

4.8.18

Platform, part 1

“Your Platform is Sacred”

“The maid who sweeps her kitchen is doing the will of God just as much as the monk who prays - not because she may sing a Christian hymn as she sweeps but because God loves clean floors. 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

“One reason Luther honored his barber and people like him was that he understood the doctrine of vocation. **All callings, no matter how humble in the world’s eyes, are the gifts of God to his people.** All are avenues of service to one’s neighbor and ways of glorifying God through one’s work. Luther knew...we have a calling not only in the work that God has given us to do – whether launching a Reformation or cutting hair, **all vocations being equal before God** – but also in our citizenship and in our families.” – Gene Veith, *A Place to Stand: The Word of God in the Life of Martin Luther*

- God does not give insignificant callings or platforms.
- If we are going to orient our entire lives around Jesus (including our vocations), then we have to quit keeping score the way the world keeps score.
- How aligned is your present life to God’s design for your life?

“In the beginning, then, God worked. Work was not a necessary evil that came into the picture later, or something human beings were created to do but that was beneath the great God himself. No, God worked for the sheer joy of it. Work could not have a more exalted inauguration.” – Tim Keller, *Every Good Endeavor*

Genesis 2:5 Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground

Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

“The fact that God put work in paradise is startling to us because we so often think of work as a necessary evil or even punishment.” – Timothy Keller, *Every Good Endeavor*

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or WHATEVER you do, do it all for the glory of God.

“It opens before us the possibility of making every act of our lives contribute to the glory of God. Lest we should be too timid to include everything, Paul mentions specifically eating and drinking.” A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

“Your daily work is ultimately an act of worship to the God who called and equipped you to do it - no matter what kind of work it is.” Tim Keller, *Every Good Endeavor*

“It does not mean, for instance, that everything we do is of equal importance with everything else we do or may do. One act of a good man’s life may differ widely from another in importance. Paul’s sewing of tents was not equal to his writing of an Epistle to the Romans, but both were accepted of God and both were true acts of worship. Certainly it is more important to lead a soul to Christ than to plant a garden, but the planting of the garden can be as holy an act as the winning of a soul.” A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*