

Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline 24 April 2016 (John Robertson)

#TGIM – 1

Every Good Work

A disciple is a follower of Jesus – someone who is learning to live the way of Jesus in their situation at this moment.

Being the church intentionally on Monday thru Saturday means wherever we go and whatever we are doing, we are connecting with people on an emotional and spiritual level. It means when we are with others we are aware that we are carrying God's Holy Spirit within us when we act or speak.

The best thing we can do for our community is to wake up on a Monday morning and say "Thank God It's Monday".

Sacred Secular Divide

God doesn't want us feeling spiritual when we are doing heavenly things and stepping aside from things that look and feel earthly. Consecrated things are simply things that we give or sacrifice in worship to the Lord.

1. A *'Higher Calling' Mindset*¹

2. A *'Spiritual Outreach' Mindset*

3. A *'Higher Deployment' Mindset*

We need to understand that we are all called to whatever we are doing to be the representatives of Jesus.

¹ 'Life Work: A Biblical Theology for What You Do Every Day' by Darrow Miller

What is work?

Work is the stewardship of resources, human and material to the glory of God and the benefit of humankind.

The purpose of work extends beyond simple material provision for us and our immediate family:

- We work so that we can give to those who don't have.
- We work to serve others and to improve life for the community as a whole.
- We work to develop gifts and skills, to express ourselves through the tasks we do, to gain the satisfaction of a job well done, to rejoice in our God-given abilities.

***Warning:** God created humanity for relationship with him and with one another. He created work as a blessing for us, as a means of provision and mutual service. He did not create us to be slaves of work.

Work Matters to God

God Works

The Bible describes creation as the work of God. For six days he works, and on the seventh He rests from all the work He has done. (Genesis 1 -2:1-3)

God is a worker, and work is something He chooses to do, it's a part of His plan, consistent with his holy nature.

God's work reflects who He is. He creates humanity in His own image.

God takes pleasure in His work.

Before The Fall

Humanity is designed for work - this work is clearly given as a blessing (Genesis 1:28; Genesis 2:15)

Work is not a consequence of the fall but part of the original plan. We were always meant to work - and work was intended as a source of satisfaction and pleasure.

After The Fall

When humanity rebelled against God the character of work changed (Genesis 3:19).

The command to work is maintained even if the way the work is done is radically altered.

Work is both necessary and good. God doesn't take the Christian out of the world; rather, He transforms all aspects of life in the world - including work.

Work becomes one of the ways in which humanity serves God and through which God enriches us both personally and each other. Work becomes a component of our worship.

Work isn't man's idea, it is God's. Work is not an intermission from the main action, something we do so that we can then do other things: it is an integral part of the main action, an intrinsic part of our walk with God.

Work becomes God's way of bringing:

- Order
- Provision
- Enjoyment
- Beauty
- Release Potential

God Matters to Work

Where you work and how you steward the resources, human and material you have access to, for the glory of God and the benefit of others, is ***The Great Mission Field*** of today.

There are three safe assumptions:

1. God wants to save the people you work with
2. God is the evangelist
3. You have a role to play in representing Him to others

So will you wake up tomorrow morning and be able to say Thank God it's Monday!

Discussion Questions

1. Divide into pairs and in 5 minutes share: Your occupation; two things you like about your work; one thing I dislike; your main challenge; in what ways have you seen God at work?
2. Your vocation (primary calling) is to be a disciple of Jesus. How does this affect how you see your work? What difference does it make?
3. How does knowing your work matters to God and God matters to work change what you will do this time tomorrow?
4. Share with each other your prayer points for how God can impact your work.