

YOUR WORLD, YOUR WORK, YOUR DESTINY PART 2 FEBRUARY 4-5, 2023

INTRODUCTION

- The Bible is full of pictures of people living everyday life.
- Second part of the series on work - “What do you do?”
- God wants to give meaning to all our life, including work, the success and the failure.

I. WHEN WORK IS JUST WORK

- We have all had jobs we hated.
- Genesis 3:17-19, “To Adam He said...“cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life...¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground...”
- One of the first pictures of work is “painful toil.”
- Sin distorts life and it also distorts work.
- Genesis 3:8-10, “...He answered, “...was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”
- Picture of shame and fear here.
- There will be fruitfulness if you follow the Lord, but there will also be “thorns and thistles.”
- God can still be in it.

II. WHEN IT FEELS LIKE A WASTE OF TIME

- We have all had days at work or jobs that felt like a waste of time.
- Ecclesiastes 2:17, “So I hated life because the work done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.”
- Today many of us have choices for work, but we choose wrong for the wrong reasons.

- The Bible says choose what you can do well.
- To do all your work well with excellence.
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, “There is a time for everything...”
- Vss. 13 and 22, “...find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God...there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot.”

III. WHEN IT IS SELFISH

- For some of us work is a very selfish thing.
- It is all about us: our identity, our well being.
- All things Jesus should be giving us.
- Ecclesiastes 4:4, “I saw that all labor and achievement spring from man’s envy of his neighbor...”
- Our pride and our need for personal significance almost always leads to competition, disunity and strife.
- You can build a better company to look down on others or to serve other people. Your choice is crucial
- This only happens when we know we cannot do it on our own; only with enough humility to go to God.
- The story of Esther, Joseph, Daniel and others had to choose who they would serve; themselves or others?
- Each served in a “secular” job that God used to care for others.
- This takes a decision about why you are there: to serve yourself or to serve others?

CLOSE

- Some of us need to reevaluate our motives and the reasons we are here...who do you serve?
- Your self or others?