

**August 30, 2015**

**John 6:25-40**

**“God’s Work And Ours”**

**1. What Is Work?**

Based on pay?, number of hours worked?, if you have an office?  
If you get benefits, If you have a title?

“A job is a vocation only if someone else [God] calls you to do it for them rather than for yourself. And so our work can be a calling only if it is re-imagined as a mission of service to something beyond merely our own interests. Thinking of work mainly as a means of self-fulfillment and self-realization slowly crushes a person.” (Timothy Keller, *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God’s Plan for the World*)

Work is our “vocation”

**2. Teaching #1: Work For What Lasts**

*“Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you (John 6:27).*

“Everyone will be forgotten, nothing we do will make any difference, and all good endeavours, even the best, will come to naught...Unless there is God. If the God of the Bible exists, and there is a True Reality beneath and behind this one, and this life is not the only life, then every good endeavour, even the simplest ones, pursued in response to God's calling, can matter forever.”  
(*Every Good Endeavor*)

**3. Teaching #2: The Work Of God Is Faith In His Son**

*“The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent” (John 6:29).*

There is “Work” and “work”:

“Work”=faith / belief in Jesus Christ

“work”=our God-given task

#### **4. How Do We Connect “Work” and “work”? Some Options:**

- a. Faith and “work” go side by side (politician)
- b. Remove yourself from “work” (monk)
- c. “Special / Christian work” (pastor)
- d. The “Work of God” (faith) restores “work” (true Christian response)

“Grace does not remain outside or above or beside nature but rather permeates and wholly renews it. And thus nature, reborn by grace, will be brought to its highest revelation...Christianity does not introduce a single substantial foreign element into the creation. it creates no new cosmos but rather makes the cosmos new. it restores what was corrupted by sin. it atones the guilty and cures what is sick; the wounded it heals” (Herman Bavinck).

#### **5. Implications**

- Our vocation / work is good, part of God’s calling for each one of us.

“The material creation was made by God to be developed, cultivated, and cared for in an endless number of ways through human labor. But even the simplest of these ways is important. Without them all, human life cannot flourish.” (*Every Good Endeavor*)

- Faith in Christ (re)orients our whole life, including our vocation. Faith helps us to see and do all of our work with God-honouring energy, hope and ambition.

#### **6. Working It Out—What Does This Look Like For the firefighter, nurse, Apple Store employee?**

“If God’s purpose for your job is that you serve the human community, then the way to serve God best is to do the job as well as it can be done.” (*Every Good Endeavor*).