

A Perspective on Our Time at Work

From time to time, we like to address the topic of work since it is such a big part of our lives. Our work, like everything we do, is to be an expression of devotion to Jesus (Col. 3:23-24). It is also a way that we can love or serve our neighbors and provide services and products that promote the common good and human flourishing. Your work matters! In this study we are going to consider two Scriptures that give a perspective about time. And since most of us spend the best hours of our week working, we want to think specifically about how this perspective can be applied to our work.

Opening Question: What did you always say you wanted to be when you were growing up?

Read Psalm 90

1. If we are wise, we learn to view God and ourselves rightly. What does this psalm teach about how we are to view God? How we are to view ourselves?

2. What perspective of time is taught (vv. 9-12)?

Steve said:

Based on Psalm 90, we pray, "God, teach us to number our work days! Show us Your favor so that our work counts for something! We want our work to promote the common good; we want to serve people through our work; we want those without Christ to see Him in us and in the way we do our work!" I think that we naturally, instinctively want our work to matter; we don't want to look back and conclude that the best hours of our week amounted to nothing.

3. How does your work promote the common good and serve people?

4. How might numbering your days (i.e. understanding the shortness of time) help you approach your work with greater purpose and heart to do work that "counts for something"?

Read Ephesians 5:15-17

5. How do some of the themes of Psalm 90 show up in these verses?

Steve said:

Paul writes, “making the most of your time, because the days are evil.” It could be translated “redeeming the time” in the sense of buying back or fully utilizing. The Greek word Paul uses for time is *Kairos*, which has the connotation of **opportunity**. The sense is that we should fully utilize every opportunity we have to do the will of God. The opposite would be to squander the opportunities God gives us. Paul isn’t advocating a type of frantic urgency that squeezes every ounce of productivity out of every minute of the day; we don’t get the sense that Jesus was ever frantic. But he is advocating a type of purposeful urgency about the way we use our time. . . Each of us needs to learn how to make the most of every opportunity to do God’s will in the context of our specific type of work. This is an ongoing process that requires thought, prayer, and discussion.

6. What practical implications come to your mind about what it means to make the most of every opportunity in your work context? What would it look like to live with “purposeful urgency” about how you use your time at work?
7. Steve mentioned workplace affinity groups, workplace mentoring, and workplace pastoral visits as things that Faith is developing and/or offering to help us learn to make the most of every opportunity to do God’s will in the context of our work. Do you have a sense that God might want you to pursue any of these opportunities?