



MONDAY'S CALLING

REFLECTION

SESSION 2 — WORK IS GOD'S DESIGN

(The “WHO?” and “WHAT?” of Work)

READ GENESIS 1:31–2:3,15

- Design
 - Gen 2:2 God's creation called work, same word used for man's work in 10 commandments
 - Work is as much a basic human need as food, rest, and prayer
 - Work is not a curse
 - Work has its limits - there is a need for rest
 - Was Adam compensated for his work? How?
- Dignity
 - It reflects image of God, we have dominion (Gen 1:27–29)
 - We are God's representatives on earth – doing his work
 - We should identify our work with God's ongoing creativity and cultivation (take care of the garden)
 - “The fact God calls what He does ‘work’ and calls that work ‘good’ means that work has intrinsic value.” (Sherman and Hendricks, *Your Work Matters to God*)
- God gives us our identity in creation. Christ redeems us. The Spirit of God transforms and nourishes who we are. God loves and affirms us in all that we endeavor to do. The work we do must be an outgrowth of who we are in Christ.
- Acknowledgment of the place and role of family related to work

READ GENESIS 3:17–19

- Work after the Fall
 - Sin distorts work
 - God curses the ground, not the task of cultivating it
 - We can counteract the distortion of work to salvage some of satisfaction God has planned for our work (light shining into darkness)
 - Every aspect of life is affected by sin
 - Work is not itself a curse, but lies with all other aspects of human life under the curse of sin
 - Frequent fruitlessness is part of the curse's impact on the world
 - Gen. 3:18 shows we bare some fruit along with thorns and thistles
 - Eccl. 3:13 work is a gift of God
 - Work will fall short of expectations, but it will be redeemed when Christ returns (Rev 21:1–5).