

# Stewardship

The use of God-given resources  
to pursue God-given goals

Luke 14:28-32

## **Work And Who God Is**

Work is normative: it's part of God's Created order

Work is patterned after God himself

God gives us work to do during our earthly sojourn

After the Fall, God frustrated our work: more toil than joy

# Work And Who I Am

Our work is specific to each of us

“...the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saull for the work to which I have called them.” Acts 13:2

“See that you put Timothy to ease among you, because he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am.” 1 Corinthians 16:10

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

## Work And Who I Am

Our significance is not determined by wisdom, power or wealth but by our relationship with God

“Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me...”  
Jeremiah 9:23-24

## Work And How I Think

We do not work to provide for our needs because God is the source of our provision and our work is simply the means he uses to supply our need

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19

## Work And How I Think

“Blessings at times come to us through our labors and at times without our labors, but never because of our labors: for God always gives them because of His undeserved mercy.”

Martin Luther

## Work And How I Think

“If we are to succeed in living by grace in a material world, we must come to terms with the fact that God is sovereign in dispensing His gracious favors, and He owes us no explanation when His actions do not correspond with our system of merits.”

Jerry Bridges

## **Work And How I Think**

All that I bring to my work (skills, intelligence, experience, reputation, etc.) are gifts from God

“Never forget it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth.” Deuteronomy 8:18

## Work And How I Think

Work can become a means of exploitation and oppression

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring...” Genesis 3:15

“Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you held back by fraud, are crying out against you...”  
James 5:4

## **Life Vision**

### **Three Reasons to Seek Our Calling**

- 1. It will give God and us pleasure**
- 2. Limited time to fulfill our calling**
- 3. It gives focus to our life**

## Life Vision

1. When you answer God's call, you will please God

“Whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please Him.**” 2 Corinthians 5:9

“...**we speak**, not to please men, but **to please God**, who tests our hearts.” 1 Thessalonians 2:4

## Life Vision

### 2. Limited time to fulfill our calling

“You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.” James 4:14

**The Bible describes our bodies as a temporary dwelling place for our eternal souls**

“I think it is right, **as long as I am in this body**, to stir you up by way of reminder, **since I know that putting off my body will be soon**, as our Lord has made clear to me.  
2 Peter 1:13

## Life Vision

**The Bible encourages us to think soberly of our time here**

“O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my life time is nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather! And now, O lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.” Psalm 39:4-7

## **Life Vision**

**The Bible associates measuring our time with wisdom**

“The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away... So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”  
Psalm 90:10.12

## Life Vision

3. Our calling gives focus to our life

Our fleeting time on earth is preparing us for heaven, which A.W. Tozer described as “the long tomorrow.”

## Life Vision

3. It gives focus to our life

“**We are ambassadors for Christ**, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

## Life Vision

### 3. It gives focus to our life

“And if you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, **conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile**, knowing that you were not ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”

1 Peter 1:17

## Life Vision

### 3. It gives focus to our life

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...Beloved, **I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.”**

1 Peter 2:11,12