

## Does My Work Matter?

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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.

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!

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:

**Psalms 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

**Psalms 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"

**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.

**Exodus 4:17** [God said to Moses] "But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it."

**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.)

*Application points:*

- 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.
- 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.

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

**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!

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**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.”

**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.

*Application points:*

- 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.
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**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!)

*Application points:*

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

**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.

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. Similarly, God is to be mixed up into and flavoring all aspects of society and all professions.

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**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.

**Colossians 3:23** Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

**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:

**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 ...”

**Proverbs 14:4** Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox come abundant harvests. (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.)

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

“A ~~Professional~~ Christian is someone who does a good job whether they feel like it or not.”

#### Some God @ Work advice

- Start each work day with a prayer and short work email devotional. Sign up here:  
<http://www.todaygodisfirst.com/>  
<http://worklife.org/>
- 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
- Plan your work to complete it in the standard time - God does not demand or expect overtime
- Learn what is mandatory to do and what is optional to do
- When you report a problem, offer a solution
- Be proactive in your personal development
- Pray for people you work with

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

**Psalms 127:2** In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat — for he grants sleep to those he loves.

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

*Application points:*

- 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.
- 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.

➡ 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.

**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.

**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!

### 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?*

### 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.

An electronic copy of this file can be found at: <http://NJBibleScience.org/work>