



"...seek first the kingdom of God
and His righteousness..."

God First and My Job/Career - March

Purpose

- To balance the work requirement with the *God first* prerequisite. Work is important and is a gift from God; however, we do not need to become obsessed with our employment.

Objective

- Building on our previous lessons regarding *prioritizing* and *time* we need to examine ourselves (**2 Cor. 13:5**). We must seek to put in balance our job and careers from a *God first* perspective. (Revisit **Mt. 6:33**)
- Dependence on God is a positive (**1 Pet. 5:6-8**) but the Scriptures condemn laziness. Can we see how balance is requisite?

Thoughts

- Work is noble and is a gift of God; conversely, laziness is condemned in the Scriptures. (**1 Tim. 5:8, 2 Thess. 3:10, Eph. 4:28**)
- *"Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done whether you like it or not. Being forced to work, and forced to do your best will breed in you temperance, self-control, diligence and a hundred other virtues which the idle will never know!"* - Charles Kingsley
- Compare and contrast **Eccl. 2:1-10** with **vs. 11-26**. See also **Eccl. 5:18-19, 2:10**. What is Solomon's point? Does the *God first* concept relieve us of our ordinary responsibilities (i.e. work)?
- If we are not careful and do not keep *God first*, then the balance of our relationship/thoughts about our jobs can become skewed and God and family take a back seat.
- Is there anything wrong with ambition, advancing ourselves? What are the dangers involved with this? Study **2 Cor. 5:9-10** and compare translations to see the emphasis on establishing ambition. Discuss.
- This affects/applies to women too! Multiple career families – need is understood, but when is the line crossed between need and want? Is it hard to keep God first with that?

Discussion

1. What are some consequences of not keeping God first in the area of work? What happens when someone focuses too heavily on their work/career?
2. Could the same applications about work be made to students and those working toward their career? What are some challenges/applications for the student?

3. Come up with some practical ways to help us keep from losing ourselves in our work.
4. Note the apparent struggle Solomon felt. Work is good - a must. But also see the futility of it. You cannot take it with you!
 - a. What happens to a man's inheritance/goods/monies once he dies?
 - b. What is part of the futility of it that Solomon describes?
5. **Read Col. 3:22-24.** What does God expect of us as Christian workers? What are some advantages/blessings/results of keeping God first in the workplace? (Hint: influence)
6. What church was guilty of putting God second and not working? (**2 Thess. 3**) What did the Apostles do?