

Course Overview

Week 1 - Beginnings: Understanding A Biblical Theology of Work

Week 2 - Fallen: The Problem with Work

Week 3 - A New Boss: How Jesus 'Work Changes Our Work

Week 4 - A New Goal: The restored motivation to Work

Week 5 - Relationships: Imaging Christ in the Workplace

Week 6 - Calling: Balancing Work in Different life stages

Week 7 - Panel Discussion

Recommended reading

- The Gospel At Work, Greg Gilbert
- Work: Its Purpose, Dignity, and Transformation, Daniel Doriani
- The Treasure Principle, Randy Alcorn
- Living Life Backwards, David Gibson

Questions?

- Dave Kush — davekush2@gmail.com
- Luke Bylsma — luke.bylsma@gmail.com

Panel Discussion Questions? Scan the QR code and pass your question along!



Work, the Problem with It: Idols and Idleness

Big Idea: Work is not redeemed, but we as His people are redeemed and this means that we don't have to worship work idols anymore!

Biblical example #1 of idolatry: The Rich Young Ruler, Luke 18:18-23

1. Psalm 115:4-8 description of an idol
2. Idol - Anything that replaces God on His rightful throne of our lives. What occupies the throne of my life?
3. Matthew 6:24 – No one can serve two masters...why?
4. How can I identify if my work has become an idol?
 - a. Is my work the single most important source of satisfaction, enjoyment, joy or identity in my life?
 - b. Does all of my meaning in life come from my work?
 - c. Is my work only about getting more money for immediate spending or for retirement?
 - d. Do I work to create a name for myself?
 - e. Just how worried am I about losing my job or my retirement?

Biblical example #2 on idleness: The Sluggards Garden, Proverbs 24:30-34

1. What is a sluggard? One who is sluggish, lazy or avoids working...but also one who lacks sense! Prov 24:30
2. What is the connection between our laziness and our ability to resist temptation as described in Prov 24:10?

3. How can I expose laziness in my work-life?
 - a. I deserve an easy day at work
 - b. I work more than others do, so I'm OK
 - c. The boss isn't around today...yes, He is!
 - d. Portraying busyness – so that others get the sense that I work really hard

In both of these examples, the ruler and the sluggard are at risk of being robbed because these idols/idles are treasures of this earth. Matt 6:19

The gospel centered, grace saturated response is to confess the sins of idolatry and idleness in our work and seek God's forgiveness and cleansing from unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)

Practical Steps Toward a Redemptive view of Work:

1. Lean into work and thank God daily for your ability to work!
2. Be generous – 1 Timothy 6
3. Trust that God will bring the enjoyment and satisfaction that you desire from your work. Ask that He would do that!
4. Look for little blessings in a difficult job. Find someone to encourage every day.
5. Guard your heart against the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes – stop fantasizing about retirement or lusting for the amount of money in your accounts!
6. When the work is done, step back and look at it. God did this very thing in Gen 1:25 when He saw that it was good!
7. Focus on the eternal hope that we have in Christ and look for ways to share this hope with others!

Next week: A New Boss