

Common Purpose
Work as Worship II

Worship defined (review) – *Offering to God what belongs to Him.*

“**vocation**” = from *vocare* ‘to call’

- “The concept of *calling* is a product of the Reformation.” (Max Weber)
- Work instead of a necessary evil, was a way to honor God.
- This, coupled with an emphasis on the dangers of materialism, created the resultant prosperity of modern Western civilization.
 - “*Wherever riches have increased, the essence of religion has decreased in the same proportion. Therefore I do not see how it is possible, in the nature of things, for any revival of true religion to continue long. For religion must necessarily produce both industry and frugality, and these cannot but produce riches. But, as riches increase, so will pride, anger, and the love of the world in all its branches.*” (Wesley)

How to tell if your work is worship or not

Col. 3:22-24

- Is compromise optional?
Prov. 2:7 - He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity,
Prov. 19:1 - Better a poor man who walks in integrity than someone who has deceitful lips and is a fool.
- Is giving optional?
Prov. 3:9-10 - 9 Honor the LORD with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest; 10 then your barns will be completely filled, and your vats will overflow with new wine.
- Is excellence optional?
Prov. 12:24 - The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.
- Is servicing optional?
Matt. 20:28 - the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
- Is your witness optional?
I Cor. 9:19-22 – ¹⁹ For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; ²⁰ and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; ²¹ to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; ²² to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some

Can you pray or worship ‘on the job’?

Does God want you to be ‘successful’?

- Will you still be able to honor God with your success?
- Is it honoring to God to do work that does not bring increase?
- “*God doesn’t call us to be successful, only faithful.*”

Matt. 25:14-29 – parable of the talents

Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord (Matt. 25:23)

Joshua 1:8

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success

III John 2

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.