

Theme: As those made in God's image, we were created and called to work, serving God and others through our labors in every realm of life and every corner of creation.

## I. Intro – Working for the Weekend?

- A. Loverboy song - Working for the Weekend
- B. Aristotle - leisure is the highest pursuit of humans
- C. Aristotle - working with hands closer to animals
- D. Church fell into this - Aquinas quotes
- E. Reformation challenged this - Tyndale quote
- F. What is a biblical approach to work?
- G. Is work part of our calling - or something endured?

## II. The Basis - God the Worker

- A. God is a worker
  - 1. Psalm 90:16 - your deeds - God works
  - 2. The context is about work in face of death
    - a. v17 - speaks of work twice
    - b. Psalm 90 a reflection on Genesis 1-3
      - 1. v2 - God before creation - Genesis 1:1
      - 2. v3 - turn men back to dust - Genesis 3:19
    - c. The rest of Psalm 90 then reflects on life in face of death
  - 3. God the worker in Scripture
    - a. Genesis 1:1 - God creates - He works
    - b. Genesis 1 a description of God's creative work

- c. Genesis 2:2-3 - God rests after His work of creating
- d. Psalm 19:1 - the work of God's hands

## B. God's glory seen in His work

- 1. Psa. 90:16 - parallelism; your deeds/your splendor
- 2. Psa 19:1 - parallelism; glory of God/work of His hands
- 3. Psa 96:3 - parallelism; glory/marvelous deeds

## C. Work is integral to the Being, character, & glory of God

## III. The Image - Man the Worker

### A. Man is viewed as a worker - like his Maker

- 1. Psalm 90:17 - establish the work of our hands
- 2. This is drawn from Genesis 1-3 as well
  - a. Genesis 1:28 - subdue and rule creation
  - b. Genesis 2:15 - work and care for Garden
  - c. Genesis 3:23 - banished - to work
- 3. We live in a fallen world, but still called to work

### B. Work is closely related to serving and worshipping God

- 1. The word for work in Genesis 2:15 and 3:23 is עָבַד
- 2. This word is used to indicate work, service & worship
- 3. Of 262 uses in OT, NIV translates it as worship 52 times
  - a. Exodus 3:12 - will worship God on this mountain
  - b. Psalm 100:2 - worship YHWH gladly with songs
- 4. Also used for work of Levites in Tabernacle (Num 8:11)

5. Work is integral to who we were created to be

6. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 - no work, no eat

C. Jesus - the God-Man - was a worker

1. Mark 6:3 - Jesus the carpenter

2. He spent about 10% of his His life as a Rabbi

3. The majority of His life was spent in a carpenters shop!

4. We want to find God in miracles - not a carpenter shop!

5. Ponder how much God must value our work!

D. Work is a gift from God - not a burden

1. Work existed prior to the fall - part of a good world

2. Work is part of our very nature & being

3. Work can be offered as worship to God

4. Work was affected by the fall - under the curse now

5. But this is true of everything - family, friends, etc.

6. Work is still God's good gift to us

5. This week - thank God for your work

6. This week - offer your work to God

B. Resting at the Table of the Lord

1. As we have seen we are created as workers

2. But we are also called to rest - like God did

3. Each week we set aside a day of rest

4. This reminds us that life is a gift from God

5. This reminds us salvation is by grace - not works

6. The Table reminds us that Christ worked salvation

7. Table reminds us we rest in salvation given

8. Come to the Table and rest

**Called To Work (Part 1)**

Psalm 90:16-17  
October 21, 2012  
Communion  
Psalm 90:17

**IV. Applying the Word**

A. Do we receive work as God's gift to us?

1. Work is integral to our humanity

2. Work is an important part of our calling

3. Do I serve God via my work?

4. Do I view work as competition to serving God - or as a means to serve Him?

Aquinas - The one life is loved, the other is endured... One life is conditioned by necessity, the other life is free.

William Tyndale - "Between the washing of dishes and the preaching of the Word, there is a difference; concerning pleasing God there is no difference at all."

2 Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalms 90:2 (also see Genesis 1:1)

You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men." Psalms 90:3 (also see Genesis 3:19)

In the beginning **God created the heavens and the earth.** Genesis 1:1

2 By the seventh day God had finished the **work** he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his **work**. 3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all **the work of creating** that he had done. Genesis 2:2-3

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim **the work of his hands.** Psalms 19:1

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. Psalms 96:3

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and **subdue** it. **Rule** over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:28

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden **to work it and take care of it.** Genesis 2:15

So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden **to work the ground from which he had been taken.** Genesis 3:23

And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will **worship** God on this mountain." Exodus 3:12

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Psalms 100:2

Aaron is to present the Levites before the Lord as a wave offering from the Israelites, so that they may be ready to **do** the **work** of the Lord. Numbers 8:11

For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "**If a man will not work, he shall not eat.**" 2 Thessalonians 3:10

Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Mark 6:3