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BIBLICAL
ATTITUDE
TOWARDS
WORK

ASHISH RAICHUR

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I

WORK IS GOD'S IDEA

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day (Genesis 1:31).

Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made (Genesis 2:1–3).

Here we see God at work. He worked six days and rested on the seventh day. But unlike us, God did not rest out of fatigue. He finished what He had to do—completing the work of creation. He saw that whatever He had done was good and complete. So He rested for a while.

But the moment Adam fell into sin, God began working again. However this time it was a work of redemption—to bring back man to Himself. Since then, God has been working continuously as He unfolds His redemptive plan for the human race. God works!

Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it (Genesis 2:15).

God did not put Adam in the Garden of Eden and tell him, “Adam, all you have to do is worship me.” Even before the Fall, God had given Adam a job. Adam’s job was “to work the ground” (Message Bible) and to keep the garden in order. This was his work, his job! God introduced the concept of work even before the Fall.

After the Fall Adam had to continue to work the ground, except that now the ground had become cursed and Adam had to work

much harder to get it to produce (Genesis 3:17–19). We all believe that marriage IS God's idea—so we enjoy marriage. We know that church is God's idea—so we enjoy church. The good news is that work is also God's idea. God instituted it! So let us enjoy work!

After the Fall Adam had to continue to work the ground, except that now the ground had become cursed and Adam had to work much harder to get it to produce (Genesis 3:17–19). We all believe that marriage IS God's idea—so we enjoy marriage. We know that church is God's idea—so we enjoy church. The good news is that work is also God's idea. God instituted it! So let us enjoy work!

**God worked.
God instituted work.
So let us enjoy it!**

2

WRONG ATTITUDES TOWARD WORK

Work as a Hindrance

Many of us are excited about fulfilling the plan and purpose of God. But we all have a 'job' that we have to go to, five or six days a week. At times we may think, "If I could only get rid of this work, I would be free to serve Jesus." Our 'job' or 'work,' appears to be a big hindrance to fulfill our heavenly calling. That is a very wrong attitude. We need to keep in mind that as long as we are on this earth, we need to work—even those of us in full-time ministry.

I got 'saved' when I was about 12 years old, while studying at Bishop Cotton Boys School in Bangalore. I was on fire for Jesus, preaching about Him at every opportunity. Sometimes I created opportunities for myself to preach. I remember standing up in my classroom and telling my entire class about Jesus. I also began going to two other neighboring schools—Baldwin Boys School and Cathedral School—preaching about Jesus. However, attending school seemed to be a big hindrance to my 'budding' ministry, and this thing called 'study' seemed to be more of a hindrance than a blessing. It seemed that there was a secret prayer in my heart: "O God deliver me from this. Lord, if you set me free from having to go to school and study, I can do more for your Kingdom and I can tell more people about Jesus." Thank God, He did not deliver me from that! I went through the entire process of schooling and moved on to an engineering college and then as time progressed, I began to understand why I had to study. Thank God He did not tell me to stop studying. But I do have to admit that at one point, studying and being schooled seemed to be big hindrances in my progressing toward the purposes of God. To read all those books, do all my homework

and write all those exams seemed so unimportant when compared to reading my Bible, praying, witnessing and preaching. Later I realized that this was a wrong attitude towards work.

Work as Bondage

Some people consider work as bondage. They feel like bonded laborers or slaves at work. They are constantly thinking, “I have to get up in the morning, whether I like it or not, and have to go to work.” At work, there are rules that make matters worse. Depending on where we work, we may have to be there at 9 am and work till 6 or 7 pm. At work, we may have the freedom to do only certain things and not allowed to do other things. Owing to this, some view their work as bondage. Some of us may rebel against both rules and authorities.

We need to understand that rules at work are not bondages but in fact pave the way for discipline. We need to see the difference between bondage and discipline. We have liberty and freedom in Christ (Galatians 2:4; 5:1; 2 Corinthians 3:17). But we also have to understand that there are boundaries even for the liberty that we have in Christ (Galatians 5:13). Hence, we cannot do whatever we desire. Work therefore should not be seen as bondage but as an opportunity to discipline oneself.

Work as a Necessary Evil

Some people consider work as a necessary evil—just a thing that must be done so that bills can be paid. Of course we need to work so that we can eat and provide for our families. However, many do not enjoy their work and instead complain and grumble. As believers, we need to learn to enjoy our work and stop considering it as a necessary evil.

Work as Worship

Some people work, work and work with the misconceived notion that work is worship. This attitude has begun to rule our work culture. Work is not worship because worship is communion with God. You can go through work even without thinking about God.

Wrong Attitudes Toward Work

Work as a hindrance

Work as bondage

Work as a necessary evil

Work as worship

3

A BELIEVER'S PERSPECTIVE OF WORK

As believers, what should our perspective of work be? How should we look at the job, the profession and career that God has given us? Here are three perspectives that I consider important for every believer.

Work Is a Vehicle

Our work, job or employment is a vehicle to carry out the purposes of God on earth. It is a vehicle through which the purposes of God are released on earth. In other words, work is a God-given tool to assist in the execution of God's will and purpose for one's life. I understand that some are called to full-time ministry. But full-time ministry too is 'work' in one sense.

Work Is a Strategy

We should understand and begin to look at our work as part of God's strategy to enable us to fulfill His will and purpose. For example, as a believer you may have a great passion to win people to the Lord. Your job and your professional career will bring you in contact with people, whom you otherwise may never meet. You must now consider your job as a divine strategy. God is using your profession to strategically connect you to people with whom He wants you to share Christ with. Your job is your 'pulpit' and the people you interact with is your 'parish.'

Work Is a Preparation Process

Work is not just the place where one earns money but is also the place where God builds our characters. It is a part of our

preparation process. We often think character is built only in Sunday school, church or Bible school, but God can build our characters anywhere. He works in our lives 24 hours a day.

At our workplaces, God can teach us how to relate to people, react in different situations, draw upon divine wisdom and solve problems. Some of us may find persons at our workplaces to be thorns in our flesh, people whom we cannot relate to. But God can develop our characters right in the center of our places of work. Also at our workplaces, we may have the opportunity to learn new skills and develop our capabilities, which God can use for the extension of His Kingdom. For example, you may learn leadership skills at your workplace and God can use those skills in a certain ministry in your local church, thus making you a blessing there.

Let us consider a few men in the Bible.

JOSEPH

“Fulfilling a prophetic dream and plan”

Think of Joseph. Joseph had a God-given vision, a God-given dream. But he did not quit everything and head into “full-time ministry.” Joseph went through God’s preparation process. In that process, he was forced to work in Potiphar’s house and do whatever he was assigned to do there. From there, he was thrown into prison for no fault of his and even in prison he had to work. He was put in charge of all the other prisoners. He was then raised to become prime minister of Egypt and here again he had to work. He was not called to full-time ministry but yet God placed him and positioned him to carry out His divine purpose. Joseph worked as prime minister of Egypt and God used that as a means to fulfill the dream He had given Joseph as a child. What if Joseph had quit his job as prime minister and retired to some monastery in the wilderness somewhere?

He probably would never have seen the fulfillment of his God-given dream!

Consider this fact. Many years before Joseph, God had spoken to Abraham and said that He will take his seed into a strange land. Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions" (Genesis 15:13,14). God used Joseph's God-given skills and 'professional' career as a vehicle to position him so that he could fulfill this prophetic plan.

Many of us are unaware of God's prophetic plans for communities, cities and nations. He has 'kairos' (kairos{Gk} is used with reference to special happenings, opportune moments, critical events and changes in time) moments and divine entry points (hinges) where doors of opportunities will be opened up for communities, cities and nations. God is looking for 'Josephs' whom He can position, using their skills and professional capabilities to bring about the fulfillment of His prophetic plans for communities, cities and nations.

DAVID, DANIEL AND PAUL

"The synergy of the secular and the spiritual"

David was a psalmist, a prophet and a king. Daniel was not only a prophet but also a prime minister running the government and taking care of the king's business. Think about Paul. We know him as a great apostle who wrote most of the New Testament. There is sufficient evidence to infer that in at least three cities where he went—Ephesus, Corinth and Thessalonica—he worked to take care of his needs and the needs of his ministry team. He worked with his own hands and took care of his own needs, not being a burden to those he was ministering to.

In David, Daniel and Paul we see a synergy—a blending together—of the ‘secular’ and the ‘spiritual.’ We must come to a place where we do not separate work as a secular thing and walking with God as something spiritual, independent of work. Look at your work as part of your walk with God. It is part of God’s plan for your life. David, Daniel or Paul did not lose their anointing because they worked! Your work is ‘spiritual’ simply because God works.

At our workplaces, God can teach us how to relate to people, react in different situations, draw upon divine wisdom and solve problems.

4

BELIEVERS ARE COMMANDED TO WORK

In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus gave believers the Great Commission to go into the entire world and preach the Good News. The New Testament church could very well have taken an approach where every person saved was asked to quit every 'secular' involvement and just go about preaching the gospel. But it is very interesting to notice what Apostle Paul instructed believers to do.

Work With Your Own Hands

Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need (Ephesians 4:28).

The one who was stealing should not steal any longer but should work with his hands. He should labor with his own hands, doing what is right and what is good so that he can have enough for his own needs and also give to those in need. Here, Paul taught believers the value or the importance of working with their own hands. He also instructed them to do work that was good. This means that believers cannot be involved in work that is dishonest or corrupt.

Work so That You May Lack Nothing

That you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing (1Thessalonians 4:11, 12).

Paul asked the believers to work with their own hands so that the unsaved will not get a chance to accuse them of improper conduct. Notice also that working with our own hands is connected to lacking

nothing or having all our needs met. Some people stay at home “waiting upon God” to meet all their needs. It is true that God has promised to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory (Philippians 4:19). But it is also true that in His word, God has commanded us to work, thus indicating that He will use our work as a channel through which He will meet our needs. God meeting our needs through the channel of our work is as supernatural as a raven bringing a stack of currency notes! It may not be as spectacular but it definitely is supernatural, because it is the same God providing for us. Remember it takes God’s grace and divine provision to secure a job, keep it and receive salary and increases throughout your professional career.

Some people are waiting for God to provide for their needs through what they consider ‘supernatural’ means, such as people just walking up to them and putting money in their hands or checks arriving in the mail. When they do not see this happen, they wonder why God is not providing. God, however, is waiting for such people to plug into the channel or the means through which He will provide for them. In some cases, God is waiting for them to take up a job and be in it for a while. That job is God’s channel of provision for their lives.

If You Do Not Work, Then Do Not Eat!

For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; nor did we eat anyone’s bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread (2 Thessalonians 3:7–12).

The New Testament commands us to work in quietness and eat our own food instead of being disorderly, doing nothing and living off others. Work is a New Testament command to believers.

Providing for Your Own House

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever (1 Timothy 5:8).

I wish to challenge those who are called to full-time ministry. Ministers, there are some things you need to keep in mind; there are responsibilities God has given you in His Word which you must fulfill. One of these is to provide for your own household. Too many men and women of God hastily quit their job and claim to live by faith. Living by faith does not mean quitting a job. It takes faith to keep that job. Sometimes, people give up their jobs, go into ministry and then struggle to provide food for their own family members. I am not talking about some periods of difficulty, since all of us go through them. However, if basic needs of your family are not being met—day in and day out, month after month—because you are in full-time ministry, then you really need to consider getting a job until the ministry is able to provide for your needs. So before you step into full-time ministry, make sure you are able to take care of your financial needs as well as that of your household. Do not get married if you are not ready to take care of your wife and children. It is God's desire for you to be responsible for your household.

My Testimony

In my early days of schooling in Bangalore, I was so full of zeal for the ministry. I prayed that I would go into full-time ministry as soon as I completed tenth grade. Right after doing so, I gave my parents a very difficult time insisting that I did not want to continue my secular education but wanted to go to a seminary. So I searched

for Bible colleges in India and sent a letter to a Bible college in Pune. The college sent back a letter stating that I was still too young and the minimum qualification to join them was twelfth grade. The letter I received disappointed me. Anyway, since it was just two more years of secular education, I decided to join the seminary after I completed the required education.

However, in the next two years something happened to me. I used to attend a certain church in Bangalore and began to notice something there. I saw two groups of people—one set of people who ministered and served in various ways at the church and the other set, a large majority who attended church but did nothing. The second group was mostly students and professionals who seemed to excuse themselves from any kind of ministry because they considered themselves too busy with their jobs. I wondered why most of the 'laity' never got involved in ministry. It was during this time that a sense of determination gripped my heart. I became determined to demonstrate to people through my life that one could have a career, a job, live a 'normal life' and still serve God. So by the time I completed my twelfth grade, I lost all desire to go to seminary and instead had a new sense of purpose of what I had to do in life.

During this time, God put a desire in my heart to establish a strong church in the city of Bangalore and from there reach the nation of India and impact the nations of the world. So I completed my twelfth grade at school and then my parents sent me to an engineering college in Manipal. By then, I had stopped looking at my studies as a burden and began to understand that my education was part of a divine strategy. It was because of continuing my education that I found myself in a place where I could reach many more people for the Kingdom of God.

At the university campus in Manipal, I saw hundreds of students from all over India and from other parts of the world. I believed there was a spiritual purpose behind my studying there.

My heart desired to serve God and win souls right there. During my third year at the engineering college, in January 1989, the Lord helped me to lead an effort to establish a student fellowship that later developed into a local church and is continuing even today. I no longer saw my education as a burden, a necessary evil or bondage. I understood it as a vehicle, a divine strategy and a preparation process for future ministry. After I completed my Bachelors degree in engineering, I decided to continue my studies. My parents helped me to go to the United States for higher studies. The engineering department at the university in Cleveland, Ohio, where I had obtained admission, was among the top three in the United States. With God's grace I obtained a two-third financial assistantship in my second semester and a full assistantship from my third semester onwards.

While studying and doing research at the university, I was able to start a small international students' fellowship where we had students from India, Indonesia and Malaysia. Later, I moved to New Jersey and was involved with the Korean Christian Fellowship consisting of about 200 Christian students. It was amazing to see how these Korean students prayed with such intensity.

During this time, I also ministered regularly at an African-American church located near the university campus. For over a year, I taught every Wednesday night at this African-American church, and even preached in their Sunday services and tent meetings from time to time.

After I married Amy who joined me from India, I left the university and started working as a software professional. During this time, Amy and I worked together with another young Hispanic couple and we established a Hispanic church in New Brunswick, New Jersey. It was such an enriching experience, being able to work cross-culturally with people from so many different backgrounds. This was a great training ground for future ministry that was possible because I went to the USA to pursue my graduate studies.

From New Jersey, we moved to Chicago in 1998. In 1999 during a ministry trip to India, I felt that it was time for us to move back to India and carry out the vision in our hearts. So we marked January 2001 as the month when we would return to Bangalore. As we began to prepare for this move from Chicago to Bangalore, one of our concerns was to find the means to begin our ministry in India. We were part of a very small church in Chicago. They definitely would not be able to give us the large amounts of money that we would need to execute the big vision we had. As I continued to seek the Lord, I felt clearly in my heart that God desired that I continue working in my software field even after I returned. I did not have any direction from the Lord to stop my professional career. Over the years, especially towards the end of our stay in America, I had a strong desire to start a company which would carry out business based on Christian principles and bring in money for the Kingdom of God. This desire had been growing in my heart for a long time but I did not know how and when to do this.

Finally, it was time for us to move to India. In December 2000 we left the USA, with a great big vision to reach the nation—but with no idea of how we were going to have all the finances we needed to carry out the ministry. We did have our ministry incorporated in the USA with a few friends supporting us, but the contributions we were receiving were definitely not enough to carry out the big vision we had!

After we arrived in Bangalore, God graciously enabled us to start a software services company in January 2001. In February 2001, we launched our church in a small way—starting in the living room of my father's house. The software company tithed and gave to the church and with this money we were able to do so much—move out into a rented hall, buy the equipment we needed, print books and distribute them for free, be on cable TV and also support other ministries. We had a big vision and our hands were not tied up due

to lack of funds. We had enough and more resources to get things started.

Looking back, I can see how God used my education and profession to prepare me for ministry. Closely integrated with my education and profession were opportunities to carry out the work of the Lord. I am more than convinced that work is a vehicle, part of a divine strategy to carry out the will and purpose of God.

When you are doing what God wants you to be doing, your work will not be a hindrance or bondage or a necessary evil. If God calls you to work, do not consider work as a necessary evil, bondage or hindrance. Begin to view it as part of a divine strategy for your life to extend God's Kingdom on the earth.

Believers Are Comanded to Work

Work with your own hands.

Work so that you may lack nothing.

If you do not work, then do not eat!

Provide for your own household.

5

SEVEN RIGHT ATTITUDES

Bondservants (or employees), **be obedient to those who are your masters** (employers) **according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants** (employees) **of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. And you, masters** (employers), **do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master** (Employer) **also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might** (Ephesians 6:5–10).

Bondservants (or employees), **obey in all things your masters** (employers) **according to the flesh, not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality** (Colossians 3:22–25).

The two Scripture passages are very similar in their instruction. We do not have the concept of master and slave in our day. However, we can understand 'master' and 'bondservant' as 'employer' and 'employee' and then they become relevant to our day.

Paul Presents Seven Attitudes Regarding Work

Paul instructs us as employees to be obedient to our employers. This means we follow instructions and abide by the rules of our workplaces.

Then, we are to have respect and honor (fear and trembling) for our employer. Instead of being rebellious and thinking we know

better than our bosses, we are to respect and honor those in charge of us at the workplace.

Paul talks about purity of motive, “in sincerity of heart” or with “singleness of heart.” Be sincere in your work. The word ‘sincerity’ or ‘singleness’ comes from the Greek word that also means “without dissimulation or self-seeking.” It also means “with generosity, bountifulness, liberality, simplicity.”

Paul also talks about conscientiousness—being accountable when nobody is watching us. He says, “Not with eye-service, as men-pleasers.” The motivation for this is the fact that we are employees of Christ. It is so important to understand that we are in reality the employees of Christ before we are employees of whichever company or institution we may be working for. In our places of work, we are the employees of Christ. We represent Christ and do our work “as to the Lord, and not to men,” for we are working for the Lord. Christ, who is our main employer is watching us. He sees whether we go to work on time. He sees our punctuality and our attendance or absence from work. He also knows the real reasons we skipped work, even if we called in sick and took the day off to do something else. He sees how we use our time at work. Are we doing real work or wasting our time? He sees all the ‘shortcuts’ we try to take. He sees if we are making false statements, dishonest reports, and so on.

Paul talks about doing our work as “doing the will of God from the heart” or working “heartily, as to the Lord.” We need to do the work assigned to us wholeheartedly. Do not make a halfhearted effort. Instead, give it all you have got. Give it your best. Do it as though you are doing it for Jesus.

Paul then instructs us to work “with goodwill doing service.” Do your work cheerfully, not with grumbling and complaining. The

Message Bible puts it this way: “And work with a smile on your face, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, you are really serving God.”

Lastly Paul says, “Look to the Lord for your reward.” Since Christ is your real employer, when you have done your best, you can rest assured that He is faithful to reward you. When you are looking to the Lord for your reward, you stop behaving like the world! People in the world “push and shove” just to get ahead in the workplace. But as believers, we are to be calm, relaxed and just working with a good heart and giving our best. The God of heaven will reward us. When God decides to promote us in the workplace, no man can get in the way! And also remember, that part of your reward is in the world to come. You will get paid in full when you come into your inheritance on the other side!

Perhaps Colossians 3:22–25 from the Message Bible makes things simple and clear.

Servants, do what you're told by your earthly masters. And don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master, for God, confident that you'll get paid in full when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you're serving is Christ. The sullen servant who does shoddy work will be held responsible. Being a follower of Jesus doesn't cover up bad work (Colossians 3:22–25).

A Word for Full-Time Ministers

Once, a pastor in Bangalore asked me how many hours I work at my office. I told him that I work a normal workweek anywhere between 40 and 50 hours. He was surprised and confessed that as a full-time pastor he sometimes did not work even four hours a day. I firmly believe that full-time ministers—pastors, evangelists and other ministries—must follow the same work ethics and work disciplines as those in a ‘secular’ job. You have to do the work of the ministry at

least eight hours a day, at least 40 hours a week! You have to be disciplined to maintain good work habits.

- Christ, who is our main employer is watching us.
- He sees whether we go to work on time.
- He sees our punctuality and our attendance or absence from work.
- He also knows the real reasons we skipped work, even if we called in sick and took the day off to do something else.
- He sees how we use our time at work.

6

PROMISES CONCERNING YOUR WORK

There are several work-related promises in Scripture. We have seen in the previous chapter that the Lord will reward us for the work we do. Part of our reward will be given when we meet the Lord in heaven and part of our reward is given now in this present time. Here are some promises that we can expect while we are here.

Blessing on the Work of Your Hands

The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you (Deuteronomy 28:8).

The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow (Deuteronomy 28:12).

These are promises given to God's people under the Old Covenant. The God of the Old Covenant is also the same God of the New Covenant. The Covenants have changed, but the God of the Covenant, His heart and His ability to bless His people have not changed! So without a shadow of doubt, we can expect our God to bless us in all the work of our hands. Expect God to bless you in your job. Each day as you walk into your workplace, expect the blessing of the Lord to be upon you!

Promotion Comes from the Lord

And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them (Deuteronomy 28:13).

For exaltation comes neither from the east, nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another (Psalm 75:6,7).

God is for you. It is God who makes room for you to be promoted. God sees your diligence at work and He will make room for your promotion. You do not have to try to “push and shove,” “undercut your colleagues” or “grease the palms” of your employers. Just work diligently, giving your best and expect the Lord to pave the way for your promotion. I remember that while I was working for a software company in Chicago, I was very frustrated. I would pray, “God, promote me because I do not feel that I am being utilized to my full extent. I believe I can handle more responsibility and can lead a team of people.” According to God’s word, I believed promotion comes from the Lord. Soon my circumstances changed and my manager put me in charge of a team of people and made me a team leader. Promotion came from the Lord!

Enjoy the Fruit of Your Labor

And also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God (Ecclesiastes 3:13).

Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways. When you eat the labor of your hands, you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you (Psalm 128:1,2).

Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage. 19 As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God (Ecclesiastes 5:18,19).

The ability to rejoice in your labor—to enjoy the fruit of your work—is a blessing and a gift from God. Trust God that you will indeed enjoy the fruit of your labor. There are so many who work

hard. But what they receive from their labor seems to be carried away by the wind. Their salary seems to go into a bag with holes. Others have a lot of money but have no joy and peace. Even with a lot of money, there is discontentment, strife and dissatisfaction. This does not have to be the case with you. Trust God that you will eat, enjoy and rejoice in the fruit of your labor!

Promises Concerning Your Work

- Each day as you walk into your workplace, expect the blessing of the Lord to be upon you!
- God will see your diligence at work and He will make room for your promotion.
- The ability to rejoice in your labor—to enjoy the fruit of your work—is a blessing and a gift from God.

7

WORKING IN THE NEW WORLD

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, nor the voice of crying. "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble; for they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. "It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," says the LORD (Isaiah 65:17—25).

I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even forever. Until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was as made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him (Daniel 7:13,14,18,22,27).

But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations - 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; on; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' - as I also have received from My Father (Revelation 2: 25–27).

Many of us have different ideas of what heaven and eternity would be like. Some of us think that eternity will be a time for an everlasting vacation when all we have to do is float on a cloud in and out of our heavenly mansions, and sing God's praises with the angels! However, the Bible reveals certain things about what to expect in the world to come. The passage from Isaiah shows us that once the new heavens and earth are in place, God's people would still be building houses and planting vineyards. We will labor and enjoy the work of our hands. So, we are going to be 'working' even in the new world!

The passages from Daniel and Revelation show us that God's people will help administer the Kingdom and Rulership of Christ on the earth. God's people are going to be busy administering Christ's government when He comes and sets up His Kingdom. So it appears that we are going to be working forever! Let us enjoy work. It is a God-designed, God-ordained activity. Let your work become a vehicle to further His purposes on the earth.

We are going to be 'working' even in the new world!
So, let us enjoy work.



All Peoples Church & World Outreach, Bangalore, India, has extended its ministry by launching its Bible College & Ministry Training Center (APC-BC&MTC) in August 2005. APC-BC&MTC equips, trains and releases faithful men and women to impact villages, towns and cities in India and other nations, for Jesus Christ.

APC-BC&MTC offers 3 programs:

- The two-year and three-year **Bible College** programs are for full-time students and provides spiritual and practical ministry training along with academic excellence. The programs are designed to equip and empower students to successfully fulfill the call of God upon their lives. Upon completing the two-year program students will receive a **Diploma in Theology & Christian Ministry (Dip.Th.&CM)**. The three-year program will lead to a **Bachelor's Degree in Theology & Christian Ministry (B.Th.&CM)**.
- The **School of Ministry** program is for working professionals. Students receive a **Diploma in Christian Ministry** upon successful completion.
- The **Practical Ministry Training** is for graduates from the Bible College who desire to undergo practical training. Those completing one or more years receive a **Certificate in Practical Ministry** indicating the duration of involvement.

Classes are conducted in English. The faculty comprises of both trained and anointed teachers of the Word. All faculty and students have access to APC's Study Centre and Library (SC&L). The SC&L contains books, teaching tapes, videos, VCDs/DVDs and music CDs.

Publications from All Peoples Church

A Real Place Called Heaven
A Time for Every Purpose
Being Spiritually Minded and Earthly Wise
Biblical Attitude Towards Work
Breaking Personal and Generational Bondages
Change
Divine Order in the Citywide Church
Don't Compromise Your Calling
Don't Lose Hope
Fulfilling God's Purpose for Your Life
Giving Birth to the Purposes of God
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The Night Seasons of Life
The Power of Commitment
The Refiner's Fire
The Spirit of Wisdom, Revelation and Power
Understanding the Prophetic
Who We Are in Christ
Women in the Workplace

Gospel Booklets

He is Here
Love That Is Deeper Than Love Itself
What Can Wash Away My Sins?

About All Peoples Church

At All Peoples Church (APC), **our vision is to be salt and light in the city of Bangalore and a voice to the nation of India and to the nations of the world.**

At APC, we are committed to presenting the complete, uncompromised Word of God in the anointing and demonstration of His Holy Spirit. We believe that good music, creative presentations, brilliant apologetics, contemporary ministry techniques, latest technology, etc. can never substitute the God-ordained approach of proclaiming the Word in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:4-5, Hebrews 2:3,4). **Our theme is Jesus, our content is the Word, our method is Holy Spirit power, our passion is people, and our goal is Christ-like maturity.**

For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect (mature, Christ-like) in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:5, Colossians 1:28).

We trust you were blessed reading this publication. **This is a gift from us to you! It's FREE!**

Thousands of copies are distributed free to many others like you. We would like to have you partner with us financially to help share God's Word with many people. Your regular financial contributions can help us take God's Word to others. As the Lord leads, become a partner with All Peoples Church. You can send your contributions by Check/Demand Draft/Money Order to **"All Peoples Church, Bangalore."** And when you write, please request for other publications. Also tell us how this book has ministered to you and include your prayer requests and comments.

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All Peoples Church Locations in India

All Peoples Church has the following church locations in India at present.

All Peoples Church – Bangalore (Karnataka)

All Peoples Church – Thokkottu, Mangalore (Karnataka)

All Peoples Church – Kalyan, Mumbai (Maharashtra)

All Peoples Church – Vishakapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)

All Peoples Church – Sanit Pur (Assam)

All Peoples Church – Berhampur (Orissa)

New churches are being planted all over India periodically. To get the current listing and contact information of All Peoples Church locations, please visit our website at www.apcwo.org or send an email to contact@apcwo.org

DO YOU KNOW THE GOD WHO LOVES YOU?

About 2000 years ago, God came into this world as a man. His name is Jesus. He lived a perfectly sinless life. Since Jesus was God in flesh, everything He said and did revealed God to us. The words He spoke were the very words of God. The things He did were the actions of God. Jesus performed many miracles on the earth. He healed the sick and suffering. He opened blind eyes, unstopped deaf ears, made the lame walk and healed every kind of sickness and disease. He fed the hungry by miraculously multiplying a few loaves of bread, calmed the storm and did many other wonderful things.

All of these actions reveal to us that God is a good God who wants people to be well, whole, healthy and happy. God wants to meet the needs of people.

So why then would God decide to become a man and step into our world? Why did Jesus come?

All of us have sinned and done things that are unacceptable before the God who created us. Sin has its consequences. Sin is like a great unsurpassable wall between God and us. Sin separates us from God. It prevents us from knowing and having a meaningful relationship with the One who created us. Therefore, many of us try to fill this void with other things.

Another consequence of our sins is eternal separation from God. In God's court, the penalty for sin is death. Death is eternal separation from God in hell.

But, the good news is that we can be free from sin and be restored to God. The Bible says, **"For the wages [payment] of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ**

Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world, when He died on the cross. Then three days later He rose again, showed Himself alive to many and went back to heaven.

God is a God of love and mercy. He does not wish that any person be lost in hell. And so He came, to provide a way for the entire human race to be free from sin and its lasting consequences. He came to save sinners—to rescue people like you and me from sin and eternal death.

To receive this free forgiveness of sins, the Bible tells us that we have to do just one thing—accept what the Lord Jesus Christ did on the cross and to believe in Him whole-heartedly.

Through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins (Acts 10:43).

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

You too can receive forgiveness and cleansing for your sins if you will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The following is a simple prayer to help you make a decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done for you on the cross. This prayer will help you express your acceptance of what Jesus has done for you and receive forgiveness and cleansing for your sins. This prayer is only a guideline. You can also pray in your own words.

Dear Lord Jesus, today, I have understood what You did for me on the cross. You died for me, You shed Your precious blood and paid the penalty for my sins, so that I could be forgiven. The Bible tells

me that whoever believes in You will receive forgiveness for their sins.

Today, I make a decision to believe in You and to accept what You did for me, by dying for me on the cross and rising again from the dead. I know I cannot save myself by my own good works, neither can any other human save me. I cannot earn forgiveness for my sins.

Today, I believe in my heart and say with my mouth that You died for me, You paid the penalty for my sins, You rose again from the dead, and by faith in You, I receive forgiveness and cleansing for my sins.

Thank You Jesus. Help me to love You, to know You more and to be faithful to You. Amen.