

THE WORSHIP IN OUR WORK

July 19th, 2026

Foundations // Genesis 2:4-15

Message Context

Work often feels like something we endure so that we can return to the parts of life we actually enjoy. Genesis 2 presents a very different picture. Before sin entered the world, God placed Adam in the garden to cultivate and keep it. Work was not a punishment added after the fall but part of God's very good design for humanity. Because we bear God's image, our work has dignity and purpose. Yet sin tempts us either to avoid work or to use our work to establish our identity and worth. The gospel restores the proper order: our value comes from God's grace, not our accomplishments, and Christ's finished work frees us to approach our daily responsibilities as worship.

CONNECT – Announcements (page 2) & Building Relationships

1. What is one job, chore, or responsibility that you genuinely enjoy doing? What makes it enjoyable? What is one kind of work that you tend to dread or procrastinate doing?
2. When you hear the word **work**, what feelings or ideas immediately come to mind?

REFLECT - Out of the Word and Into Our Lives

3. **Read Genesis 2:4-15.** What stands out to you most from a fresh reading of these passages, and is there anything from the message that you want to be sure we don't miss as a group?
4. Adam was given work before sin entered the world. God placed him in the garden "to cultivate it and tend it." Work was part of paradise, not a punishment imposed after paradise was lost. Why is it important that work appears before the fall in Genesis 3? How does Genesis 2 challenge the idea that work is merely a necessary evil?
5. The sermon emphasized that both work and rest are gifts from God. In what ways can we become unbalanced by either working too much or avoiding work?
6. The sermon asked an important question: **"Did I stay busy, or did my busyness actually build something?"** What activities tend to keep you busy without producing anything lasting or worthwhile? What has God currently entrusted to you to cultivate, improve, protect, or build?
7. Human beings were made in God's image before they were given work to perform. And, Christians are saved by grace before they are sent into good works. Why does this order matter? What is the difference between working **for** value and working **from** the value God has already given us?
8. How can job titles, salaries, productivity, parenting success, ministry involvement, or academic achievement become sources of identity? How does the gospel speak to someone who feels unsuccessful, overlooked, unemployed, retired, or unable to work in the same way they once did?
9. The builders of Babel said, "Let us make a name for ourselves." Rather than receiving their identity from God, they attempted to build one through their own achievements. Where do you see the



desire to “make a name for ourselves” in our culture? Where do you see that desire in your own heart?

10. How does trying to prove yourself make otherwise good work exhausting? What happens when our careers or accomplishments are asked to provide the identity, security, and satisfaction that only God can provide?
11. Have you ever experienced disappointment because an accomplishment failed to satisfy you as much as you expected?
12. Why can our good works never save us or erase our guilt before God? How does Christ’s finished work give rest to someone who is constantly trying to prove that he or she is good enough?
13. **“The gospel does not save you from work. The gospel saves you from working for your salvation.”** How does that distinction help us understand both grace and obedience? What would you say to someone who believes God will accept them because their good deeds outweigh their bad deeds?
14. Read **Colossians 3:22–24** and **Matthew 5:16**. According to Colossians 3, who is the Christian ultimately serving through his or her work? How should working “for the Lord” change the way we approach ordinary responsibilities?

♡ PROTECT – Care for one another (divided, gender-specific groups)

15. What is “eye service”? Where are you tempted to work differently depending on who is watching? What would sincerity of heart look like in your workplace, home, school, ministry, or community? How can excellent, honest, dependable, and loving work display God’s character to others? What is one ordinary responsibility you could intentionally approach as worship this week?
16. Is there any hidden dishonesty, laziness, people-pleasing, corner-cutting, or “eye service” in your work that needs to be confessed?
17. What is one specific way you can work “heartily, as for the Lord” this week?
18. How can the group pray for you as you seek to worship God through your work?

Announcements

Worship Night: August 28 at 7pm – Our Director of Worship, Selena Boyts, is planning an evening of worship. Save the date – more details to come.

Last Week of Life Groups – July 27th – August 2nd

Sundaes on Sunday – August 2nd @ 4:00 pm – The whole church is invited to join us for an evening of fun and ice cream!

Resources for Going Deeper

- **Book Recommendation:** *Every Good Endeavor* – Tim Keller
- **Created for Work** - https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/created-for-work/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- **What Makes Work Christian** - https://www.9marks.org/article/journalwhat-makes-work-christian/?utm_source=chatgpt.com