

WORK AS WORSHIP

Work As Worship

Part Three: Work As Worship/Not Worship Work

Colossians 3:17; I Corinthians 10:31; Exodus 20:1-6; Psalm 127:1-2

Colossians 3:17

17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

I Corinthians 10:31

31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

#1 - Who Or What Should I Worship, Exodus 20:1-6

The first of the Ten Commandments is that Israel was to worship the one true God. Worshiping false gods would be setting up rivals to Him.

Anything or anyone that takes first place in our lives over God, becomes a violation of Law #1!

Verse 3 is abundantly clear: “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

The second of the Ten Commandments forbids us from creating an object to worship. The worship of God was to be spiritual, not material. Israel was forbidden from worshiping idols (v. 3) and also from making images of God. An idol is a “carved wood or stone.” Later (34:17) “cast idols” made from molten metal were forbidden too. Since God is spiritual no material representation can possibly resemble Him. To make an idol of God like something in the sky (sun, moon, stars), or on the earth (animals), or in the waters below (fish, crocodiles, or other sea life) was forbidden because God is a jealous God (cf. 34:14; Deut. 5:9; 6:15; 32:16, 21; Josh. 24:19), that is, He is zealous that devotion be given exclusively to Him.

God is establishing the bottom line of Who Or What Should I Worship.

#2 - Fruitless Efforts, Psalm 127:1-2

What Psalm 127:1 & 2 teaches us is that it’s not our job that brings us our financial security, it’s our God. It is God that provides the job; God that provides our skill in the job; God that provides the health and strength to do the job. And, it’s God that produces the fruit that comes

from our work on the job.

The author of this Psalm said that it is vain to attempt things without the Lord. Builders work on a house ... in vain unless the LORD builds it, watchmen ... guard in vain unless the LORD watches/guards.

This isn't teaching us that we shouldn't work. What it is teaching is that it takes God to make our labors, fruitful.

Jesus, in teaching His disciples near the moment of His betrayal and arrest, "without Me, you can do nothing (John 15:5b).

The idea gets expanded in the second verse: "It is vain for you to rise up early, To retire late."

You see, when we labor, expecting that the fruitfulness all comes from us—And, then we don't succeed in our endeavors—often, we simply re-double our efforts/work even harder.

God is trying to tell us that if we leave Him out of the Work Equation, and find ourselves frustrated that it's not producing—even if we work even harder, it will be in vain.

Now, it doesn't mean there is absolutely NO fruit from such an endeavor. Yeah, you'll produce enough "bread" so as to eat: "To eat the bread of painful labors;" It is not simply that our projects will fail—there is at least "bread" to show for them—but that they lead nowhere.

God has ordained work. And, in doing our work in a God-honoring way, it is an act of worship.

When we are at work, we are not to leave our faith behind. While at work, we are to let our light shine, so that others will see our good work and glorify our Father who is in heaven.

But for all those workaholics here today, we must be very careful not to place our work, our careers, our vocational ambitions above God in our lives. And, we must take our work to God and seek His blessing. Our work should be an act of worship. It should not become what we worship.