

## Working Hard at Your Vocation (1 Cor 15:1-11)

In 1-2 sentences, write down what you do for a living (describe your primary “vocational” job).

### 1. Hard Work Honors the Lord Your Creator

**Acts 20: 33-35** <sup>33</sup>I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup>You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup>In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

**Genesis 2:15** The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

### 2. Hard Work Reveals the Lord Working Through You

**Mark 10:45** For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many.

### 3. Hard Work Demands Faith for Results

**Genesis 3:17-19** <sup>17</sup>Because you listened to your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

## Scriptures on Working Hard

Colossians 3:23-24	Genesis 2:3
Psalms 90:17	1 Timothy 5:8
Proverbs 12:11	Proverbs 6:10-12
Proverbs 13:4	2 Timothy 2:6
Phil 4:13	Genesis 2:15
Proverbs 12:24	Titus 2:7-8
Proverbs 14:23	Proverbs 16:3

## Suggested book Titles

Work Matters – Connecting Sunday Worship to Monday Work, by Tom Nelson

Work – Its Purpose, Dignity, and Transformation, by Daniel Doriani

Every Good Endeavor – Connecting Your Work to God’s Plan, by Tim Keller

God at Work – Your Christian Vocation in All of Life

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

What is your vocation?

What do you enjoy most about the work you do? What do you least enjoy about your work?

Do you consider yourself a hard worker? (Would the people who depend on your output agree?)

What drives you to work the way you do (and why)?

What does hard work look like for you?

How do you set boundaries for yourself in your work (and how well do you do at keeping them)?

What is the impact on yourself and people you care about if/when you neglect to guard the boundaries of your work?

In light of God’s creation mandate for Adam to work and keep the garden (Gen 2:15), how does your current vocation specifically enable you to faithfully carry out this same instruction today?

Given the curse God placed on work because of sin (Gen 3:17-19), what are some ways your current vocation is plagued by futility and fruitlessness? How do you persevere in this?

Where do doors to the gospel appear closed with colleagues who are opposed to the gospel? Would these individuals respect you for sustained, humble hard work in your profession?

Consider your past experiences where God made you a conduit for the love of Jesus with coworkers who suffered? How did those situations emerge?

Would you say that you’re positioned well for ministering mercy and care to others on the job? (If no, what steps would it take to correct this...and will you do it?)