

Christians in the Workplace

Work in Different Stages of Life

Lesson 7

Introduction

“Exceptional” callings: as a student, retired, unemployed

Are These Callings Really Callings?

Review: our primary calling as Christians is by Christ, to Christ, that we might do good work *for* Christ. Our secondary callings are those things Christ calls us to do—by virtue of his providence or circumstance.

Four principles:

1. The purpose of your work is to glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31)
2. All legitimate work can bring glory to God
3. Our work matters to the extent it reveals who God is. In other words, we are called to be faithful.
4. God is in control of our circumstances.

Called to Be a Student

God doesn't turn off your callings when you turn 65!

Paul's mindset: "My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith" (Philippians 1:13-15).

What are the unique resources we have in retirement?

- Flexibility
- Wisdom
- Bible Knowledge
- Perspective
- Money

Worth does not come from what we accomplish. Even as opportunities for service slip away, opportunities for faithfulness never do.

Called to Be Unemployed

How can we be unemployed to the glory of God?

1. Work hard to find a job
2. Use the time well
3. Provide opportunities for others to do good (to you)
4. Trust God

Conclusion

Course outline

The Story of Work

Lesson 1: Theology of Work

Lesson 2: Problem with Work

Our Work as the Redeemed

Lesson 3: Freedom in Christ at Work

How We Work

Lesson 4: Relationships at Work

Lesson 5: Balance at Work

Lesson 6: Ethics at Work

Lesson 7: Work in Different Stages of Life

Lesson 8: Finding the Right Work

Lesson 9: Faithfulness at Work

Further Questions?

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Suggested reading

- *Every Good Endeavour* (Keller)
- *God at Work* (Veith)
- *The Call* (Guinness)