

TOIL & REST: redefining work

PURPOSE: why do a sermon series around work?



Everyone “works.” That’s not the same as saying “everyone clocks in to a particular place to perform particular duties that result in particular payment.” Work is bigger than a job, but certainly includes the regular work of our hands. Even though everyone *does work*, many (even christians) misunderstand the bigger purpose of work, which brings about some tension...

Work is from God, and at the same time, it is often difficult. And the tough nature of thinking and doing all the work that we do comes from somewhere, and it leads us to somewhere. In this series we want to help shape a biblical origin of work, bring to light the brokenness of work, and allow the gospel to redefine our perspective on work and rest.

This chart gives an outline to help frame the series:

DATE:	(6.2.19) Sermon #1 - Hanauer	(6.9.19) Sermon #2 - Graham	(6.16.19) Sermon #3 - Graham
TITLE:	<i>God Designs Work</i>	<i>Sin Breaks Work</i>	<i>Gospel Redefines Work</i>
THEME: overview	The gift of toil	The pain of toil	The toil of rest
FOCUS: passages	Gen 1:28; 2:1-3; 15; 1 Cor. 7:17	Genesis 3:16-19; Eccl. 2:17	1 Cor. 10:31, Eccl. 9:10, Col. 3:23, Mt 11:28-30, Jn. 19:30
CONTENT:	<p>“Be <i>fruitful & multiply</i>... in the garden to <i>work it & keep it</i>...”</p> <hr/> <p>> <i>theological truth:</i></p> <p>Work is from God and precedes the fall. To contribute is to flourish.</p> <hr/> <p>> <i>practical truths:</i></p> <p>Define work and show that it is from God, for humanity's flourishing, and meant to reflect his image and purposes.</p> <p>The material world <i>does</i> matter. We don't have to view work as a necessary evil... but an opportunity to walk within the created intention of God.</p> <hr/> <p>> <i>tension:</i></p> <p>Misunderstanding the <i>nature of work</i>, leads to misunderstanding humanity's <i>responsibility</i> to work, and leads to either work/performance becoming an idol or work becoming meaningless drudgery.</p> <hr/> <p>> <i>resolve:</i></p> <p>The gospel frees us to understand work as God's design for humanity, and a primary means of participating in God's redemptive work for his planet and image bearers.</p>	<p>“Cursed is the ground... in pain you'll eat... thorns & thistles... sweat of your face...”</p> <hr/> <p>Work itself is now under the fall; marred by sin. It's hard, and we miss its purpose.</p> <hr/> <p>Paradise lost. Things decay - things fall apart; not just individually but communally in public and social spheres... work is shared “painful toil,”</p> <p>Because of sin, work loses its motivation of God-glorifying human-flourishing... It becomes fruitless & pointless... Work is not <i>itself a curse</i>. But because of sin, work is <i>under</i> the curse.</p> <hr/> <p>We are drawn to use work as an identity... We are drawn to pretending & performing... We overwork & underwork, we spin in futility, ...</p> <hr/> <p>Reflection on the broken <i>nature of work</i>, leads us to reflect on the broken <i>affects of work</i> in our own life.</p>	<p>“It is finished...” We are free to reflect his glory, and rest in his work..</p> <hr/> <p><i>It is finished</i> frees us to both work hard and rest well.</p> <hr/> <p>“Whatever you eat or drink... do all to the glory of God.” We are free to work hard & free to rest well.</p> <p>Be the Best at whatever it is that you do: medical, education, technology, government, justice, business, construction, the arts... “<i>the primary job of a christian pilot is to land the plane.</i>”</p> <hr/> <p>Misunderstanding the motivation of work, leads to broken work & self glory, but...</p> <hr/> <p>...living for God's glory, frees us to work for his glory in everything that we do, and lay down that work to rest in him..</p>

RESOURCES:

1. **EVERY GOOD ENDEAVOR: connecting your work to God's work** ([amazon](#)) - Book by Tim Keller.
2. ****REDEFINING WORK** ([video](#)) - Tim Keller at the 2013 FAITH & WORK Conference from The Gospel Coalition.
3. **Martin Luther's View of Faith & Work** ([article](#)) - Institute for Faith, Work, & Economics.
4. **The Teaching of Calvin & Luther on Ordinary Work** (longer [writing](#)) - Ian Hart, The Evangelical Quarterly.
5. **The Power - and danger - in Luther's Concept of Work** ([article](#)) - Dan Doriani, The Gospel Coalition.

Adam - The Gift of Work

- I. Series setup and Introduction
 - A. Gap and disconnect between work/rest and our discipleship to Jesus
 - B. Need a robust theology of work/rest
 - C. Main POINT: Work is a GOOD GIFT of God to mankind. (short version)
- II. God is a worker (the first) that creates order and beauty for the benefit of others; and so are we
 - A. God is the First worker (Gen 1 and 2)
 - 1. Creating order out of chaos for our benefit
 - 2. World full of potential for life and goodness
- III. Humans are his co-workers and laborers
 - 1. Image God
 - 2. Colossians 3:23 - no distinction between secular work and non-secular work
- IV. Work is a Good Gift, but not an Ultimate Gift
 - A. You will not have a meaningful life without work
 - 1. Work necessary for meaning
 - 2. The Gospel: **CHRIST worked joyfully on your behalf to rescue, redeem, and restore you - apart from anything you accomplish in this life. Let that motivate you in all your head, hands, and heart find to do!**
 - B. You will lose yourself if you think work is the meaning of life
 - 1. Identity cannot come from work
 - 2. The Gospel: **Jesus declares, the true work that brings reconciliation to ALL things under heaven and earth has already been done, all there is left to do is JOYFULLY work as unto the Lord. There is nothing else to be accomplish except to participate in and live out the beautifully reconciled loving relationship with the Father - allowing that STORY/TRUTH to transform all of our lives and work!**
- V. Close-out
 - A. The messy middle of gift and deriving ultimate meaning
 - B. The Gospel