

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, September 2, 2018

**The Worship and Witness of Faithful Work
A Study of Colossians 3:22-24**

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When you were a child, what kind of job did you want to do when you grew up? How close is your present job to that childhood plan?

On this Labor Day weekend, let's take a look at what God thinks of our labor!

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12.

Explain how the following quotes move *toward* or move *away from* what Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 4:

- ❖ "If you can dream it, you can achieve it." (Walt Disney)
- ❖ "If you are not willing to risk the unusual, you will have to settle for the ordinary" (Jim Rohn)
- ❖ "What good is it being Marilyn Monroe? Why can't I just be an ordinary woman?" (Marilyn Monroe)
- ❖ "I was not a messiah, but an ordinary man who had become a leader because of extraordinary circumstances" (Nelson Mandela)

It seems that most commencement speeches of the last few years have challenged the students to be unsatisfied with the ordinary and instead go out and live extraordinary lives. What's good and what's bad about the challenge to live an extraordinary life?

Based on what you read in 1 Thessalonians 4, what kind of commencement speech do you think Paul would give to college graduates?

When Adam rebelled in the Garden of Eden, was he cursed with work or was his work cursed? (Hint: Genesis 2:15; Genesis 3:17-19.)

What's the difference between seeing work as the curse and seeing work as cursed?

If work itself is what mankind was cursed with after Eden, we just have to suffer with it until the redemption of all things. But if work was something God gave us BEFORE Adam sinned, and it was cursed AFTER Adam sinned, then part of our redemption in Christ is the redemption of our work! In Colossians 3:22-24 we find out how Jesus wants to redeem our work.

Read Colossians 3:22-24. Pastor Tom said five things become new when we let Christ start redeeming our work. Use your sermon notes to fill in the following blanks as you come to them.

A New Ad _____
“It is the Lord Christ you are serving”

Is the idea of serving Christ in your work reasonable? Radical? Eye-Opening? Mystifying? Unbelievable? Other?

What differences might happen when workers function as servants of Jesus in their job?

Pastor Tom said your work is connected to a vast, complex system of meeting human need. How does your job meet human need?

A New In _____
“Obey in everything”

A person who doesn't work except when someone is watching him/her is guilty before God, according to this verse. Why?

We're told to “obey in everything.” Of course, that doesn't include things that are sinful. Give an example of something your employer might ask of you that would cross the line into sin.

There are many non-sinful things that might still annoy us. Can you object to these things and still fulfill this verse? If so, how?

A New Mo _____

“with sincerity of heart & reverence for the Lord”

Describe what “sincerity of heart” might look like for a plumber, a mechanic, or in your own job.

How might things change if we knew God was going inspect our *work* as well as our *morals* at the end of time?

A New Con _____

“work with all your heart”

What happens if you don't put you “heart” into your work as a student? Housewife? Airline mechanic? Insurance adjuster? Salesman? Your job?

A New Com _____

“you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as reward”

What kind of inheritance/reward is he talking about? When can we expect it? Where?

Does your work matter to God? How do you know?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests