



January 26, 2020  
Pastor Eric Wakeling

## What's the Point of Work? Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

### Labor, in itself, is meaningless. Ecclesiastes 2:18-23

- Who takes it over when I die? vs. 18-19
- I worked hard but the person taking it over didn't do anything to deserve this. vs. 20-21
- All this toil just isn't worth the pain and stress. vs. 22-23

### If labor is meaningless, pursue the simplest things. Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

- Basic food and drink is the simplest provision of God for our work. vs. 24-25
- The gifts of God are eternal, not temporal. vs. 26
- *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..."* Matthew 6:19-20a

God is a worker and we are created in His image.

Genesis 2:8 – *"The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden..."*

- *"Work is rearranging the raw material of God's creation in such a way that it helps the world in general, and people in particular, thrive and flourish."* - Timothy Keller
- *"The Garden was never supposed to stay a garden; it was always supposed to become a garden city. It's a Garden-like city called New Jerusalem with walls and gates and streets and dwellings and art and architecture and food and drink and music and culture."* - John Mark Comer in Garden City
- Our work is to see God's creation flourish and God's kingdom furthered. All of our work can lead toward that ultimate sense of meaning.

**Response:** Commit to finding meaning in your work to further God's kingdom and to see His creation flourish no matter what tasks your work involves.

## Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Express how you have worried about work, meaning, money and purpose over the course of your life.
2. How can you find ways to appreciate the simplest things in life that God provides?
3. How can you understand your work to be about furthering God's kingdom and helping God's creation flourish? How can you leverage your work for these purposes if it's difficult to find meaning in it?

## Next Steps:

**GROW IN COMMUNITY:** The Bible encourages Jesus-followers to be planted, rooted, growing, maturing, and able to withstand the pressures of the world. At Calvary, we believe this happens best in community. So, take a next step today and explore ways to deepen and grow in your faith by joining a LifeGroup or attending a Gathering. Learn more about Groups & Gatherings for this season at Connection Point in the Lobby or visit [calvarylife.org/groups](http://calvarylife.org/groups)

## In Today's Service:

**COMMUNION:** Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup represents the blood of Christ shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Some other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

**GIVING:** The offering is received each Sunday as a way to express trust in God and worship Him through giving. It's also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of giving 10% as a baseline, but the New Testament calls Jesus' followers to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping further ministry locally and globally. Discover ways to give on the envelope in the seatbacks or [calvarylife.org/give](http://calvarylife.org/give)

**PRAYER POINTS:** These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have pastoral staff and elders available to pray with you at the end of the service. They are available to pray with you for anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else. In addition, you can submit a request using The Card in the seat backs or visit [calvarylife.org/prayer](http://calvarylife.org/prayer)

**PRAYER ROOM:** The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.