

Date: March 24, 2024 **Message:** The Goodness of Work & Rest

Series: Good Creation **Scripture:** Various verses in Genesis 1, 2, & 3

The design of work:

The ruin of work:

A better way to work:

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Genesis 1:26-28, 31; 2:1-2, 15-18; 3:17-19

1. Is devotion to your work a primary organizing principle of your life? What would those who know you best (friends, family members) say?
2. Do you feel that it is possible to make work into an idol? In what ways? What types of futility might arise from making your work into an idol?
3. In what ways do people tend to overvalue work? In what ways do people tend to undervalue work?
4. Why might it be significant that the first time "work" is mentioned in Scripture is in relation to God as a worker? What was/is the nature of God's work?
5. Rather than looking at work as simply being about survival for yourself, how can your specific work better accomplish God's purposes, bring about order, foster beauty and peace, and/or be something that benefits others? Give specific examples.
6. Dallas Willard once said, "Work is a primary place of discipleship." In what specific ways can your work be used to shape your character in a godly direction?
7. What is the biblical vision of rest? How is it similar to or different from the world's vision of rest?
8. Why does God ultimately command us to rest? How is a person's coming to faith in Jesus (salvation) connected to the idea of biblical rest?
9. What is something in your life—a situation, a circumstance, a relationship—that you have been trying to control that is *really* in God's hands? How does the biblical vision of rest apply to these things?