

THE GOSPEL AND WORK

(Peter Melbourne 16/8/15 for 8:30 & 10:30; 23/8/15 for 3:50 & 6:00)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Were there any points made in the message given by Peter that stood out to you? Share these with the group.

Having a Gospel Worldview

It is important that we view all aspects of our life through the reality of the Gospel of Jesus. On a sheet of paper, as a group, draw the diagram shown during the sermon showing the relationship between worldview, beliefs, values and behaviours.

The secular world defines work as “paid employment”, what is a better definition shown in Phil 1:22. Discuss as a group what type of work activities would fit this new definition.

How should we see work?

The world sees work as a means of personal fulfillment, a measure of success, or even as a necessary evil. However, the Bible has much to say about work. Look at the following verses and discuss what they say about work.

Gen 2:15

Eph 2: 8-10

1 Thess 4:9-12

1 Cor 10:31-33

What type of work should we do?

Peter suggested that in selecting the correct work for us, that we use Scripture to test our motives and our wisdom to assess the availability and future of the work type. It was also suggested that we use the SHAPE process. This is a process used by many to determine areas of ministry but also can be used in selecting a work role. As a group, try and remember what each of the letters represent.

S

H

A

P

E

(Answer is at the end but don't look until you have had a reasonable attempt)

Calling

What does Eph 4:1 say about our calling?

How should we do our work?

What does Eph 6:7 say about how we should do our work? What should our attitude be?

In everything that we do, we need to do it as if for the Lord. However, Paul relates to us in 1 Cor 9:24-27 what this means for him. Read the verses and discuss. See if there is anyone in your group that has used a training program and get them to talk about the commitment required. If there isn't anyone, discuss what type of commitment you think is required.

When is our work finished?

Our world encourages people to save for and then enjoy their retirement. Retirement is portrayed as a time of relaxation and mild adventure. This is sometimes referred to as SKIng.. Spending the Kid's Inheritance.

But Paul had a different view again. Read Phi 1:21-26. When do you think that Paul would consider his work to be over?

It would be much healthier for Christians to see retirement from secular work more as a career change where God leads them into "Fruitful Labour" for his kingdom purposes.

Conclusion

You should take this opportunity over the next week to examine your own attitude to work and see if it aligns with a Gospel Worldview.

Answer for shape is spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experience. An excellent book on the subject is called SHAPE by Erik Rees. You can purchase this at Koorong.