

September 4, 2016

Genesis 1:24-2:3

“The Goodness Of Work”

Is “work” good or bad? What’s the most important work we can do?

1. Work Is Good

- Genesis 1: God works by creating; He works through speaking; He brings order out of chaos. God is pictured as an artist

By the seventh day God had finished the WORK he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his WORK. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the WORK of creating that he had done (Genesis 2:2-3)

“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” (Genesis 1:28)

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it” (Genesis 2:15)

- There is not a distinction between “good work” and “bad work.”
- In stark contrast to Greek thought, in the story of the Bible God affirms the physical / earthly stuff as “good” through **Creation, Incarnation and Resurrection**

2. Work As Gift

- For many work is either a means to (1) appease God or (2) satisfy myself.
- What if work is primarily a gift that God has given us?
- The Bible says: “God blessed them and said...”

3. Work As “God In Disguise”

“God doesn’t have to do it that way but He is. He’s loving you through other people’s work. [Martin Luther] goes as far as to say [when] the baker and the farmer [work they are] “God in disguise.” These are the masks of God. God is loving you and distributing His gifts through [the work of others” (Pastor Tim Keller).

- What is the work God has called you to?

Commissioning / Blessing

“The material creation was made by God to be developed, cultivated, and cared for in an endless number of ways through human labor. But even the simplest of these ways is important. Without them all, human life cannot flourish.” (Tim Keller, Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Plan for the World)