

STUDY NOTES

BLUEPRINTS FOR LIFE

a series at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "Work is Worship" on 8/5/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: COLOSSIANS 3:22 - 4:1

THE FORGOTTEN GREAT COMMISSION

The church rightly refers to Jesus's last words to his followers on earth as the Great Commission. However, the first commission that he gives to humanity is often forgotten. This can be found in Genesis 1:28. **Read Genesis 1:26-28.** God created us to work. Author and pastor, Tim Keller, says this about work: "Work is the gracious expression of creative energy in the service of God and others." Many of us will serve the Lord primarily through our work.

Work is ministry.

- *Why do you think that a lot of people think that ministry can only happen in the church?*
- *How can you view your job as a creative way to serve the Lord?*

Reformer, Martin Luther, says this about vocation: God proclaims his word by means of human pastors. He teaches by means of teachers. He creates works of beauty and meaning by means of human artists, whom he has given particular talents. God is

milking the cows through the vocation of the milkmaid. Therefore, vocation is a "mask of God." He is hidden in vocation. We see the milkmaid, or the farmer, or the doctor or pastor or artist. But, looming behind this human mask, God is genuinely present and active in what they do for us."

- *How is your vocation a way that God can work through you to serve the world around you?*

MOTIVATION TO WORK LEADS TO QUALITY OF WORK

The apostle Paul saw that some people worked with the wrong motivations.

- *What are some things that motivate people to work?*

We serve our bosses but ultimately we serve Jesus when we work. No matter what job you find yourself in, if you are taking Paul's words seriously, then you would be working with Jesus as your ultimate boss. If you are an employee, then you should work hard. If you are a boss, then you should treat your employees fairly.

Dorothy Sayers continues: "The Church's approach to an intelligent carpenter is usually confined to exhorting him not to be drunk and disorderly in his leisure hours, and to come to church on Sundays. What the Church should be telling him is this: that the very first demand that his religion makes upon him is that he should make good tables. What use is all that if in the very center of his life and occupation he is insulting God with bad carpentry? No crooked table legs or ill-fitting drawers ever, I dare swear, came out of the carpenter's shop at Nazareth. Nor, if they did, could anyone believe that they were made by the same hand that made Heaven and earth. No piety in the worker will compensate for work that is not true to itself; for any work that is untrue to its own technique is a living lie."

Our work is our witness. Our work is worship.

- *How have you seen Christians defame their witness through poor work?*
- *On the flip side, how does over-working show that you find your identity in work rather than in Jesus?*
- *How do think you need to change your work habits knowing that you are working for Jesus?*
- *Pray with each other that you would work with Jesus as your ultimate Master.*