

Readings

Scripture

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- Romans 12:1-2 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

- Matthew 25:21 (*English Standard Version*)

"Whatever you do, do it well. Do it so well that when people see you do it, they will want to come back and see you do it again, and they will want to bring others and show them how well you do what you do."

- Walter E. Disney

^{1:26} Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

- Genesis 1:26-2:3 (*English Standard Version*)

Sermon Outline

Working
Romans 12:1-2

Offering Your Ordinary Life to God
Brad Anderson

God's work of salvation saves us from working ourselves to death.
(Genesis 2:3; John 5:17; Hebrews 4:11)

How is work described across the story of the Bible?

Creation: Work is Good. (Genesis 1:24-31; 2:15-16)

Fall: Work is Broken. (Genesis 3:17-19)

Redemption: Work is Under-Construction. (John 5:1-17)

Restoration: Work is Perfect. (Revelation 22:1-5)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- When have you felt the most fulfilled in your work? The least fulfilled?
- When people ask you what you do for a living, how do you respond? How did you respond at other points in life?
- Why do you suppose our identity is often so tied to what we do vocationally?
- Why do you suppose our culture promotes such ties with our vocation and our identity?
- What pattern do you see in Genesis 1-2 related to God's work week? How are we to repeat a similar pattern? What purpose does work have in us? How can work be restorative?
- Because work was a God-designed part of life before the entrance of sin into the creation, what role might work play in the renewal of all things in the new heaven and new earth? Looking back at Amos 9:13-15, what images are used to describe the productivity of our labor and the fruitfulness of a renewed creation?
- What are some of the challenges you face in your workplace related to work and overwork?
- How much fulfillment in our work is possible this side of heaven?