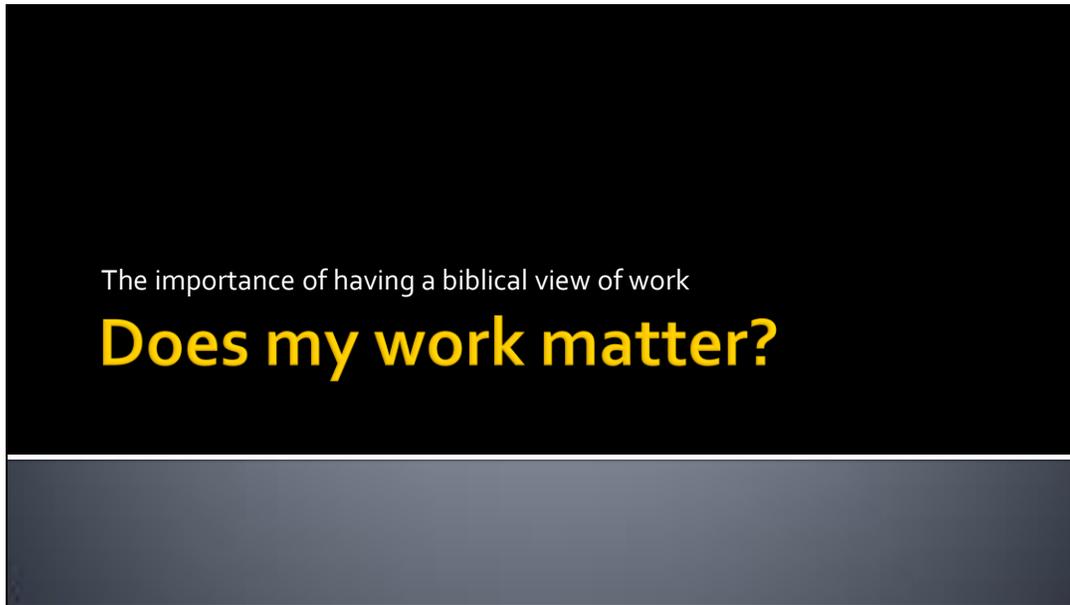


# Does My Work Matter?

Why it takes a computer programmer to have a turkey sandwich!

Jason Browning



## Does My Work Matter?

Having a biblical view of work is important because most of us spend more time working than we do in any other activity—more than home responsibilities and more than church

2

## Does My Work Matter?

We have left our faith out of work as if it did not matter, and everything about work has suffered for it. Your heavenly Father wants to be Lord of everything, including your work!

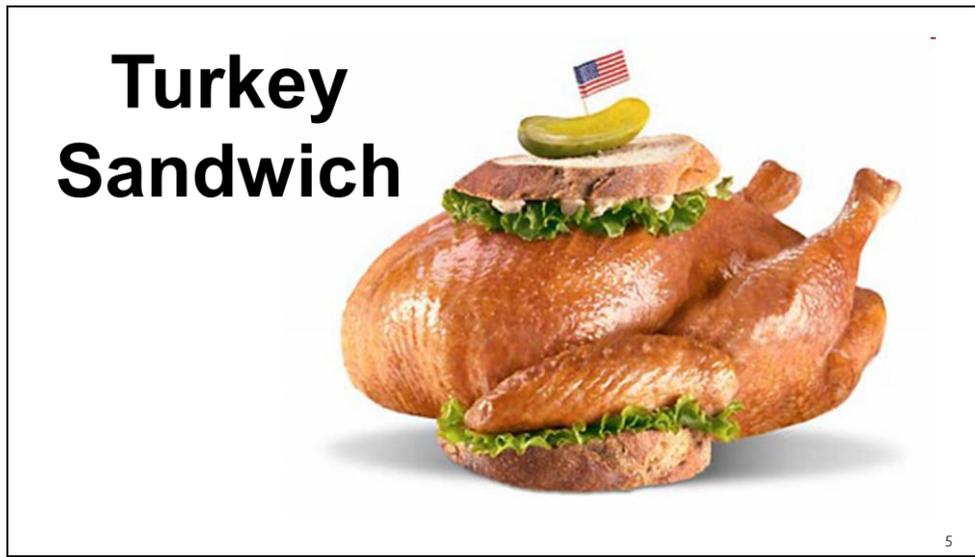
3

Does My Work Matter?

**Why you need  
a computer programmer  
to have a turkey sandwich**

4

Does My Work Matter?



Well, maybe not this kind of turkey sandwich!

Does My Work Matter?



Mom's have an important job, part of which is making sure their child has a nice turkey sandwich for lunch!

Does My Work Matter?

# Grocery Store

Where I get the ingredients for the sandwich



7

So it's off to the grocery store to get the ingredients for the sandwich...

Does My Work Matter?



But did you ever stop to think about what it takes to have a grocery store?  
For one thing, you need stockers to put out the groceries on the shelves.

Does My Work Matter?



You also need cashiers to total up and bag your order.

Does My Work Matter?

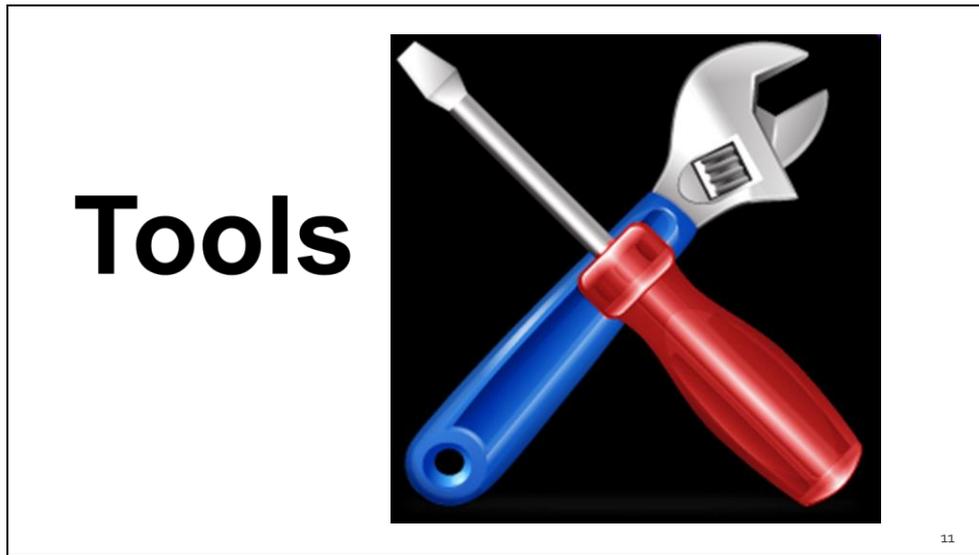
## Construction Worker



10

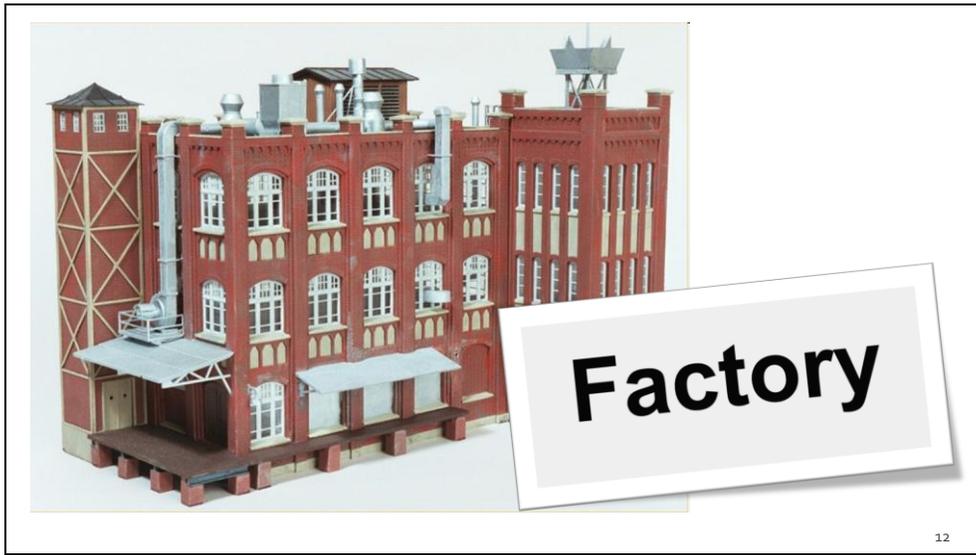
How about the store itself? It took many construction workers to build it.

Does My Work Matter?



And those construction workers needed tools.

Does My Work Matter?



And tools were made in a factory.

Does My Work Matter?

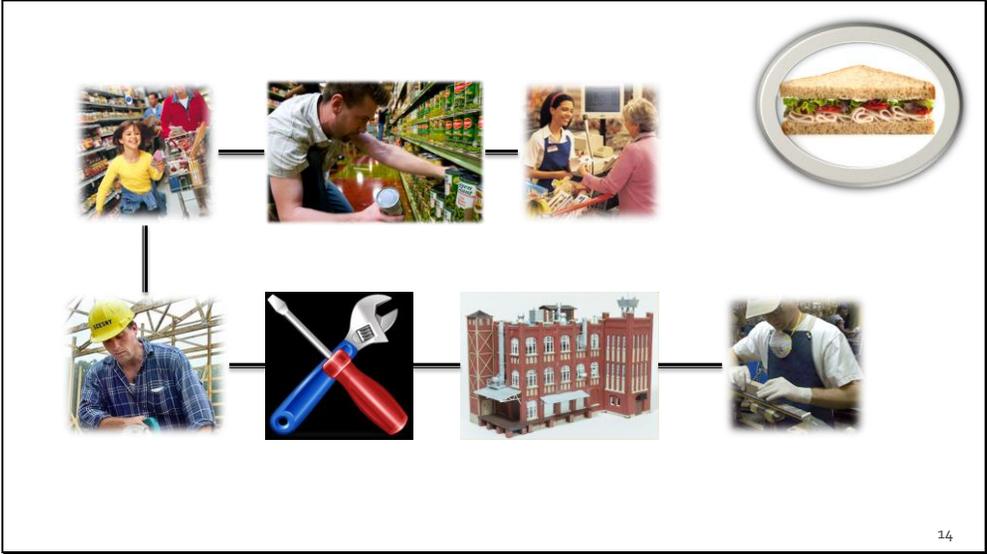
# Factory Worker



13

Which needs a lot of factory workers.

Does My Work Matter?



So we have a chain of one job being dependent on other jobs. Here is our chain so far.

Does My Work Matter?



We must have some people who are fireman in case the store catches on fire.

Does My Work Matter?



And a policeman in case someone tries to leave with their groceries without paying!

Does My Work Matter?



The thief may get put in jail and a jail guard is needed to watch over them.

Does My Work Matter?



Every month or so the jail guard will need to get his hair cut by a barber.

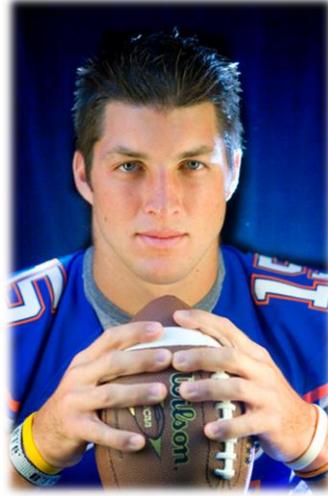
Does My Work Matter?



When the barber goes home he has chores to do, but likes to relax sometimes by watching a movie on TV. Making a movie needs actors.

Does My Work Matter?

# Football Player



20

The actor likes to watch football on a Sunday afternoon when he is not busy making a movie.  
You can't have a football game without football players!

Does My Work Matter?



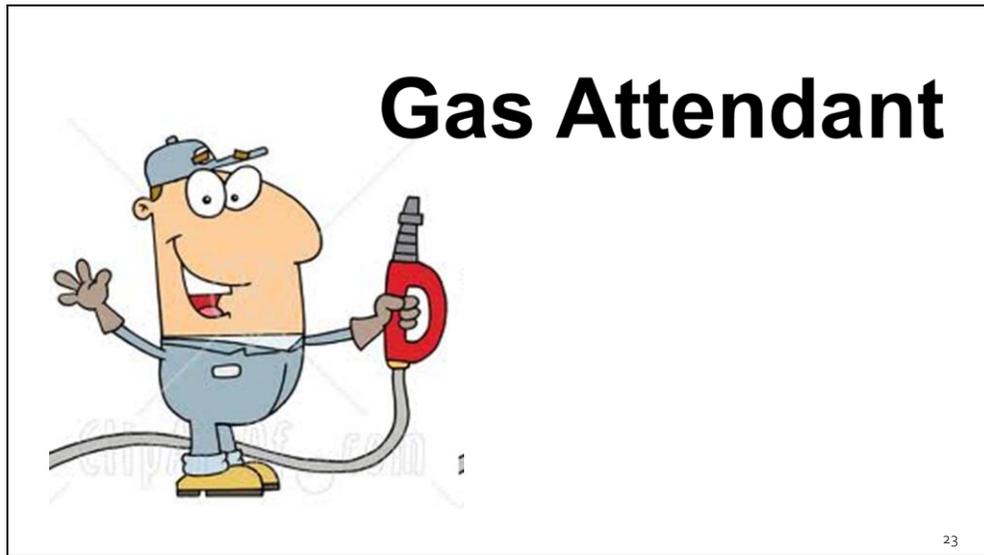
The football player likes to listen to music when traveling to the next game. That music was made by a band having musicians.

Does My Work Matter?



Musicians travel a lot to put on concerts for their fans.

Does My Work Matter?



The vehicles they travel in need gas, which is pumped by a gas attendant.

Does My Work Matter?

# Soldier



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For all of this activity to take place the country needs to be safe from enemies, protected by the army which has lot's of soldiers.

Does My Work Matter?



Some of the soldiers may be stationed in foreign countries where there are missionaries telling people about Jesus. When those people turn to Jesus as their Savior, they become better people and their country becomes a better place.

Does My Work Matter?

# Restaurant



26

All of the people we have talked about get hungry and will need or want to go to a restaurant to get something to eat.

Does My Work Matter?



That restaurant needs waiters and waitresses to serve the food.

Does My Work Matter?

# Truck Driver



28

Now, how about the grocery store again? It needs many truck drivers to bring the groceries from where they are made to the store.

Does My Work Matter?



One of the items brought to the store in trucks is the turkey meat for our sandwich, which may have come from a butcher shop.

Does My Work Matter?

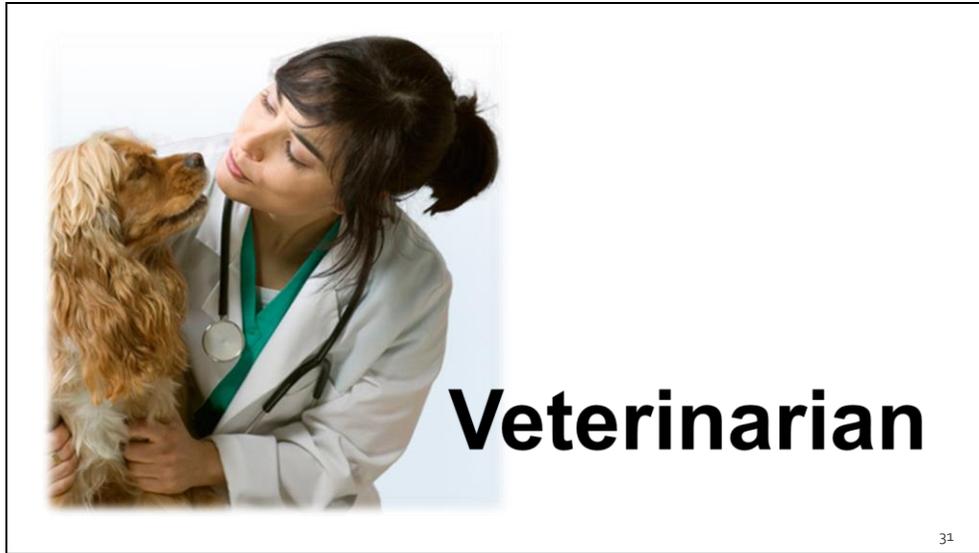
**Farmer**



30

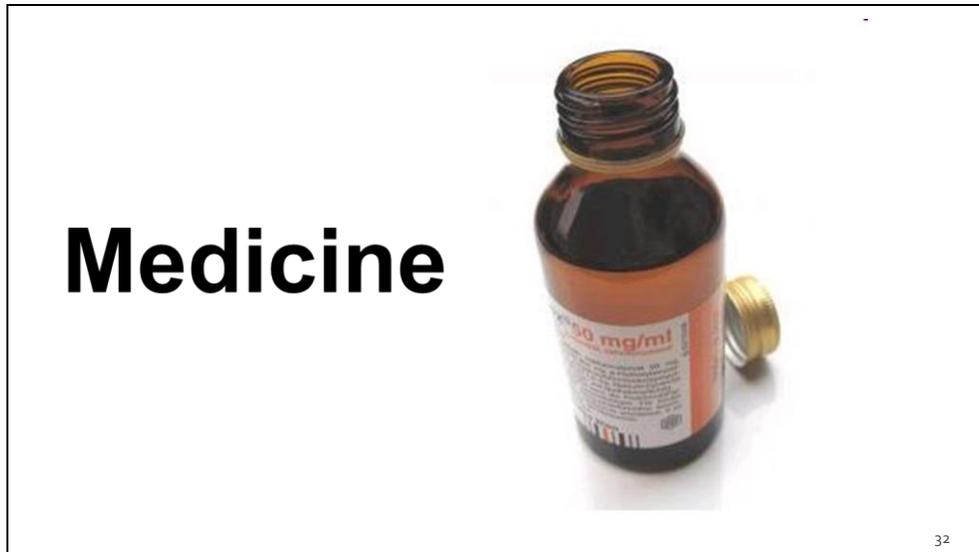
And the butcher gets the turkey and other meats from farmers.

Does My Work Matter?



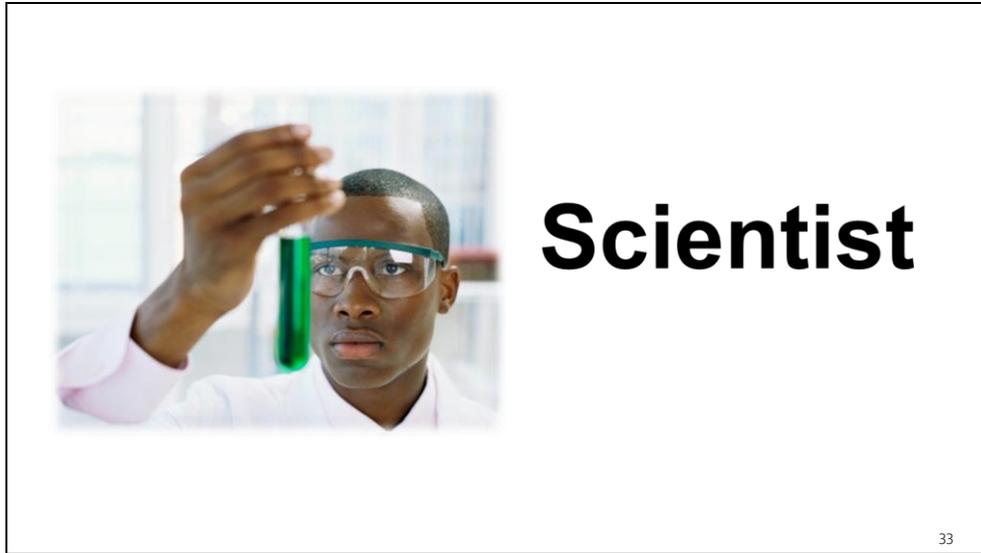
Now the farmer has many animals and wants them to be healthy, so sometimes he has a veterinarian come to look at his animals, even the family dog.

Does My Work Matter?



Now if one of the animals is sick they will need medicine.

Does My Work Matter?



It took a scientist to develop that medicine.

Does My Work Matter?

# College



34

The scientist had to study at college to learn about the chemistry needed to make medicine.

Does My Work Matter?

**Teacher**

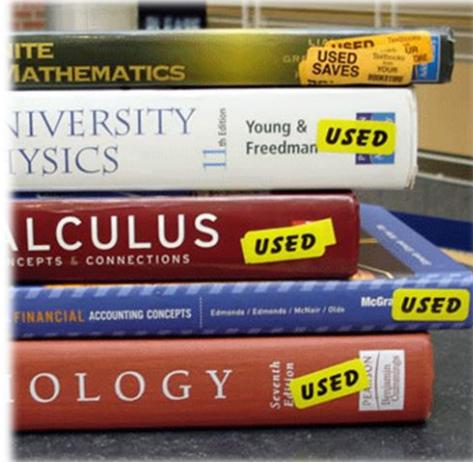


35

At the college he took classes taught by a teacher.

Does My Work Matter?

# Books



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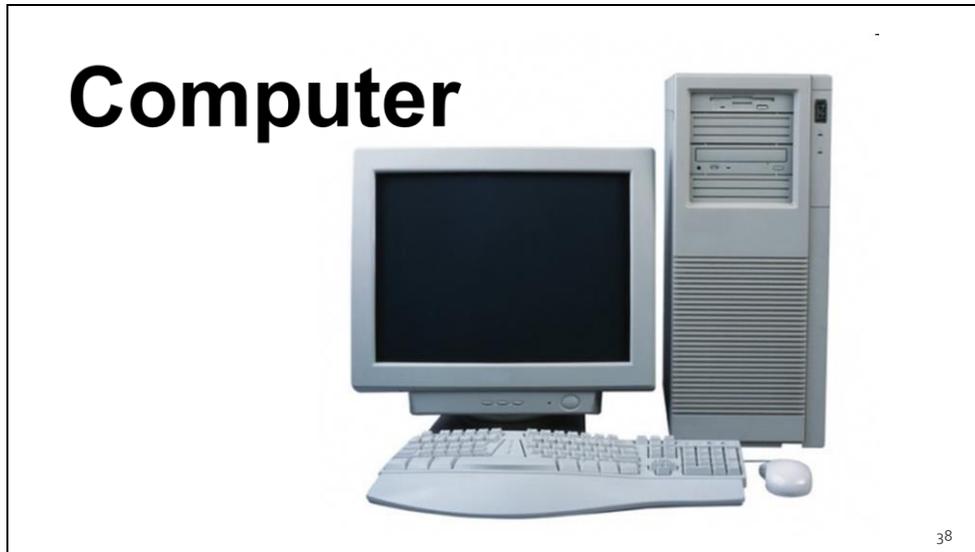
The teacher assigned books for the scientist to read.

Does My Work Matter?



Every book has an author.

Does My Work Matter?



Nowadays, authors write their books using a computer.

Does My Work Matter?



And someone had to program the computer software.  
So you see, it really does take a computer programmer to have a turkey sandwich!

**God needs people  
everywhere  
doing all kinds of jobs  
for society to function**

**God has to have His people  
in every sphere of life.  
Otherwise, many would  
never come to know Him.**



**BIG IDEA #1**

ALL (God-honoring) jobs are needed and important for society to function as God intends

**God gifts us with talents and skills  
to carry out our work**

**Psalm 139:13, 16**

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made ... all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

44

**Psalm 90:17**

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;  
establish the work of our hands for us — yes,  
establish the work of our hands.

**Exodus 31 1:6**

Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. ... Also I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you"

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**1 Kings 7:14**

[Hiram] whose father was from Tyre and a skilled craftsman in bronze. Hiram was filled with wisdom, with understanding and with knowledge to do all kinds of bronze work.

47

**Exodus 4:17**

[God said to Moses] "But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it."

48

**Numbers 20:11**

Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

But God had told Moses to speak to the rock

## Does My Work Matter?

Your interest in your vocation is not born of your own making  
– vocations are to fulfill God's purposes in doing that which  
needs to be accomplished throughout the world

God has distributed our gifting to produce the needed  
number of people interested in the variety of jobs to be filled

We must match our work with our giftedness and calling if we  
are to feel satisfied

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## Application points

## Does My Work Matter?

Not everyone is called to be a foreign missionary or a pastor  
- God has also called people into business to fulfill His purposes

How do I know what career I should have? Whatever honors God and benefits society, and whatever I am interested in and good at.

Moses had to yield the staff in his hand to God before God could use it to perform miracles – we must accept our gifting, but we must also use these gifts properly

51

Does My Work Matter?



**Lie.**

**BIG LIE #1**  
My work is just a waste!

52

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

**Our work is meaningful!**



## **BIG IDEA #2**

Work was established by God to develop and fulfill us  
(it is NOT the result of the curse)

**Genesis 1:28**

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

55

**Genesis 2:15**

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

56

Work is part of God's original plan.  
God knew man needed to be productive,  
to gain satisfaction from his work,  
in caring and seeing something  
come from his efforts



### **BIG IDEA #3**

“Christian work” is not more valuable than “secular work”

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God

**All of life is spiritual!**

**Luke 2:52**

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and  
in favor with God and man.

**God was pleased with the secular,  
carpenter work of Jesus!**

60

## Does My Work Matter?

Every person who has followed the will of God in their life is in full-time Christian work

God sees our work as worship – we are all in missions

A. W. Tozer: "It is not what a man does that determines whether his work is sacred or secular, but why he does it."

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## Application points



**BIG LIE #2**

Only some types of work  
are spiritual

This idea is flawed because it  
denies the biblical truth that  
everything was created by God for  
His glory.

## Does My Work Matter?

The Christian life is like stir fry, not a frozen dinner. God is to be mixed up into and flavoring everything we do, including our work, and not like a compartmentalized frozen dinner where the meat, potatoes, vegetable and dessert are separated.

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Illustration borrowed from Doug Spada & Dave Scott, *Monday Morning Atheist*, WorkLife Press, 2012, p. 54.



## **BIG IDEA #4**

Christians are to be the best workers because we do our work for the Lord

The hypocrisy of Christians they work with is a top reason people give for unbelief

64

**Colossians 3:23**

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,  
as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

65

**Proverbs 22:29**

Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank.

**God wants us to do excellent work!**

**But work has been frustrated  
by sin and can be messy**

67

**Genesis 3:17-19**

“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground ...”

68

Does My Work Matter?

**Proverbs 14:4**

Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty,  
but from the strength of an ox come abundant  
harvests.

69

You must put up with the mess of the Ox to get work done; a house construction site is messy while the house is being built.

Does My Work Matter?

**Central daily challenge: discovering the presence of God in broken work**

70

Does My Work Matter?

"A Professional Christian is someone who does a good job whether they feel like it or not"

71

This adage should apply to all Christians

## Some God @ Work advice

- Start each work day with a prayer and short work devotional
- Make yourself valuable to the company
  - Do more than the minimum required
- Don't be a complainer but cultivate an attitude of gratefulness
- Don't get angry

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Sign up for a work email devotional at:

- <http://www.todaygodisfirst.com/>
- <http://worklife.org/>

## More advice

- Plan your work to complete it in the standard time - God does not demand or expect overtime
  - Learn what is mandatory and optional to do
- When you report a problem, offer a solution
- Be proactive in your personal development
- Pray for people you work with

73



**BIG IDEA #5**  
There is a way of working  
without striving

**Psalm 127:2**

In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling  
for food to eat — for he grants sleep to those  
he loves.

Does My Work Matter?



**Lie.**

**BIG LIE #3**  
I am on my own – got to  
do it myself

76

## Does My Work Matter?

God never made you to work without Him!

God is your partner at work, so you are not alone in your own efforts

There is a way to conduct business without sweating and toiling for outcome. Avoid thinking that outcome is based on our sweat and toil. Outcome is based on obedience.

77

## Application points

## Does My Work Matter?

No longer will we see getting up early and staying up late  
as God's way

Whenever we go beyond the normal workday due to fear of  
non-provision, we are operating in unbelief

78

## Does My Work Matter?

Living in the Promised Land in work means we know that God is the source of our provision and that our work is an act of worship to Him

79

**Deuteronomy 8:17-18**

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.

80

**Matthew 6:33**

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be given to you as well.

Our value must be centered in Christ,  
not in what we do!

81

### **What is our work?**

What we do to earn a living and pay the bills

OR

What we do as a partner with God to serve and care for the  
gardens of life (family, work, church, community).

To serve and care for can also mean to worship and obey.

Are these gardens flourishing as a result of my tending?

82

## SUMMARY

- Your work is important and not a waste
- Work was established by God for our good
- All work is God's work – there is no secular/Christian divide
- We are to be the best workers
- Work without striving

83