

Why Work?

Psalm 8:1-9 | Prof. Bill Hendricks

DISCUSS

1. People work to earn money to support themselves and their families. There's even evidence showing that a majority of the world's people don't even work to earn a living, but simply to survive. But God had a purpose for work: He gave humanity work because He wants the world and its people to flourish. This original purpose never changed. Read Psalm 8. How's the majestic work of God described in this passage?
2. God's mandate in Genesis 1 is to "be fruitful..." The world on its own is not very fruitful. He gave us raw resources, but only humans can add value to make the world fruitful through the giftedness He has given each and every person. But why do a lot of people consider their work as toil, labor, or a curse (Genesis 3:17-19)? Which one did God curse, the ground or the work? How did God restore His relationship with people? How did it restore the world where humans thrive and flourish?
3. Before your work got corrupted by sin and sinful people, it was meant for a noble purpose. Can you identify what that purpose was?
4. Your work matters to God and He has a purpose for your work, whether or not you can always see what that purpose is. In other words, you matter to God, and He has a purpose for you. How does your work contribute to human flourishing? Discuss some of the lines of work and how everyone benefits from it. Do you think that life could be comfortable for you without these people doing their work? How could you appreciate the diversity of work you have in your community that helps each other?

REFLECT

Our Scripture passage teaches us that "God made us to rule over the works of His hands." You may not feel like a ruler at your place of work. But something there is under your control, no matter how big or small. Pause and appreciate the work that God has given you. How are you doing your best so that you and others would flourish?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, You have given me responsibilities that I should be doing where You have planted me. Thank You that although the earth got corrupted when sin entered it, You have not turned Your back on us, that through Jesus Christ, You have come into this world to restore us to a right relationship with You, as well as to restore the world to what You envisioned it to be: a place where people thrive and flourish. May I be able to do my part by being faithful in my work, doing my best for Your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.