

Redeeming Work
Your Work Will Test and Stretch Your Faith, Part 2
Ephesians 6:5-20

Grace Fellowship Church/ Pastor Brad Bigney/ Oct. 22, 2017

When Paul wrote this letter to the Christians at Ephesus and spoke to them about marriage, parenting and work, he knew that the early church was filled with slaves and servants.

The message of the gospel gave slaves and servants something they'd never had before. Something that in spite of the humiliation, drudgery and sometimes crushing nature of their work, still made their work meaningful, satisfying and bearable.

If this theology of work that Paul gave slaves and servants in the first-century could enable them to work to the glory of God, do you think it could help us in our jobs today?

God's Word frames up one of the most important areas of life in a way that changes how you see it and should change how you do it.

II. What Are Some of the Best Decisions You Can Make as You Head into the Workplace?

A. Decide that You're Going to Live Like Daniel – Holding Onto Your Personal Integrity Even If It Costs You

Daniel's problem was a work-related problem that was driven by the jealousy of co-workers who could not find any dirt on Daniel.

Daniel served under Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius and King Cyrus. For over 60 years Daniel had a distinguished government career, where he served God and four pagan kings with impeccable personal integrity.

How hard would it be for people around you to find inconsistencies in your work or less than honest record-keeping?

Don't say, 'Oh, but everybody does it.' That's what should make us stand out. We don't, because we work for King Jesus, not Amazon or Citibank or Fidelity, King Jesus.

Your personal integrity is the most important asset you bring to the workplace, never mind your skills. If your integrity is compromised, your life will ultimately be compromised, because an ethical Grand Canyon always starts with little cracks of compromise.

You need to make up your mind ahead of time that you're going to live like Daniel, holding on to your integrity.

A. Decide that You're Going to Live Like Mary – Choosing What Matters Most in the Midst of a Busy Schedule

Look at **Luke 10:38-42**.

You can invest a lot of time in a lot of things and not see any lasting fruit from it. When you spend unhurried time with your Savior, it stays with you and goes with you into that workplace.

Make a decision to live like Mary, choosing what matters most in the midst of a busy schedule.

B. Decide that You're Going to Live Like an Alien Regarding Your Money – Knowing that You're Not Home Yet

I Peter 2:11 “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul”

One of the most soul-destroying lusts that you can get trapped in is the love of money. You're going to find that the workplace reeks of it, but you've got to go in there. So you better go in there having already made a decision about who you are. You're an alien, a pilgrim, a sojourner.

Read **I Timothy 6:6-10**.

Money can do great good. Money is not the root of all evil. The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. That's why the Bible warns us that if you fall in love with money, it will shape you into someone you never meant to be so that you don't just use it for the glory of God, you chase after it like an addict looking for her next hit.

You need to understand that the Christian life is not just about saying 'No to the wrong stuff. You have to have a greater burning 'Yes that will free you from making too much of the things of this world.

This same Greek word, 'Orego,' that's used in I Timothy 6 for 'greediness' is also used in Hebrews 11 – talking about men and women of faith who were desiring a better home or country.

Hebrews 11:16 “But now they desire a better, that is, heavenly country...”

And it enabled them to do some really hard things for the glory of God.

In any culture where God is largely absent, and that's where we are today, people are going to try to fill that vacuum with everything from sex to power to money to all that money can buy!

The only way any of that is going to change is through the power of the Gospel as one man or woman at a time comes into a right relationship with the God of the universe through His Son, Jesus Christ.