

Vocation
Callings on Your Life
September 13, 2026
Genesis 2:4-17, Ephesians 2:10

Sermon Points:

I. The Origin of Work: A Divine Blessing

- **Pre-Fall Mandate:** Work is not a curse or a consequence of sin; it was instituted by God before the Fall.
- **Image-Bearers as Co-Regents:** Created in God's image (*Imago Dei*), human beings were commissioned to subdue the earth and exercise authority over creation (Gen 1:28).
- **Eden as a Practice Ground:** God placed man in the Garden of Eden specifically to work and take care of it (Gen 2:5–17). This earthly stewardship points toward God's ultimate holy city, where His servants will serve and reign eternally (Rev 21:9–22:5).

II. The Impact of the Fall on Work

- **The Cursed Ground:** Human disobedience brought severe consequences, causing the ground to be cursed with painful toil, thorns, and thistles (Gen 3:17–19).
- **Frustrating Context vs. Inherent Goodness:** While the *environment* of work became hard, tedious, and broken, work *itself* remains inherently good and essential to human design.

III. Living Out Our Vocational Calling

- **Created and Gifted for Good Works:** God created humanity to work, equipping every individual with unique talents and abilities to make meaningful contributions (Eph 2:10) [28–30, 86].
- **Redemption of Past Circumstances:** God redeems past mistakes, unexpected career shifts, and failures to mold character, build resilience, and prepare believers for future seasons [31–33].
- **Five Key Questions for Integrating Faith and Work:**
 1. **Identity & Motivation:** Is identity rooted in Christ rather than professional achievement, working out of gratitude and grace instead of fear or pride?
 2. **Purpose & Common Good:** Does daily labor serve neighbors and promote human flourishing beyond personal gain?
 3. **Worldview & Ethics:** Do Christian values actively shape workplace practices rather than conforming to secular norms?

4. **Appreciation of Common Grace:** Are the God-given skills and contributions of non-Christian colleagues recognized and respected?
 5. **Rest & Limits:** Is regular Sabbath rest practiced to demonstrate trust in God's sovereignty over self-reliant effort?
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Personal Notes
