

MASTERING MONDAYS

How to make work...work

September 3, 2006

Work is not a curse!

*The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and care for it.
Genesis chapter 2, verse 15.*

- God established work before sin entered the world.
- God is a worker.
- Since I am created in the image of God I am to be a worker.
- The Bible has a lot to say about work. (Read Proverbs)

Work is not a curse but will be a struggle.

And to Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate the fruit I told you not to eat, I have placed a curse on the ground. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. All your life you will sweat to produce food, until your dying day.

Genesis chapter 3, verse 17 (5)

God knows your job is a struggle.

- It's a struggle when I am not doing something I love.
- It's a struggle when I am working for people who are unfair.
- It's a struggle when the pay just isn't enough.
- It's a struggle when...

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
2 Corinthians chapter 12 verse 9 (888)*

Work can not satisfy my soul!

*So I turned in despair from hard work. It was not the answer to my search for satisfaction in this life.
Ecclesiastes chapter 2, verse 20 (506)*

- ✓ Hard work and accomplishment are fulfilling.
- ✓ Hard work can not replace God and people in my life.
- ✓ Don't let work get out of balance.
- ✓ Don't let work become an excuse to avoid the issues that God wants you to deal with.
- ✓ When God and my family are in their right place then my work will be less of a struggle.

How I work is more important to God than where I work.

*Christians who are slaves should give their masters full respect so that the name of God and his teaching will not be shamed.
1 Timothy chapter 6, verse 1 (912)*

Slaves must obey their masters and do their best to please them. They must not talk back or steal, but they must show themselves to be entirely trustworthy and good. Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way. Titus chapter 2 verses 9-10 (917)

Work with Integrity!

- Do I show up on time?
- Am I honest in all my dealings?
- Do I consistently treat my co-workers with love & respect?
- Am I patient with difficult people?
- Do I cooperate with and submit to authority?
- Am I seen as reliable and trustworthy?
- Do I realize that my reputation helps or hurts God's reputation?

My calling at work is to serve.

- ✓ God created us for service.-
- ✓ Satan despises serving. - *I will make myself like the most high. Isaiah 14*
- ✓ Our first order of service is to God. - *Commit your work to the Lord and then your plans will succeed. Proverbs 16:3*
- ✓ Then we are to serve others
- ✓ Serving is voluntary- *Choose whom this day you will serve. Joshua 24:15*
- ✓ Our work can be service.

The Servant at Work

Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Colossians chapter 3, verse 23 (904)

But among you it should be quite different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, Matthew chapter 20, verse 26 (751)

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and in his good time he will honor you. 1 Peter chapter 5, verse 6. (937)

Do you see your job as opportunity to impact the world for God?

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew chapter 4, verse 19 (NIV)

If you let him God can use you know matter where you work.