

**January 2010**

**Real Hope: More Than a Job**

- **Do work that God wants done.**
- **Do it in the way that God wants it done.**
- **Find purpose and hope in job transition, loss, and retirement.**

**Today**

**Real Hope: *'When You Are No Longer Needed'***

# Romans 12:1-2



# **Genesis 1-3**

## **The Original Blueprint for Work**

- 1. God worked. (2:2-3)**
- 2. God's work was 'very good'. (1:31)**
- 3. The center of His creation was a garden (2:8-9)**
- 4. He placed the man in the garden to work it and care for it. (2:15)**
- 5. God was present in the workplace (3:8)**

**Because of the Fall, work became detached from two things:**

- 1. The glorification of God.**
- 2. The value of persons, i.e. the common good.**

**“The Pattern of This World”**  
**What work has become . . .**

The background of the slide is a deep blue gradient. On the right side, there are several bright, glowing blue curved lines that sweep upwards and to the right, creating a sense of motion and energy. The lines are composed of multiple parallel paths, giving them a soft, ethereal appearance.

***“What is a man without work? Work gives men identity, status, income and a host of other things. . . .When we lose work, we lose much of our meaning and identity.”***

***Peter West***

***“Men After Retirement”***

***Australian E-Journal***

***Online Opinion, July 19, 2007***

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# **“The Pattern of This World”**

**What work has become . . .**

- 1. The purpose of work is no longer to glorify God, but to establish *my* identity and significance.**
- 2. The value of persons is usurped by some other value (money, the state, etc.)**

# Ephesians 4:1-7



**“Calling” - (latin) *Vocare***

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**“Calling” - (latin) *Vocare***

***“I urge you to live a life worthy of the  
calling you have received.”***

# The “Calling” of the Christ-Follower

*To seek and to practice Christ’s life -  
to devote our lives to **love and glorify**  
**our God and Savior Jesus Christ**, and  
second, to **love people** and work for the  
common good.*

***“Man as a worker is ordained to glorify God, and in His name to serve his fellow man.”***

**Carl F. H. Henry**

**Aspects of Christian Social Ethics, p. 32**

# Our “Calling” (our Vocation) as Christ-Followers

- The same for all
- Lifelong
- Never changes

*“You were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Eph. 4:4-6*

# Our “Stations” as Christ-Followers

- Unique to our particular gifts, interests, or situation
- Temporary
- Shaped by our “Calling”
- Interchangeable

*“But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.”*

*Eph 4:7*

# The Emotional Devastation of Job Transition

## *“Thorns and Thistles”*

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# The Emotional Devastation of Job Transition

1. When we mistake our “station” for our “calling”.
2. When we approach our work according to the ‘pattern of this world’
  - *To establish our sense of identity and significance*

***“I don’t even know what I am chasing. . . I have 10 lonely seconds to justify my existence.”***

***Harold Abrahams,  
1924 British Olympic sprinter  
Chariots of Fire***

# The Emotional Devastation of Job Transition

1. When we mistake our “station” for our “calling”.
2. When we approach our work according to the ‘pattern of this world’
  - *To establish our sense of identity and significance*
  - *To accumulate money, etc.*

# What I have learned from our people who have endured job loss and transition . . .

- *Reconnect with God*
- *Reconnect with family*
- *Pursue further education*
- *Volunteer*

***“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - His good, pleasing, and perfect will.”***

***Romans 12:2***