

January 22, 2011
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Monday

Eccl. 2:11 Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.

Nobody, at least no one I have ever met, wants his or her life's work to amount to nothing. Once you move from small jobs and student positions into 'real work' the focus shifts from simply making money to get by to *making a difference* while making money to get by. For a believer, the concern goes even further. "What am I doing that actually accounts for some profit in God's plan and Kingdom?" Those who walk with God know intuitively that only that which has a Kingdom purpose really makes a difference. Is your life about Kingdom priorities or is it just 'hebel', vanity?

Tuesday

Col. 3:23-24 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

For the believer, there are not two or three realms of life. There can be no separation between the secular and the sacred. There is no personal, professional, and confessional divide. You are a believer! You are a servant of the King. You bear the name of Jesus wherever you are and whatever you do. Work is an extension of your relationship to Jesus. If your job is not honorable to Jesus then your relationship is affected. If you do not work honorably in your job then you reflect poorly upon your Lord and your life. *It is the Lord Christ whom you serve!*

Wednesday

Eccl. 2:17 So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind.

Profession, vocation, job, or calling: how do you envision the work that you do to gain income? For some, your job is simply a place for earning income. There is very little ministry that can be involved in your employment. Yet you should not see it as an end into itself, rather see it as providing the means by which you minister provision to your family and as that which provides the means by which you can be involved in *your calling*. You will make a living at your work but use your income to make a life of mission for the Kingdom. In that way, your work becomes God's work and has meaning and purpose beyond the daily grind.

Thursday

Mal. 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

There are so many Believers who would never dare think of themselves as thieves and robbers. They would never consider taking bribes, robbing convenience stores, embezzling from their employer or, worse yet, stealing money out of the collection plate at church. Yet, when you recognize that you work for God but fail to give to Him His tithe, you are taking money from God's church, God's mission, and God's offering plate. What really makes the difference? It is whether you see the money you receive as yours or His, as a price for your hire or a gift from His hand? You do not alter God's word by disobedience, you simply become disobedient.

Friday

Eccl. 5:16 This also is a grievous evil — exactly as a man is born, thus will he die. So what is the advantage to him who toils for the wind?

What is the advantage to your labor, if you simply die and leave it to another? As a wise steward you can leave assets so that they continue to do Kingdom work even after you have been fully promoted to your heavenly home. Are you making plans for your money to work for the Kingdom when you are in heaven? I wonder how the Lord will respond to you, if you are not? Will he say, "You left it to who!? You left it for what purpose!? Why would you do that?" I'd rather hear, "Way to go!"