



Rock Point Church

Hunter Jones | 4.26.26

Big Idea: Work is a gift when it's done for the Giver.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-24 (NLT)

¹⁸ I came to hate all my hard work here on earth, for I must leave to others everything I have earned. ¹⁹ And who can tell whether my successors will be wise or foolish? Yet they will control everything I have gained by my skill and hard work under the sun. How meaningless! ²⁰ So I gave up in despair, questioning the value of all my hard work in this world.

²¹ Some people work wisely with knowledge and skill, then must leave the fruit of their efforts to someone who hasn't worked for it. This, too, is meaningless, a great tragedy. ²² So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? ²³ Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless.

²⁴ So I decided there is nothing better than to enjoy food and drink and to find satisfaction in work. Then I realized that these pleasures are from the hand of God.

- Work is not evil.
- Work is not everything.
- Work is to be enjoyed.

"The Christian shoemaker does his Christian duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship." - Martin Luther

Colossians 3:23 (NLT)

²³ Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

GROUPS QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most in this week's message, and why?
2. How do you typically define "success" in your current season of work or daily responsibilities?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 2:18-21. Why do you think we often feel a need to control the long-term outcome of our work, even after we are gone?

4. What are some specific ways our culture sends the message that a person's value is tied directly to their career success or productivity? How have you seen this in your own life?
5. If we truly believe work is a gift from God, what are the biggest obstacles that prevent us from actually enjoying it in the middle of a busy or frustrating week?
6. Read Colossians 3:23. If we truly worked "for the Lord rather than for people," how would that shift the way we handle a difficult boss, an ungrateful client, or a repetitive task?
7. We often hear that we should "enjoy the process, not where it will take you." What is one area of your work where you struggle to find joy because you are too focused on the end goal?
8. Read Ecclesiastes 2:24. Why is it often difficult for us to accept satisfaction as a gift rather than something we have to earn or manufacture ourselves?
9. What are some practical "limits" you can place on what you give to your work to ensure it doesn't take the place that only God should hold?
10. Based on our discussion, what is one specific way you can "bring good to those around you" through your energy and effort this coming week?