

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 2-7-10 AM
"A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW OF WORK"
1 THESSALONIANS 4:11-12
#4 in Series, "A Biblical Worldview"

"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'"

- Abraham Kuyper

I. The Origin of Work

A. God Is a Worker

Genesis 2:2-3 (NKJV) "2 And on the seventh day God ended **His work** which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all **His work** which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all **His work** which God had created and made."

Colossians 1:16-17 (ESV) "16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

John 5:17 (ESV) "But Jesus answered them, '**My Father is working** until now, and I am working.'"

Philippians 2:13 (NKJV) "for it is **God who works** in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure."

B. Man Was given Work before Sin

Genesis 1:26a (NKJV) "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...'"

Genesis 2:15 (ESV) "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden **to work it** and keep it."

Genesis 1:28 (NKJV) "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"

C. Sin Affected Work

Genesis 3:17-19 (NKJV) "17 Then to Adam He said, 'Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': 'Cursed *is* the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat *of* it all the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you *are*, and to dust you shall return.'"

D. We Will Work in Heaven

Revelation 22:3 (NKJV) "And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him."

II. The Sacredness of Work

III. The Purpose of Work

A. To Glorify God

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV) “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and **glorify your Father** in heaven.”

B. To Meet Basic Needs

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 (NKJV) “¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. ¹¹ For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. ¹² Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.”

“Under normal conditions, scarcity is the problem and honest work is the solution. Many social activists believe that the solution to most cultural ills is wealth; they believe that a sizable group of people are problem people because they lack wealth. Such individuals often promote programs that give away resources only to find that the resources have been squandered or abused in time. The Scripture teaches, however, that problem people often lack resources because they are foolish, failing to work hard and to manage properly.”

- R. W. Mackey

C. To Give As God Directs

Ephesians 4:28 (NKJV) “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”

IV. The Attitude Toward Work

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV) “²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

