

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you as our guest today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and "at home."

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Bob Wine

August 31, 2008

MY JOB AND SPIRITUAL PASSION

"Who are you really working for?"

Colossians 3:23

FOCUS FOR THE DAY ... "Transforming our perspective of work"

- 80% of Americans are dissatisfied with their job -

- There's more about life than a job.
- Our frustrations are the product of our perspective of life.

"How to reduce stress and increase our spiritual passion by redefining work"

1. WORK: A CALLING OR NECESSARY EVIL?

- A Gallup poll found 50% of all people in the workplace are "not actively engaged." An additional 22% said they were actively disengaged from their work.
 - The average person's dream in life is to retire so they can do what they want.
 - Most view work as part of the curse of Adam and Eve's sin. But, that is not true.
 - We must understand -- work is important to God.
 - "Vocation" refers to a feeling of being "*called*" to a particular activity or work. That calling gives value.
 - **Who** called Adam to be a gardener in Paradise? **Who** was he working for?
 - We have a "bigger boss" than the human being who gives us a paycheck.
- Colossians 3:23** "Whatever you do, do it wholeheartedly as though you were working for your real master and not merely for humans." God's Word

2. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES A VOCATION MAKE?

- A person who senses a call from God, to do whatever they do, gains confidence, energy and purpose from the One who called them -- from God, not the job.

- Jesus ... a great model.

John 13:3-5 “Jesus, **knowing** that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.” NKJV

- When you embrace that you are on assignment from God, you can ...

Matthew 5:16 “let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” NLT

... through the companionship your fellow co-workers see you enjoy with God in your work

... by the joyful, God-honoring shape of your creativity and diligence in your work

... by earning enough money to keep you from being dependent upon others -- and as you focus on how your work helps others in more than financial reward

... by treating the web of relationships your job creates as a gift

- You find your joy in honoring Him.

Remember: The real fun, spiritual stuff doesn’t happen in church. It happens on your job, on the racquetball court, in the classroom when the Holy Spirit honors your prayer and moves upon your friend.

- Church is only the inspiration and training center.
- Where you have been assigned has nothing to do with a job being secular or spiritual.
- We are to be **in** the world, not **of** the world. [John 17:15-16]
- We must see our work as the mission field God has assigned us.

How To Personalize This ...

How would you like God to transform your perspective of work from being stress-inducing into being this kind of creative adventure?

- Honestly focus on feeding your passion for Him by regular reflection on His Word.
- Honestly admit to God your wrong attitude about work -- what He designed from the beginning for you.
- Invite Him to change you as you daily expose yourself more and more to His truth in His Word. **Getting a peer spiritual life coach will help you do that.**

As your workplace becomes your ministry, you will find the joy of being the minister God has purposed you to be.

“DIGGING DEEPER”

For personal or small group study

Week of August 31, 2008

QUICK REVIEW: How did today’s message on “*My Job and Spiritual Passion*” help transform your perspective of work and increase your passion for God? What part was the most meaningful to you?

TODAY’S FOCUS

1. Why do you believe that 80% of Americans are dissatisfied with their jobs? How could this number be lessened? Would viewing our jobs as **vocations**, as a calling, change the satisfaction level? In what ways?
2. How would you describe God’s view of our occupations and our role in them? Who are you really working for? [Colossians 3:17, 23; 1 Corinthians 12:14-25; Matthew 25:14-30]

GETTING THE POINT

1. Jesus said we are to be “salt and light.” How does this apply to the way we perceive and do our work? [Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:12; 1 John 2:8-11]
2. How can viewing your work as a mission field impact your perspective about work and increase your passion for God? [Proverbs 16:2; Colossians 3:22; 4:5-6; Ephesians 5:2-4; Matthew 7:12; Isaiah 52:7; John 15:8-10]
3. How could your perspective and actions be different if you are an employee compared to being an employer? [Proverbs 22:1-2; 25:13; Ephesians 6:5-9; 1 Peter 5:2-5; Matthew 20:26-27]

A LOOK INSIDE

1. “*As your workplace becomes your ministry, you will find the joy of being the minister God has purposed you to be.*”

How does this statement make you feel?

What plans do you have to make your workplace your ministry?