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“The basic terms of employment are undergoing a **Great Reset**. The pandemic thrust many families into a homebound lifestyle reminiscent of the 19th-century agrarian economy — but this time with screens galore and online delivery. More families today work at home, cook at home, care for kids at home, entertain themselves at home, and even school their kids at home.”

Derek Thompson, *The Atlantic*, October 15, 2021

[illegible]

Rethinking Work

Compartmentalized Faith

- The Christian life is what we do on Sundays; normal life is Monday-Saturday.
- The Christian life is about talking to people about Jesus – getting people saved. It is not about how we how we live our lives in the work world.
- If you want to serve God; you must quit your job and go into full time Christian ministry – become a missionary; or work for a church.

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

¹ Thus, the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. ² By the seventh day God had finished the **work (melakah)** he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his **work (melakah)**. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the **work (melakah)** of creating that he had done.

Genesis 2:1-3 (NIV)

מְלָאכָה

melakah – “work”

¹ In the beginning God **worked** – he created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 (The Dolson Uninspired Version)

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; **fill the earth and subdue it.** Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 1:27-28 (NIV)

When we work, we are imaging God.
God is a worker.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden *to work (abad) it* and take care of it.

Genesis 2:15 (NIV)

עֲבַד

‘*ābad* - “to till, toil, work.”

Since the garden is being portrayed as sacred space, it is likely that the tasks given to Adam are of a priestly nature — that is, caring for sacred space. In ancient thinking, caring for sacred space was a way of upholding creation. By preserving order, chaos was held at bay.

John Walton, *Genesis*, 173

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden *to work (abad) it* and take care of it.

Genesis 2:15 (NIV)

God WORKS.

Humans are made in his image.

Therefore, we WORK.

When we work, we are imaging God.

The garden of Eden wasn't a vacation.
It was work.

Genesis 1-2

The whole world is good (Garden of Eden).

Genesis 3

The whole world is messed up (~~Garden of Eden~~).

⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Genesis 3:7 (NIV)

¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Genesis 3:17-19 (NIV)

The “Fall” Messed Up Work

1. Work becomes hard.

“By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food...”

The “Fall” Messed Up Work

1. Work becomes hard.

2. Work is about survival.

“... through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.”

The “Fall” Messed Up Work

1. Work becomes hard.
2. Work is about survival.
3. Work is frustrating.

“It will produce thorns and thistles for you...”

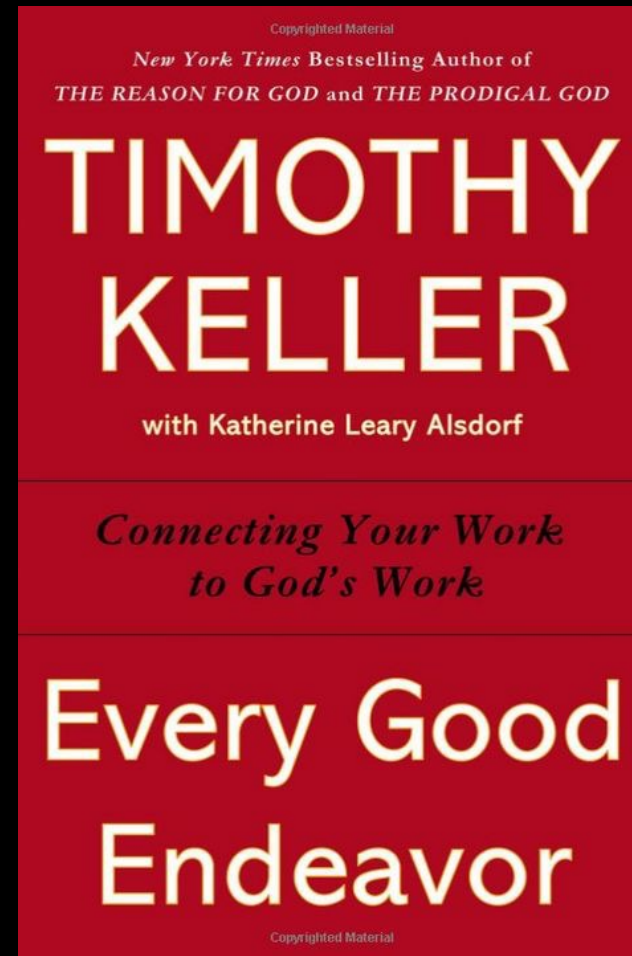
The “Fall” Messed Up Work

1. Work becomes hard.
2. Work is about survival.
3. Work is frustrating.
4. Work becomes an end in itself.

“...all the days of your life... until you return to the ground... for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

“Workship” is invented.

People live for work.



...we believe that lower-status jobs or lower-paying work is an assault on our dignity...We divide people into the categories of the highly paid “knowledge class” and then there are those in the “service sector.” Most of us accept and perpetuate the value judgments that attach to those categories. So people look down on the handyman, dry cleaners, cooks, gardeners, and others who hold service jobs. Sometimes it bleeds over in their own words about themselves – “I’m just a waitress, or I’m just a mechanic.”

Tim Keller, *Every Good Endeavor*

Genesis 1-2

The whole world is good (Garden of Eden).

Genesis 3

The whole world is messed up (~~Garden of Eden~~).

The Rest of the Bible

The whole world is going to be redeemed.

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; **he will crush your head,** and you will strike his heel."

Genesis 3:14-15 (NIV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **the new creation has come:** The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for human masters,
²⁴ since you know that you will receive an
inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord
Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

What is Work?

- If you are a student – you are working.
- If you are a stay-at-home parent – you are working.
- If you are a caregiver to someone else – you are working.

Re:Work Calendar

6.19 – Rethinking Work

6.26 – Rethinking Rest

7.3 – Rethinking Identity

7.10 – Rethinking Joy

How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.

Annie Dillard

The average person in the U.S. will spend 90,000 hours at work over a lifetime. One third of their life.

Andrew Naber – Gettysburg College

Re:Work

- How can I serve God in my work?

Re:Work

- How can I serve God in my work?
- What does the rhythm of rest and work look like in my life?

Re:Work

- How can I serve God in my work?
- What does the rhythm of rest and work look like in my life?
- How does my identity as a Christ follower affect my work?

Re:Work

- How can I serve God in my work?
- What does the rhythm of rest and work look like in my life?
- How does my identity as a Christ follower affect my work?
- How does my work bring good to the world?