

The book of Ecclesiastes catalogs the various things to which people turn to find fulfillment in their lives. One after another they are revealed to be “meaningless.” For nothing lasts and there seems to be a never ending cycle of labor. Furthermore, God has “set eternity in the hearts of men” (Ecclesiastes 3:11b); we long for something greater than anything this world has to offer. Yet Solomon, the author, comes to the conclusion:

I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil – this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him (Ecclesiastes 3:12-14).

In other words, we can enjoy life and find meaning in our work as we keep it in perspective of God and His eternal, effective work. God has given us many gifts –

creation, love, work (remember God called Adam to oversee the garden *before* the Fall) – which are good (Genesis 1:31). But if we make them our god, they will leave us wanting.

Rather God is the one who is eternal and the satisfaction of our every desire. He is truly good. He is legitimately

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praise worthy. His love and acceptance lack nothing and will never change.

Again Solomon states, “So I saw that there is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his work, because that is his lot.” Happiness, blessedness, peace come from submission to God’s will. And God has called mankind to toil. Therefore, let us accept this good gift that God has given

us and appreciate it for what it is – not our salvation, but our means of glorifying God. We are told, “This is love for God: to obey his commands” (1 John 5:3). And we are commanded to not be lazy (2 Thessalonians 3:7-8).

Moreover, we are told, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as if you were working for the Lord, not for men” (Colossians 3:23). A wonderful thing happens when we live for Christ! Suddenly the mundane things of life are transformed into things of eternal worth! If brushing your teeth can be an act of worship, as you care for the temple of the Holy Spirit, being a good steward of that which God has entrusted to you, certainly our occupations are redeemed into something sublime!

When we work for God, rather than for man, we find that every time we are considerate of the needs of our staff, we are caring for them in Christ’s name. Every time we submit to a board initiative or the laws of the land, we are acknowledging God’s sovereign selection of those in authority over us. There is no longer a divide between

religious and secular activities for a Christian, God claims every moment of our lives for His own. Now expense reports and evaluations have a meaningfulness beyond their earthly function.

As you read this, although it will be tempting to apply it to your staff, I hope you will apply it to your own life first. One reason is that we are to get rid of the log in our own eye before addressing the splinter in our brother's. Also, you cannot force satisfaction. That is, you cannot demand that your employees work as though they were working for God and expect that to make them feel fulfilled. Indeed, you can suggest it, you can model it and God may use that, but your primary concern should be your own heart.