

# Faith and Work

## Your work matters to God



### Part 6

*The Gathering Place, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018*

## Genesis 2:1



So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. <sup>2</sup> On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his **work**. <sup>3</sup> And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his **work** of creation.

## Genesis 2:15

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.

# Some Myths



- Work is a curse
- God only worked for 6 days
- In heaven we will not be working

# 3 Reminders



- God is at work
- We are made in God's image
- We understand that ultimately our work is unto God

# Psalm 104



# Work and calling



- Our primary calling as followers of Christ is by him, to him and for him. First and foremost we are called to Someone (God), not to something (such as motherhood, politics or teaching) or to somewhere (such as the inner city or Mongolia).

# Work and calling



- Our secondary calling: considering who God is as sovereign, is that everyone, everywhere and in everything should think, speak, live and act entirely for him. We can therefore properly say as a matter of secondary calling that we are called to homemaking or to practice law or to art history.

# Colossians 3:17



*Whatever you do, in word or deed,  
do everything in the name of the  
Lord Jesus.*



# Examples from Scripture



- *Daniel*
- *Joseph*
- *Naaman's servant*

## Daniel 2:27-28

*Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these.”*

# Daniel 6 :1-5



It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; <sup>2</sup> and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel *was* one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. .”



3 Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit *was* in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. 4 So the governors and satraps sought to find *some* charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; **but they could find no charge or fault, because he *was* faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.** ”

# Daniel 6



5 Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him concerning the law of his God.”

# ***Jeremiah 29:7***



*But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

# ***Daniel 11:32 b***



***..., but the people who know their  
God shall stand firm and take  
action.***

# Joseph

## *Genesis 50:20*

<sup>20</sup> But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.



# Naaman's servant



**2Kings 5:1-17**

## Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

# How Christianity Changed the World



# Os Guinness on William Wilberforce



“ ... William Wilberforce came within a hair’s breadth of missing his grand calling altogether. His faith in Jesus Christ animated his lifelong passion for reform. At one stage he led or actively participated in sixty-nine different initiatives, several of world-shaping significance. But when Wilberforce came to faith through the “Great Change” that was his experience of conversion in 1785 at the age of

# Os Guinness on William Wilberforce



“twenty-five, his first reaction was to throw over politics for the ministry. He thought, as millions have thought before and since, that ‘spiritual’ affairs are far more important than ‘secular’ affairs.

Fortunately, a minister – John Newton, the converted slave trader who wrote ‘Amazing Grace’ – persuaded Wilberforce that God wanted him to stay in politics rather than

## Os Guinness on William Wilberforce

“enter the ministry. ‘It’s hoped and believed,’ Newton wrote, ‘that the Lord has raised you up for the good of the nation.’ After much prayer and thought, Wilberforce concluded that Newton was right. God was calling him to champion the liberty of the oppressed – as a Parliamentarian. ‘My walk,’ he wrote in his journal in 1788, ‘is a public one. My business is in the world; and I must mix in the assemblies of men, or quit the post which Providence seems to have assigned me.’”