



BIG QUESTIONS

STUDY 4 “Why do I need to work?”

What are some reasons people get a job? What are some things people say about their jobs/work?

Introduction

Our God is worker. He created all things and commands us to work. Our work is to reflect His work and yet we always fall short. In the gospel of Jesus Christ we see the most amazing thing about work – it’s all done for us already. Everything that needs to be done for us to win God’s approval is done at the cross. As Christians we live in the freedom of God’s grace and are called to work for His glory.

Read 1 Thess. 4:1-12

1. List everything we’re told about work. What are the reasons Paul gives for Christians working?
2. When Paul says “*Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life*” he’s saying strive for inner peace in what you do. Paul’s antidote for inner disquiet is work. What does this tell us about the types of work we should look to do?
3. How do verses 1 and 2 change the way we see our work?

Application

Which of the following statements are most challenging and encouraging to you. Pray about each of them as a group.

1. **God’s work is a model for our work.**
2. **Work was part of paradise, so it is good**
3. **Work itself is cursed, along with the rest of the world.**
4. **Work is how we cultivate the world.**
5. **Work is valuable, but must not become an idol.**
6. **All types of upright work have dignity.**
7. **Our vocation is a calling, not just a job.**
8. **God uses our work to provide for our needs and the needs of others.**
9. **Over-work and under-work lead to trouble.**
10. **The gospel motivates Christians to approach work differently than the world.**

Some additional resources for those wanting to dig deeper:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-purpose-of-work/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/created-for-work/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/when-work-stinks/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/christian-at-work/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-to-witness-at-work/>