

NOTES ON “WORKPLACE AS GLOBAL MISSION”

Paul’s missionary work focused on cities. He preached in cities. He disciplined in cities. He planted churches in cities. He developed and commissioned elders for city churches. He mobilized, trained, and released people for mission to cities.

Def. – city- a highly populated area, usually where business and finance are a central part.

The Theology of Vocation- In Christian theology, vocation (from the Latin "vocatio," meaning "calling") refers to the divine call to live a life aligned with God’s purposes. It is not limited to professional or religious work but encompasses all aspects of life, including family, community, work, and civic responsibilities. Vocation is where faith is expressed in action, where Christians serve others, and where spiritual growth and sanctification occur.¹

Paul wanted us to:

1. **Celebrate the sacred calling of work.** Work is not merely secular or just about making a living. We have a greater and eternal purpose.
2. **Be intentionally missional in our daily and normal course of our life.**

Work is sacred

Genesis 2:15- God put man in Eden to work the garden. Work was cursed because of the fall; therefore, we tend to see it as a curse or painful toil. (See also **Genesis 3:17-19**)

Colossians 1:15-20- Paul says work was restored by the redeeming work of Christ on the cross. Christ redeemed, not only people, but all things in heaven and on earth, including our work.

Colossians 3:23-24- Paul instructs us to do all our work as if we are working for the Lord, rather than for human masters. This is what makes work sacred. It becomes a service to God and to other people.

Work is missional

Work is where we spend most of our time, so it is our best opportunity for mission. We tend to know our coworkers better than we know our neighbors.

Acts 16:25-40- The jailer who came to faith is an example of this.

For discussion:

“To think of work only missionally, without truly understanding and living out the equal Biblical truth that work is also sacred, is both unhealthy and unhelpful.” Why?

¹ The Gospel Coalition

“If you see any excellence or humility in me, both are the work of Christ in me. I worship Jesus and it is He who is transforming me.” What can we take and apply from this statement?

How can someone who is retired or out of work apply these principles?