



In last week's talk, we described the Christian view of work as...

...the expenditure of energy (manual or mental or both) in the service of others, which brings fulfillment to the worker, benefit to the community and glory to God.

"To the glory of God"...let that sink in. Our work is to bring glory to God. This means there is a theological significance to our jobs—flipping burgers, changing diapers, making a sale, supervising people, balancing a budget, hiring and firing—TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

This is what Paul had in mind when he wrote, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23, NIV). With this in mind, let's look into it.

WORK AS WORSHIP

Let's learn a little Hebrew: **AVODAH**

Genesis 2:15, *The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.* (NIV)

Exodus 3:12, *God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When*

*you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will **worship** God at this very mountain.” (NIV)*

We have come to narrowly define worship as something that occurs in a “sacred space” and that consists of activities that we have deemed to be “spiritual.”

Worship is **whole-life** response to God.

Romans 12:1, Here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. (Msg)

A working definition of worship...

Worship is the humble response to the self-disclosure of the Most High God. It is based upon the work of God. It is achieved through the activity of God. It is expressed by the lips in praise and by the life in acts of service.

A LESSON FROM SLAVERY

Colossians 3:22-4:1, Slaves, obey your earthly masters...not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving...Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven. (NIV)



Choose your **audience**.

1 Corinthians 10:31, *Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.* (NIV)

Choose your **attitude**.

Philippians 2:5, You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. (NLT)

Choose your **ambition**.

Mark 10:43-45, But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant...For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others. (NLT)

Choose your **anticipation**.

1 Peter 3:9, Do not do wrong to repay a wrong, and do not insult to repay an insult. But repay with a blessing, because you yourselves were called to do this so that you might receive a blessing. (NCV)

Change the **atmosphere**.

Matthew 5:16, Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. (Msg)

Challenge the **status quo**.

1 Peter 3:15, Respect Christ as the holy Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have. (NCV)