

'How Will I Know?' Series: How will I know the right profession for me?

Colossians 3:22-24 Nov 19th, 2023

DAILY DEVOTION

Find a rhythm in God's word this week! Follow this 5 day plan on your own or with your group!

https://my.bible.com/reading-plans/22186

INSPIRATION

"We often miss opportunity because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work."

– Thomas A. Edison

"Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else."

– J.M. Barrie

"This is the real secret of life –
to be completely engaged with what you are doing in the here and now.
And instead of calling it work, realize it is play."
— Alan Watts

ICE BREAKER

Tell us about the worst job you ever had, and then tell us about the best.

DEEP DIVE

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

"Before we dig in too much into what I'm going to call the nitty gritty of our professions – I want to zoom out and talk about the foundation. Because before we talk about what we do, we need



to talk about who we are. Perhaps the best question we can start with this morning is not "What do I do?" but "What kind of person am I?".

A) What kind of a person are you?

Read Luke 16:10-13 and then answer the following questions:

16:10) Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11) So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12) And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? 13) No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

- 1) We all have responsibilities placed upon us throughout our lives at work, school and home. Often we feel they are a burden we carry and no one notices what we do unless we do something wrong. Instead, what insights can we gain from this passage about what's really happening as we fulfill these tasks?
- 2) It's been said the reason you can't serve two masters is because you will always be trying to use one to meet the demands of the other. Obviously the master we should be working for is God. So what are examples of the common things we do in our work week that could be done better when we realize we're working for God?

Read Colossians 3:22-25 and then answer the following questions:

3:22) Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23) Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord; not for human masters, 24) since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism."

3) While we talk about picking the right profession, for many of us (like these slaves who were early believers) we may not like our work at all, but that situation does not excuse us to be a bad worker. What lessons can we learn from this passage about doing a good job when we have a bad job?



Read I Corinthians 7:21 and then answer the following questions:

7:21) Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you – although if you can gain for freedom, do so.

- 4) How does this teaching for people in slavery apply to those of us who find ourselves in oppressive job situations?
- 5) Do you believe...
 - a) God has planned a specific job/career selected for each person and it's best if we find out what that is
 - b) Or we are free to pursue whatever career pleases us, as long as we do the work in a way that honors God.
 - c) Or from behind the scenes God sees that we end up in our jobs sometimes as a test, a trial, or a reward?

B) Skill, Passion and Agreement

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

"We all have skills – I'm good at this... God has given each of us different skills – we all play a different role..."

Read I Corinthians 12:12-18 and then answer the following questions:

12:12) Just as a body, thought one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ... 15) Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body." It would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16) And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17) If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would



the sense of smell be? But in fact, God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

6) Skills: This passage focuses on how the way God designed us all differently to serve in various capacities within his church. But the fact that God has designed us with different skills, personality and temperament also implies we are designed in a way that fits better in different jobs or professions.

What makes you distinctive? What are you good at? How would you describe your skills, temperament and personality?

7) Desire/Passion: (I like doing this. I feel called to do this. This brings some meaning and purpose to my life.) We all have tasks in our lives, and perhaps - you could put them into two categories. Most task tend to drain us, but then there are others that seem to create their own energy. As we do them, we find ourselves so engaged, the activity itself seems to spur us along.

For you, what activities for you seem to create their own energy and carry you along?

8) Agreement: (My company wants me to do this. And if they don't, I may need a new company.) Just as a good man and a good woman may not be a good fit as a couple together, in the same way some people and companies are just not a good fit for each other.

If a fellow worker came to you asking, "How can I know whether I should stay with this company or if it's time to seek a new position somewhere else?" Explain what you would have them ask themselves, and how you would help them work through that decision.



NEXT STEPS

Am I in the right job?

For those of you currently working, think through your own answer to that question. Is it time to look for a better position? But if not, what can I do to better serve and honor God where I'm at right now?

PRAYER

Spend some time praying thanking God for the positions you have had and for the lessons God has taught you and the character that has been built in you along the way.

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Establish a regular rhythm of serving together! Below are some service opportunities.

- BENSON Serve with us at ABIDE every 2nd Saturday.
- MILLARD Serve with us at Heartland Hope every 4th Saturday.
- FREMONT Serve with us at LifeHouse every 3rd Saturday.
- OMAHA Serve with us at Open Door Mission every 4th Saturday.
- Or get to know your community, are there any needs/volunteer opportunities?