

STUDY GUIDE F O R SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORKPLACE

Chapter Seven: Light Housekeeping

Groundwork

Read Chapter Seven

If you were asked to tell a ten-year-old what Chapter Seven is all about, what would you say?

Genesis 2:2. "By the seventh day God had finished the **work** [Hebrew: mela'kah] he had been doing..."

What points made in Chapter Seven do you want to recall and discuss with others in your group?

1. _____ (p. ____)
2. _____ (p. ____)
3. _____ (p. ____)

Exodus 20:9. "Six days you shall labor and do all your **work** [Hebrew: mela'kah]..."

Groupwork

"...many of us experience a real spiritual struggle...we wonder whether our work itself really matters—or simply the other things it provides or makes possible. Is there any real lasting or 'eternal' value in our work?"

Chapter Seven opens by saying: "Once a person begins to discover how to minister to others on the job he may come to resent his ordinary chores as interruptions to his 'real' work." Before you read this chapter, how might you have rated the spiritual significance of your "ministry-to-others work" in comparison with that of your "ordinary work"? (1 = low; 10 = high)

Significance of "Ministry-to-others-Work"

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----10

Significance of "Ordinary Work"

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----10

--Darrell Cosden, *The Heavenly Good of Earthly Work*

Review pages 70-71. Then make a list of the kinds of work the Bible reveals God himself as doing.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What is your work? How is it an extension of God's own work?

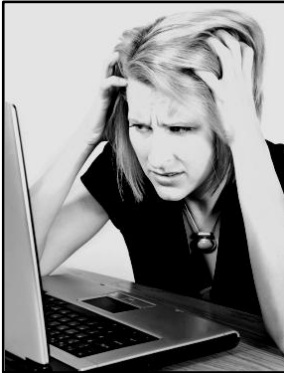
*From the book (p. 70):
"Work is not a punishment for man's wrongdoing. It originated as a continuation, an extension, of God's activity."*

Compare the statement from the book (in the left column) to the statement below—quoted from a church website:

"You see, work, toil, labour, whatever you want to call it, came about because God cursed the ground as a result of man's sin. Man only has himself to blame for having to work, no-one else, because he disobeyed God. "

Which statement do you believe to be true? Back up your answer with Scripture.

Read Genesis 2:15; 3:16-19.



Did God assign human work before or after sin entered the picture? Before After

Describe the original effect of sin on human labor:

Name some specific ways in which you see that "sin-effect" still producing frustration in the work you do.

Review Colossians 3:23, 24; I Corinthians 15:58.

On p. 74, the book says, "Any work done 'for the Lord' becomes the 'work of the Lord.'" After reading the passages to the left, do you agree with that statement? Explain why or why not.

Ephesians 6:6. "Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you..."

Paul tells slaves not to do their work merely to win favor or make people like them. In your workplace, what such a practice called—and how do some engage in it?

How can you intentionally cultivate the habit of doing your work “to the Lord”?

*“Through our freedom in Christ, our work(s) becomes set free so that it has a genuine earthly usefulness now, but also a continued existence, like we do, in heaven.” Darrell Cosden, **The Heavenly Good of Earthly Work***

Check the category or categories listed below that best describe the area in which your work contributes to the work of keeping conditions on earth suitable for human life.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Homemaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Hygiene | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | |

What would the world lose if no one on earth did the kind of work you do?

Heartwork

Do your God-given gifts fit your everyday work? Explain.

Tell why the work you are doing is acceptable to God and useful for others.

Psalm 90:17. “May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us — yes, establish the work of our hands.”

Write out a prayer that paraphrases in your own words the prayer of Moses recorded in Psalm 90:17:
