

GOD'S WILL FOR WORK

Introduction:

"1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." – Romans 12:1-2

We are all about properly understanding God's Will, because as Christians we can spend so much time looking for it in many aspects of life and feeling like God's Will alludes us. This can cause a lot of damage to a Christians understanding of God by misunderstanding His Will, "is He listening?" "does He care?" "He has more important things to worry about?" "Is He even there?"

As a Christ follower, God's will is not something you spend you whole life searching for. But so that we are living everyday through the grace of Jesus Christ, because of His great love for us, He has revealed to us all things that pertain to life and godliness. That we "may discern", or "may [prove]" what the will of God is through our lives.

- This means what we do with our lives matters, not just with the decisions we make but the spirit, and motivations behind the decisions we make in our lives.
- Whether that be in our relationships, in dating, in the education we choose to pursue, in the way we conduct ourselves in the public spaces, or as we will be looking at this evening in how we work.

What do I mean by work:

Salvation grace alone, through faith alone. We are **not** saved by works

- Big distinction between Christianity and even other world religion. 0% of your standing with God is up to your performance in any area of your life.
- Only what faith do you have in Jesus Christ? Only question need be answered in order to receive salvation.

So what is this about then? I am talking about actual work. What is God will for your work? How are you to work? Why does it matter to God?

Something that is interesting about life in today's world. Work and the workforce have a bit of an issue because we live in a society that incentivizes work differently than ever before in human history.

- What do I mean by this? I am not going to go too far into this because quite frankly this can drift into the realm of political opinion and this a Bible Study so we will lean on God's Word here, individual perspective though valid are unfruitful for the purposes of what we're trying to do here.
- But what I mean is this. The modern culture seems to incentivize (meaning socially encourage) through money. Work that is in most cases doesn't tangibly benefit society, and in some cases actually damages it.
- Likewise discourages, again through wages and public scrutiny work that has always been and will always be vital to the function of society.
- In addition to this we have the growing application of AI in the workplace. And the financial pressures brought on by student loan debt.

All of this and more factor into what we seek to do in our lives, so we put off having to make those decisions for as long as we are able. When we finally are forced into the workforce, we just take a job and do it miserably wanting to do anything else.

- However, God's will for His people that their work in this life be their worship to Him

Work Bible Work:

You know in the God's perfect design for creation before sin entered the world, when all things were as they should be; Humans had work to do.

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

If find this important to note that in a world that is unmarked by sin, that is functioning as it should you find people working. Because that is a function of why we are created, we are creatures with jobs to do and if God has His way in our lives we will do them.

This truth is such the case that if you go to book of proverbs which is just Old Testament book of short sayings that convey God's wisdom and truth

you read about the godly virtues of good, honest, hard work in our lives through it.

- **“A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.” – Proverbs 10:4**
- **“The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.” – Proverbs 13:4**
- **“In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.” – Proverbs 14:23**
- **“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.” – Proverbs 16:3**

Now something of note that is going to be the core of this lesson on work, is this. God’s wisdom is not just practical but also spiritual. So, you can take practical wisdom from God but if you think God Words gives us this philosophy about work so that we can make money, find happiness, or create generational wealth only. Then I think you’re missing the reason why God wants us to work well, and to work hard.

“5 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. 9 Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.” – Ephesians 6:5-9

Bondservants and Masters:

This is a cultural dynamic that by the grace of God we are not today having to exactly contend with as Christ followers. However, we can still see the clear instruction of how a follower of Jesus is to bring honor and glory to Jesus whether they friend themselves as the beast of burden or the overseer of others.

- “Bondservant” – which is synonymous with the word slave. An unpaid laborer and servant.

- Now this is not akin to the horrors of the North American Slave Trade that is an awful tragedy of American of history. Nor is this a “good kind of slavery”, because such a thing does not exist.
- All men are made in the image of God and no man owns another. However, slavery is an apart of human history and direct effect of the sinfulness and the fallen nature of mankind that it does exist and that societies were actually structured in such way they depended on slave labor to function.
- Such a society and culture were the Roman society that was in control in the time of Jesus and the early church.
- Many ask, “why doesn’t the Bible renounce slavery”? The answer its does look at the book of Exodus and let that info you on how God views slavery. As for Jesus’ mission he is not concerned with social change for social change’s sake. But His mission was for the redemption of human hearts, and every call for social change we see from Him is to call others to His Father.
- In truth if Jesus reformed every ungodly practice by world government and change every custom of society to more godly practice, but no one’s heart changed just their behavior. Then He would have failed.
- Instead, He spoke to the those living in this reality and we see how to honor God of the circumstances of life we are just or unjust.
- As you may have noticed in the this passage of scripture we just read if every slave and master were to have there heart changed by Jesus and do what this says slavery would ceases to exist. Because everything the bondservant is asked to do so is the master. Removing the bondservant and the master relationship it with a more familial relationship.

“rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man”

See what this is saying? To God it matters less what you are asked to do and more what is your heart in your work. I mentioned it early God’s will is that your work becomes your worship. Because that is truly what you created for to worship God, in all that you do!

“23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. 25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.” – Colossians 3:23-25

This is the core of why work is so important, because who is the follower of Jesus is really working for? Who’s righteousness have we been given? Who’s

will are living out everyday? Yeah its all the same answer. Let this change how view your work!

- That job you have right now where you're just get enough money to live and make it by, but you don't really love it, may be your boss isn't great, you're not doing what you want to do, or you're not making what you think you're worth.
- The work you're doing means so much more than you think because of who you're really working for. So do it well, to the best you possibly can. It is your "spiritual worship"

"14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" – Philippians 2:14-15

This is God's will for your work that your work would bring honor and glory to Him. Regardless of you do! Not everyone is called to pastors, youth ministers, or missionaries. But this world is in desperate need of godly teachers, lawyers, engineers, electricians, construction workers, businessmen, and businesswomen.

Work hard, work joyfully, work well – because you're working for your Lord.

Work hard and in Him find your Rest:

"...aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one." – 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

What does it mean to follow Jesus? It means everything you're needing for your own sense of worth, identity, and fulfillment is ultimately found in Him. You don't need what the world offers, what your power and strength can either gain or fall to gain. You're free, so live like a free man and a free woman. Dependent on no one.

- He is our inheritance, He is our prize, He is enough. We need to find our satisfaction in Him because without Him we have nothing at all.
- Let the Lord be where you find your rest, and let Him who you are working for!

**“1 Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.**

**Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.**

**2 It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,**

eating the bread of anxious toil;

for he gives to his beloved sleep.” – Psalm 127:1-2

God’s Will is that anything and everything you do in this life, He would hold at the highest value for you. Because He is the one who gave everything for you. Jesus’ work on the cross that has bought us peace with God of Universe so we no longer have to work to prove our worth. That has settled, now we work to worship and honor Him.

Let’s Pray