

Work in Progress Series

ESV VERSION!!!!!!!!!!

Week 1 outline

9/10/23

Gen 1:1-5; 2:26-28; 3:17-19; Col 1:15-23

Called to Cultivate

A Foundation for Gospel-Centered Work

I. The Way We Work

How the Gospel changes how and why we work. (Over the next 6 weeks...)

1. The Gospel gives a solid foundation without which work will dislodge us
2. The Gospel gives a new identity without which work will define us
3. The Gospel gives lasting peace without which work will dominate us
4. The Gospel gives clear direction without which work will diminish us
5. The Gospel gives proper alignment without which work will divide us
6. The Gospel gives an eternal perspective without which work will distress us

II. Work from the Start

A. The False Narrative we believe about work says: "WORK IS A CURSE! "

-that work is a result of the Fall.

-all we were meant for in paradise was laying by the pool, eating grapes, and playing shuffleboard

B. The Biblical Narrative (**Gen 1:1-5; Gen 1:26-28**)

-*in the beginning God created"*

-*then God said "let us make man in our image, after our likeness"*

-*"and God blessed them"*

-*"and God said: be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, have dominion"*

C. The Principle of Stewardship (**Gen 2:15**)

"the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it"

-*"To work it": to serve; labor; to cultivate*

-*"To keep it": to protect, treasure*

D. Thistles and Thorns (**Gen 3:17-19**)

-*"thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;*

and you shall eat the plants of the field."

WORK... EVEN GOOD HARD WORK...
IS PART OF GOD'S BLESSING NOT HIS CURSE

III. Called to Cultivate through Thistles and Thorns (Colossians 1:15-23)

-The Gospel has everything to do with the answer!

A. Jesus is "the image of the invisible God"

-we can know what the invisible God is like through Jesus- the word became flesh- who made his dwelling among us

-he was there already present in the beginning

-all things are by him, through him, for him, and in him

IT ISN'T OUR WORK ON THIS EARTH THAT RECTIFIES US WITH GOD
IT'S JESUS' WORK ON THE CROSS THAT RECONCILES US TO GOD

B. And This is Our Foundation on which to Build... (vs 21-23)

- "*continue in the faith*":

continue: [epimeno]: epi... fitting, it's an intensifier to the word "meno"
meno... stay, remain, live, dwell, ABIDE

-the same word that Jesus uses in John 15

1. "*Be stable*": a descriptor of a foundation that has been laid ahead of you

2. "*Be steadfast*": firm... meaning to be solidly based and well-seated

3. "*Not shifting*": not being moved away from the hope of the Gospel

C. Apart from abiding, work will quickly dislodge you from the hope of the Gospel

What are we building our house on? What foundation are we working from?

IV. 4 Invitations towards a well-seated firm base in Jesus:

1. **Firsts and Lasts:**

Make the first thing you see when you wake and the last thing you see before you sleep the Word of God

2. **Consolations and Desolations:**

Pour your heart out to Jesus- allow his Spirit to console you in the headaches and comfort you in the heartbreaks

3. **Recollection and Recalibration:**

How proficient are you at the discipline of Rest? If rest is difficult, begin to explore why. Ask God to reveal some things and recalibrate your rhythms

4. **Barnabas and Timothy:**

Is there a Barnabas in your life- someone who's helping you look more like Jesus? Is there a Timothy- someone you can help be a disciple of Jesus. Who are you walking shoulder-to-shoulder with as you continue in the faith? Begin to ask God to show you who that might be.

"being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

-Philippians 1:6