



women devoted to God

Lesson 9

Glorious Work!

by Gina Magaruh

*For we are His workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand
so that we would walk in them.*
Ephesians 2:10

Introduction

Workmanship: Poiema – *poy'-ay-mah* (Greek Lexicon)#

What type of poem did God write you to be?

- Sonnet (fixed pattern rhyme)?
- Ballad (tells a story)?
- Limerick (humorous rhyme)?
- Epic (telling a story: very great/large)?
- Ode (strong expression of love/emotion)?
- Free verse (irregular)?
- Elegy (sad)?
- Haiku (expressing much in the fewest possible words)?

Work is what we are and what we do.

1. What we are: we are God's workmanship. The great Creator made us, fashioned us, and specifically equipped each one of us.
2. What we do: created for "good works". As believers, we have a very specific role in the kingdom of God. We are to take our post seriously and bring glory to our Lord.

1. Work is God-ordained

- **Genesis 1:1**

In the beginning God created

- **Genesis 1:26**

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and **let them rule over** the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

- **Genesis 2:15**

Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

- **Genesis 3:17-19**

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it';

*Cursed is the ground because of you;
In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.
Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;
And you will eat the plants of the field;
By the **sweat of your face** You will eat bread,
Till you return to the ground,
Because from it you were taken;
For you are dust,
And to dust you shall return.*

2. Work is necessary

- **II Thessalonians 3:10-12**

*For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: **if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.** For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.*

- **Proverbs 6:6-11**

Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise, which, having no chief, Officer or ruler, prepares her food in the summer and gathers her provision in the harvest. How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? “A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest”— Your poverty will come in like a vagabond and your need like an armed man.

3. Work is rewarded

- **1 Samuel 18:30**

*Then the commanders of the Philistines went out to battle, and it happened as often as they went out, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul. **So his name was highly esteemed.***

- **Ephesians 6:5-8**

*Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, **knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.***

- **I Peter 2:18-20**

*Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. **For this finds favor,** if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, **this finds favor with God.***

4. Work is honorable

- **I Corinthians 15:10#**

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

#

- **Proverbs 31**

“Work is a glorious thing. If you are starting to grow lazy, I summon you back to joy. God made us to work. He formed our minds to think and our hands to make. He gave us strength — little or great — to be about the business of altering the way things are.”

John Piper

5. Work is planned for us in the millennium!

- **Isaiah 65:21-22**

They will build houses and inhabit them; They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build and another inhabit, They will not plant and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, and My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands.

6. Work provides a daily place where:

a. We can bring honor or dishonor to Christ

- **Colossians 3:17**

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

- **Colossians 3:22-24**

Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

- **I Corinthians 10:31**

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

- **Proverbs 20:4**

The sluggard does not plow after the autumn, so he begs during the harvest and has nothing.

b. God can providentially intersect our lives with others

- **Ephesians 6:19**

*And pray on my behalf, that **utterance may be given to me** in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.*

“The Christian shoemaker does his Christian duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship.”

Martin Luther

20th century example:

William Borden: Consistent Ambassador of Christ in his love, humility, generosity, selflessness, work ethic, and tireless witness.

Great example of Colossians 3:12-17.

¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴ Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Mr. Hugh Monro, Treasurer of the National Bible Institute, writes in Borden of Yale:

“Most of us look for occasions which may afford a suitable opportunity for soul-winning, and excuse our lack of devotion and diligence because we feel that such an opportunity is not present. We continually hesitate to broach the subject of another’s salvation, lest the occasion should not be favorable. Yet Borden found such occasions continually.” p. 154

How do we apply this to our careers?

- **Building bridges through prayer, practice, and skilled communication**

- **Bible Study: Questions** (see supplementary handout)
xls available upon request 😊 Email gmagaruh@gmail.com.

“You are most humble and gentle when you think that the person you are ministering to is more like you than unlike you.” Paul David Tripp

- **Learning to question and listen, refraining from talking too much and being compassionately ready.**

Conversation Starters

taken from many airplane trips

So, where are you from?

Where are you headed?

What are some of your favorite places to travel? Why?

What do you do?

What do you do when you're not working?

It sounds like you've been successful in a great deal, what have you yet to accomplish?

Why? How? Tell me more

What in your life has given you the greatest fulfillment?

What's your religious background?

Where are you on your spiritual journey?

What if you're wrong?

What's the first thing you think of when you think of God?

Why do you believe that?

This is really important...

Have you considered God's view?

Who do you say Christ is?

For Further Reading

Sobel, Andrew. *Power Questions: Build Relationships, Win New Business, and Influence Others*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2012

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