

**FAITH AND WORK:  
A PRACTICAL THEOLOGY OF WORK**

The Value of Work, Decision Making and the  
Connection of:  
Spiritual/Personal/Work Life  
Part II

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Week 5 2

- I. Housekeeping
- II. Questions: Yours and ours
- III. Connections
- IV. Key terms
  - A. Theology
  - B. Philosophy
  - C. Work
- V. Value of Work
- VI. Decision Making
- VII. Case Studies
- VIII. Case Studies: Lessons Learned

Our Week 4 Topics

Today's Topics:  
And Connecting Today's Topics to  
Our Questions from week 4

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I. Quick Review 3

- A. Theology
  - 1. Study of God
  - 2. Belief Shapes Behavior: What do We Believe About
    - a. God the Father; Person of the Christ; Nature of the Holy Spirit; and Creation
- C. Philosophy
  - 1. How we know what we know
  - 2. American Pragmatism's influence
- D. Work – definitions
  - 1. Being useful
  - 2. Gives meaning
  - 3. Being human
  - 4. Instrument for culture, civilization – Two key works
    - a. James Davidson Hunter – *To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World*
    - b. Andy Crouch – *Culture Making: Recovering our Creative Calling*

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IIb. Our Questions – We’ll Address

- A. What is work?
- B. Why work?
- C. Is some work of greater value than other types?
- D. When making decision: How do I discern God’s will?
- E. How is the workplace my ministry?
- F. What does my worklife have to do with my spiritual life?

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III. (V.)\* Value of Work

- A. Instrumentality
  - 1. Historically
  - 2. Four Goods
- B. Intrinsic
  - 1. Inherent in Creation
  - 2. As Image Bearers – Expression of God’s Character and Image
- C. Is Some Work of Greater Value than Others?
  - 1. Instrumental – could be
  - 2. Intrinsically – no
- D. God’s Purpose
  - 1. By His Grace and Plan – Romans 12:3-8
  - 2. Gifted Differently but Same Purpose – 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

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\*(Refers to Wk 4 Outline #s

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IV. (VI)\* Guidance & Decision Making

- A. God’s Will – Principles of Guidance
  - 1. What it is?
- B. Seeking God’s Will
  - 1. Who’s will?
- C. God’s Will – Understanding Guidance
  - 1. Normal guidance
  - 2. Potential misunderstandings
- D. God’s Will – Our Spiritual/Personal/Work life
  - 1. The connection? (Demonstrated in our case studies)
- E. Decision Making Paradigm – Follows Case Studies

“The Doing Paradigm”

Simple	Complex
Easy	Hard

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V. (VII)\* Our Negative Case Studies **7**

A. Saul

1. Chosen by . . . 1 Samuel 9:15ff
2. Called to . . . 1 Samuel 9:16
3. Skill set, expertise – 1 Samuel 11:11; 13:1-7; 14:34; 15:24-31
4. Flaws/Sin – 1 Samuel 13:8-11, 12-13; 14:24ff; 15:3-21; 28:5-25 and so on.
5. Consequences
  - a. For him – 1 Samuel 15:22-23; 26-31; 34-35; 31:1ff
  - b. For others – 1 Samuel 15:26-32 and 31:2

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V. (VII)\* Our Negative Case Studies **8**

B. David

1. Chosen by . . . 1 Samuel 16:1-5
2. Called to . . . 1 Samuel 16:14-22;
3. Skill set, expertise – 1 Samuel 17:24-50; 18:1-5; 22:1-5; 23:1-14; 2 Samuel 1:1-27; 2 Samuel 8; 2 Samuel 12:1-15; 2 Samuel 17:1-29
4. Flaws/Sin – 1 Samuel 9-13; 2 Samuel 11; 2 Samuel 12; 2 Samuel 13-15; 12; 2 Samuel 18:16-33; 2 Samuel 24:1-9
5. Consequences
  - a. For him – 2 Samuel 15:13-16:23; 2 Samuel 20; 2 Samuel 24:10-18; 1 Kings 1
  - b. For others – 2 Samuel 12:16-23; 2 Samuel 18:1-15; 2 Samuel 24:10-15; 1 Kings 1:1-5

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Va. (VIIa)\* Our Negative Case Studies – Continued **9**

C. Solomon

1. Chosen by . . . 1 Chronicles 22:9; 1 Kings 1
2. Called to . . . 1 Chronicles 22:6-16;
3. Skill set, expertise – 1 Chronicles 22:9; 1 Kings 3:1-9
4. Flaws/Sin – Deut 17:16-20; 1 Kings 10:14-29; 1 Kings 11:1-8
5. Consequences
  - a. For him – 1 Kings 11:9-41
  - b. For others – 1 Kings 12:16-24

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Vb. (VIIb)\* Our Positive Case Studies 10

A. Daniel

1. Chosen by . . . Daniel 1:1-7
2. Called to . . . Daniel 1:3-4; 1:17-21; 2:14-19; 2:46-49; 4:18-19; 5:13-23; 6:1-5 & 28; 7:1; 9:1-4; 10:1-2; 11:1
3. Skill set, expertise – Daniel 1:17-21; 2:14-19; 4:18-19; 5:13-23; 6:1-5 & 28; 7:1; 9:1-4; 10:1-2; 11:1
4. Difference – Daniel 1:8-16; 2:26-28; 5:17; 6:10 & 22; 9:3; 10:2; 11:1
5. Difficulties – Daniel 1:1-5; 2:24; 3:8-30; 4:33; 5:31; 6:6-9; 10:2-3.
6. Consequences
  - a. For him
  - b. For others

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Vb. (VIIb)\* Our Positive Case Studies 11

B. Nehemiah

1. Chosen by . . . Nehemiah 1:1-4
2. Called to . . . Nehemiah 2:4-8
3. Skill set, expertise – Nehemiah 1:11;
4. Difference – Nehemiah 1:1-11; 2:9-16 & 17-20; 4:9-14 & 23; 5:6-13 & 14-19; 6:14; 13:30
5. Difficulties – Nehemiah 2:1-3; 2:11-16; 4:1-14 & 23; 5:1-5; 6:1-13; 10:28-34; 13 all and verse 27.
6. Consequences
  - a. For him
  - b. For others

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VI. (VIII) Case Study: Lessons Learned 12

- A. Connection of Spiritual/Personal/Work Life
- B. God's Will
- C. Seeking God's Will
- D. Understanding Guidance
- E. Starting Well Isn't Sufficient
- F. It's "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction"
- G. And . . . (Our Lessons)

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IVa. (VI)\* Guidance & Decision Making 13

F. Decision Making Paradigm

1. Check your foundation
  - a. Where is your relationship with God?
2. What are You Reading
3. To Whom are You Talking?
  - a. God
  - b. Counsel
4. Check your path
  - a. It's often incremental
5. Remember Your Commitment
6. Remember Your Freedom
7. Potential Impact on Others
8. Decide/Chose Your Action
9. Live with It

"The Doing Paradigm"

Simple      Complex

Easy      Hard

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Key Resources 14

- I. Theology of Work
  - A. Richard H. Bainton. *Christendom: A Short History of Christianity and Its Impact on Western Civilization Vol. 1*. Harper Collins, 1966.
  - B. Darrell Cosden. *The Heavenly Good of Earthly Work*. Henderson Publishers, 2006.
  - C. Fr. Robert A. Sirico. *The Entrepreneurial Vocation*. Acton Institute, 2001.
  - D. R. Paul Stevens. *Work Matters: Lessons from Scripture*. Wm B. Eerdmans, May 31, 2012.
  - E. Miroslav Volf. *Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work*. Wipf & Stock Pub, Reprint edition (April 27, 2001).
- II. Guidance/Decision Making
  - A. Gary Friesen. *Decision Making and the Will of God: A Biblical Alternative to the Traditional View*. Multnomah Press, 1980.
  - B. W. Phillip Keller. *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*. Zondervan, April 29, 2007
  - C. J.I. Packer. *Knowing God: Thou Our Guide*. Chapter 20. IVP Press, 1977
  - D. J.I. Packer and Carolyn Nystrom. *God's Will: Finding Guidance for Everyday Decisions*. Baker Book House, 2012.
  - E. Jerry Sittser. *The Will of God as a Way of Life: How to Make Every Decision with Peace and Confidence*. Zondervan 2004.

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