

Lost Words: Work Ethic

Dr. Les Hughes

June 14, 2009

Important Items in Worship

The Student Pastor Search is going well and we hope to be able to announce something in the coming weeks.

The Tailgate Party is coming up June 28. Be sure to sign up for a space and make plans to attend.

Outline of Sermon

1. Work is not a curse, but meaningless work is.
2. The purposes of our work come from God.

Other Passages Sited

Genesis 2:2 God rested from the work that He had done.

Ephesians 4:28 ...sharing with those in need...

Eccles. 9:10 ... whatever your hand finds to do...

Scripture: Colossians 3:23-24

²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Group Session

Opening Question

Tell about a person who has the best work ethic you know. What are your feelings regarding that person.

What are your feelings toward people who have a poor work ethic?

Digging for Truth

1. Read Colossians 3:23-24. Listen for reasons we should take work seriously.

- Answers:
- a. We work for (serve) the Lord.
 - b. We'll receive an inheritance from the Lord.

2. Many of us misunderstand God's design for work. Work is actually ordained of God, not a punishment for sin in the Garden of Eden, not just a necessary evil. God worked and we are created in His image.

Do you see your work as a positive or a negative? What has shaped your views of work?

3. Les shared some ideas about what does a God-centered work ethic looks like. Which of these helps you the most?

- a. I seek work to do instead of just waiting on an assignment
- b. I have a new job description
- c. I have a new motive for my work.
- d. I have God as my employer.
- e. I have a new salary structure for my work.

4. Have you ever given thought to giving your employer a full day's work when it comes to wasting time? In essence, we are stealing from our employer if we take the money for work done, but haven't done the work. What ways do people in your office or work place most waste time? How can we set a positive example for Christ in regards to work?

5. The way we do our work says something about our relationship with Christ. If someone were to look at your work last week, would they be drawn to Christ or less likely to follow Him? Have you ever thought about how it affects others?

Closing Thoughts

What can we do this week to not only have the right attitude about work, but to honor God and point others to Christ through our work?