

God's Calling for My Life: Work and Identity

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How does God's calling give me lasting purpose and meaning?

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. **Ephesians 2:8-10, NIV**

God first calls me to ___ something (His _____ by grace through faith), then to ___ something (my _____).

¹⁷ So I hated life, because the work that is done **under the sun** was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. **Ecclesiastes 2:17, NIV**

King Solomon explored life _____ from God and His calling and describes it as _____ and _____.

¹⁸ I hated all the things I had toiled for **under the sun**, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. ¹⁹ And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. ²⁰ So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. ²¹ For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. ²² What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? ²³ All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless. **Ecclesiastes 2:18-23, NIV**

If I work mainly to _____ in this life, I'm going to be severely _____.

²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me.

²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Philippians 1:21-22a,25-26, NIV

God has graciously called me to a life under the _____.

- My identity & eternity are _____ in Christ.
- My purpose is to _____ Christ's love with others.

²⁴ A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? ²⁶ To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness... **Ecclesiastes 2:24-26a**

God also gives me lasting _____ that my work is his _____ in the world.

MEMORY VERSE

²¹ For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **Philippians 1:21**

My next step: I get to live a life under the Son of God, my Savior. With my eternity and identity secure in him, I am free to share his love with others. And, I get the satisfaction that he blesses and loves others through the work I do.

What's your next step?

Mark it on your connect card.