boss / student / spouse / parent / child, etc.

So how does that work out practically?

How can we simultaneously be working for God and doing the other roles of our life?

The Primary calling for every Christian is to live to the Glory of God.

It isn't something we compartmentalize and wait until Sunday.

It is everyday, all day. [what we mean by our value = living a life of worship]

It is meant to be at the heart of everything we do in every arena of life ... family, church, friend, student → live for the Glory of God.

In this way every part of my life isn't just work it becomes God's work.

This is quite counter-culture.

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B/C people don't work to the glory of God.

Some of us work to live.

- your work serves no greater purpose than to pay the bills and put food on the table.

But then, some of us live to work.

- your work defines who you are.
- It is one of the first questions we ask in order to build our concept of people.
- The more important your job the more significant you are.

But when we work to the glory of God it changes the idea of work entirely:

- changes what we work for.
- it restores a higher view of work, [not just a paycheck // not my identity]
- AND it restores a higher value to our work.

1 Corinthians 15:58

58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that **in the Lord your labor is not in vain.**

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**God's Work Brings Meaning and Significance That
Never Fades**

That is a bold statement ... apart from God our labors are in vain.

That word vain means “empty” / “devoid of meaning or purpose”.

As you and I move closer to death [*I know ... not a popular subject*] ... , both the poor and wealthy are dogged by this sense of how meaningless life can be.

I can remember starting out in the workforce at the young age of 16.

I had big bold plans to make my mark on the world and amass profile and possession. [Big checks, Big house, Big family.]

But the more of my dreams that I achieved the emptier and more meaningless it all felt.

I never found the significance I was looking for.

Ecclesiastes 2:22-23

22 What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? 23 For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity [meaningless/empty].

See, my search for meaning and significance was rooted in my work. I used work to pursue my own glory.

But in my pursuit of more ... I always seemed to be losing more than I was getting.

I was losing peace, health, relationships, joy ...

All the while my career, salary and possessions were getting better and better.

See I thought my work could give me all that I could ever want.

I thought it could add value to my life. I thought it could give me meaning and make my life count.

But in the end it proved to take more than it gave.

And like the preacher of Ecclesiastes says, ... my days were full of sorrow. My work wasn't a joy ... it was a vexation / a toil.

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[PAUSE]

See ... all the work we do as parents, students, employees, bosses // when we look to them to find meaning and significance ... we end up empty.

At the end of our life ... what does all that work count for?

We leave our legacy in the hands of others.

All that we do ... all that we build or create ... the fortune we may have amassed ... we have to entrust to others.

That's what brings anxiety and hopelessness to the rich and poor alike.

Lehman Brother's, the great investment bankers, 150 year heritage. They put their name on something that seemed like it would last forever. Now it is gone. Their names won't even be an anecdote in a generation.

You can walk a graveyard and look at forgotten legacy's. People whose mark on the world has vanished like vapor.

Everything that we build for this life will pass away and be forgotten.

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But there is a graveyard with a tomb that is empty.

And the legacy of that man's empty tomb will never end or fade.

And to be pulled into that is to abide in unfading meaning and significance b/c God's work carries on into eternity.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— **13** each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. **14** **If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.** **15** If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

God's Work Yields Eternal Reward

I don't know about you ... but I work to obtain a reward.

(I aint pastoring for free.) :)

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Heard a saying ... “Don’t need the work, just need the money.”

We don’t work for free, right!

(Jerry Maguire) .. “Show me the money!!!” :)

We want to buy stuff: clothes, cars, boats, homes ...

These are the rewards meant to offset the *suffering toil* of our work.

We must be suffering a lot ... cuz’ we can’t stop rewarding ourselves.

But that is the hope for life without the Resurrection ... pursue more ...

More pleasure, more fun, more stuff ...

But in the end we can’t take it with us ... (hearse doesn’t have a trailer hitch).

[PAUSE]

Here is the choice you and I have ...

We can live for today and its temporary rewards that will pass away.

Or we can live for that DAY when our works will be tested.

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Now it's easy to see how we can live for today.

The ancient Epicureans were the first to believe there wasn't life after death. (modernity isn't as original as it thinks).

Their life purpose was to “eat, drink, and be merry ... for tomorrow we die.”

Basically, live it up everyday ... don't delay gratification b/c tomorrow may never come and you'll miss out.

It is easy to see the work an Epicurean-ist must do.

But what about a Resurrection-ist? What does our work look like?

How do we practically go about doing God's work that will last into eternity?

I've spent a lot of time this week thinking about this.

What came to mind was ...

- prayer work
- proclamation work
- people work

That is the work God calls us into and we can bring with us into every other role of our life.

But the Holy Spirit didn't give me any peace leaving it at that.

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We must be cautious b/c what can happen is that I can call you to an idealistic version of discipleship that is impossible to live up to.

Is prayer work a part of God's work? Sure...

But then you could easily get into a debate of how much, how often, how long ...

"Do I have to pray at work to make it God's work?"

Is sharing the Gospel-- proclamation work-- God's work? Sure ...

"Do I have to proclaim the Gospel at school to make that God's work?"

We are good at complicating God's work.

-- We make it about numbers and stats and checklists.

-- Leads to pride or despair ... I'm measuring up (pride) ... or I'm not (despair).

But what I think God led me into was a place of seeing how simple it is ...

[SHOW CIRCLE 2 SLIDE]

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God's Work Flows Out Of Those Who Abide In Him

1 Corinthians 15:58 (Show the Red Font on This Slide)

58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be **steadfast,
immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,
knowing that **in the Lord** your labor is not in vain.**

When you and I are abiding in God we are being changed.

That is the power of the Resurrection at work in us.

We are becoming more and more like Jesus.

We die more to ourselves and live more to God.

This doesn't mean we lose who we are.

Actually, when we abide in God, HE transforms us into the most authentic whole version of ourselves.

Before we can abound in the Lord's work, the Lord's work needs to abound in us.

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When we are so saturated by the Lord's work in us, it overflows out of us into every part of our lives.

Then we can't compartmentalize it even if we wanted to.

God's work goes from WHAT WE DO ... to ... WHO WE ARE.

Prayer work, proclamation work, people work don't become another checklist of our life.

These things become the natural rhythm of our life b/c of what God is doing in us.

And in all of this we remember that abiding is a gift of God's grace.

We didn't earn the right to abide.

Jesus earned it for us.

He did the work for us by His death and Resurrection.

If you are not a Christian,

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... Put your hope in Jesus today ...

... Stop trying to work for meaning and significance ...

... Put your faith in Jesus' work ... his death and resurrection ...

... He died for your sin so you could abide with God and get caught up in his work that will never pass away ...

If you are a Christian:

... We respond with thankfulness to God's grace.

... This is the posture of our hearts as God invites us to the communion table.... Body broken / blood shed ...

... We are reminded that the strength and power for God's work is found in the cross and the empty tomb and the Savior seated on the throne.

LET'S PRAY