

# “Work: A Christian Perspective”

*Pastor Dave Vasquez, September 2-4, 2016*

## INTRODUCTION

Most of us will spend the majority of our adult lives working. We may labor for employment, as a volunteer, or perhaps running our household, but in some way our days are spent working. We may tend to consider our work lives separate from our worship of God. But in fact, God has much to say about our work. If we are going to live our lives as a reflection of our faith, then we need to know what God’s Word teaches us about the Christian perspective on work.

### ***Ice Breaker (Optional):***

What was the first job you’ve ever held?

## Study Questions (45 MIN)

### **Regard work as blessing, not a curse.**

#### **Q1. Read Genesis 2:15, 7-19, Ecclesiastes 5:18-19**

Paradise itself was not a place exempt from work. What was man’s role in the Garden of Eden? What was it that changed work from a blessing to a curse? How does Solomon describe his perspective on work (Ecc 5:19)? When have you experienced joy associated with your labors?

### **Approach work with diligence, not sloth.**

#### **Q2. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12**

In 2 Thessalonians Paul addresses a church that thought their only duty was to sit back and wait for Christ’s soon return. How did Paul describe the example he gave them through his work while he lived at Thessalonica (2 Thessalonians 3:7-8)? What command did he give them in verse 10? What sin was named as the result of their idleness (verse 11)? In 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 Paul encourages the Thessalonians to aspire to depend on no one. How have your aspirations to become self-sufficient caused you to depend more on God’s provision?

### **Do what is exemplary, not just expected.**

#### **Q3. Read Matthew 5:16, 40-41, 44-47; Luke 17:7-10**

These passages call the followers of Christ to extend themselves beyond the expected. How would being able to live out the love commanded in Matthew 5:44-47 allow you to give more than asked (vv. 40-41)? When we are tired, frustrated, disillusioned, or taken advantage of in our work and we want to ‘call it a day’ or outright quit, how can Luke 17:10 help

you to continue on in your work. If we demonstrate the attitude of Christ in our work and let our ‘light shine’, what response can we hope for (Matthew 5:16)?

### **Work to please God, not men.**

#### **Q4. Read Colossians 3:22-24; Matthew 6:31-33**

Sometimes we allow our motives to drift from what God intended. What would you say is the primary reason for working? If we see our work merely as a means to provide for our needs, we can easily allow our focus to drift to pleasing those we work for. When you work, do you anticipate that God will evaluate your work? If not, how would that change the way you work? If you did your work as if the name and reputation of Christ were at stake, what would be the most noticeable difference?

## Wrap-Up

God intended our labors to be a gift that would bring us joy and rewards. With Jesus as our focus and our example, we will do our work diligently. Rather than seeking recognition or watching the clock, our work should be the very best we can offer, because it is our offering to God. And knowing that it is God we ultimately seek to please, the quality of our work will not be affected by who is watching us because we recognize that God is always with us.

### **Memory Verse**

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

## Prayer (20 MIN)

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for your group members’ needs:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Challenge: Thank God for the place he has given you to serve him through work. Pray for those you work for and with this week.*

