

Our daily work becomes a sacred calling when we see it as God's assignment.

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. This is truly the way to worship him. Romans 12:1 MSG

The ultimate question about our work is... *What kind of work will God reward?*

(1 Corinthians 3:5-15)

The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 1 Corinthians 3:8

If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. 1 Corinthians 3:14

- Not salvation.
- God's recognition of faithfulness.
- Fruit that lasts forever.
- A bigger kingdom assignment.
- The joy of hearing "well done".

What kind of work will God reward?**■ Work that God assigns.**

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ... ¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. 1 Corinthians 3:5, 10

■ Work that is costly.

If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. 1 Corinthians 3:12-13

■ Work that is built on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder... ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:10-11

Let's Talk About It

God gives eternal purpose to our everyday work when we offer it to Him as worship. Scripture reminds us that what we build with our lives—when done faithfully and on the foundation of Christ—will be tested and rewarded. God rewards work that He assigns, that is costly, and that is built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. When we see our jobs as His calling, even ordinary tasks can lead to eternal fruit. Your daily work is ultimately an act of worship to the God who called you to do it and when you build your work on the foundation of Jesus Christ in honor of God and in love of others, God will not only preserve it but reward it!

Romans 12:1 MSG; 1 Corinthians 3:5-15; 13:13; Jeremiah 1:5; John 17:4; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2:2

Discussion questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-9. The idea of God rewarding our work may seem a little strange at first, especially since we know we're saved by grace, not by works. What's a healthy, biblical way to understand the rewards God promises? How does this shape your motivation to serve Him faithfully?
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. If your work and life were tested today, what do you think would remain as lasting fruit—and what might not survive? Why?
- Since Jesus is the foundation of all good work (v.11), how does the gospel change the way you think about your work—whether at school, at home, on the job, or in retirement?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:13. Paul says the difference-maker is love. What does it look like for you to do your work in a way that loves people?

Take a Step

- Ask God to clarify what his assignment is for you. Ask God for vision and hope regarding your work.
- Take God with you to work again this week. Start your week by spending time praising Jesus for his saving work.

Here's My Prayer

Jesus, thank You for Your saving work on the cross—my foundation, my hope, and my reason to live. Because of Your grace, I don't have to earn salvation, but I do want to build a life that brings You glory. Help me to live and work in a way that honors You—not for success or recognition, but for what lasts in eternity. Teach me to see my daily efforts as part of Your bigger purpose, and give me the courage to build with faith, love, and integrity. In Jesus' name, amen.