**Building Influence: Building Influence in the Marketplace**

***Pastor Christopher Manivannan***

Servants, do what you’re told by your earthly masters. And don’t just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master, for God, confident that you’ll get paid in full when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you’re serving is Christ. The sullen servant who does shoddy work will be held responsible. Being a follower of Jesus doesn’t cover up bad work.

And masters, treat your servants considerately. Be fair with them. Don’t forget for a minute that you, too, serve a Master—God in heaven. (Colossians 3:22-4:1) (MSG)

# Introduction

How did you come to know the Lord? Was it through the people in your neighbourhood? Was it your circle of friends? Or was it through someone from your workplace? Reports of evangelical ministries show statistics of a majority of people who have come to know about the Gospel and Jesus Christ was through their colleagues at work and workers from their workplace! One of the greatest moves of God is going to be done in the workplace, and we are the very ones who have the absolute privilege to not only witness it, but also, to be a part of it.

The Big Idea: Christians’ influence in the marketplace through the integration of faith and work.

Each and every one of us is called to work. For us to fulfil our calling in work in our own marketplaces, there must be a correct understanding of what the word ‘work’ is.

So what is the biblical definition of work?

# Our work is WORSHIP to God

We are a people who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and we are all worthy in His sight. Therefore, no matter the type or category of work we are doing, whether it is in an administration office or as a pilot in a plane, our work automatically becomes a worship to God.

* Our work should NOT be seen as a means to an end, rather it is a worship to God.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Often times, we take pity upon ourselves and seek for self glory in the work we do, as a means of ‘honouring God’. We should not search for credit and praise in the work we are called to do at our workplaces. Rather, our worship to God in work should be done out of reverence to God, and to bring Him glory.

Therefore, if our work is a worship to God, we need a God-centred view of God, with everything we do directed and done all for the name of God. When this happens, our perspective of work changes.

There is no dichotomy of work. Whether our work is labelled ‘sacred’ or ‘secular’, ALL legitimate work should reflect the activity of God, because ALL WORK IS A CALL FROM GOD! And as we step out in faith and obedience to fulfil our calling at all our workplaces, we are bringing honour and glory to God as our work reflects His work and His life.



# Our work matters to God

Whether big or small, significant or not, God can, and will make use of us regardless of our career paths. All we have to do is allow Him to use us to make a difference in our own marketplaces.

“Human beings do not serve work; work serves human beings.” ~Pope John Paul II-

When we speak of work, we mean occupation: whatever primarily occupies our time at this point in our life, paid or unpaid. We are called to ministry in our current occupation. Through our work, we can find meaning, Love God, Serve People, and Make disciples and that will transform the marketplace for the Glory of God.

# Our faith affects our work

## Our faith helps us to find our identities in Christ.

It guides us to do our work unto God and NOT unto man, and secures our mindsets to think that every work is for God and not for man. Faith gives us understanding of a means by which God loves and cares for His work.

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3:22-24)

## Faith gives us an understanding that our work is the means by which God loves and cares for the world.

God sees every little act we do. He understands every thought and struggle we face every day at work. He wants to use us in our workplaces, and around our colleagues and workmates. God uses us to bless others.

## Faith gives us a new world- and life- view that shapes the character of our work

When we understand that our work is a worship and honour to God, we will have the desire to climb up the ladder of His glory and permanent riches, instead of the ladder of wealth and temporal satisfactions. When we understand that the work we do reflects the life of our Lord Jesus Christ and speaks of our faith, our perspective of work changes. And when we integrate our faith and our work in the marketplaces, that’s where we truly see the great work and power of our God.

Therefore, carry out all your work in excellence and in a manner that serves the good of His people and pleases Him.

Conclusion

As Christians, our work is not merely a way to earn money, nor primarily a means of personal advancement, but truly a calling. A calling to Love God, Serve people and make Disciples that will transform the marketplace for Jesus.

When there is a calling there must be a Caller.

So Know your Caller, Trust your Caller and Step fully into the Calling

Challenge:

Have a correct Biblical view of work. Every occupation is a divine calling to be the fingers of God, living out His purpose to transform the marketplace.



Sermon summary contributed by Phoebe Leong

Prayer points contributed by Prudence Tay



* **SERMON: Building Influence in the Marketplace**

**Pray**

* We will come to the realisation that whatever work we do it has to be unto God and that it matters to God.
* We will do our work well and allow it to bring about God’s blessings unto others.
* We will open our eyes to the needs of those who work around and alongside us.
* We will be a signpost pointing others to Jesus.

***Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 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)***

**MINISTRIES & EVENTS: Mission Trip Opportunities**

*There are various mission trips both local and overseas planned for 2017. As much as the marketplace is our mission field, there is still a need for us to go to outside of our marketplace to help spread the good news to those who do not have the opportunity to hear it.*

**Pray:**

* God to raise up people to go into the cross-culture mission fields.
* We will be sensitive to God’s voice and answer His call to go outside of our comfort zone.
* God will use the people as they go forth on the mission trips.
* God will continue to bless and uphold all those from DUMC who are either long term or short term missionaries.

***Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” (Isaiah 6:8)***

**MALAYSIA MY NATION: Welfare of our children**

*The recent death of an 11 year old boy has been linked to the alleged abuse that he had received from an assistant warden at the Kota Tinggi religious school that he attended. Before his death, he had both his legs amputated to prevent the further spread of bacterial infection in his body. The assistant warden in question has a criminal record for theft and there are now questions on how he was hired for this position of responsibility over children. There are many other questions arising out of this as even the school he was attending did not fall under the purview of the Ministry of Education as it was not an institution that was registered with the ministry*

**Pray:**

* The truth of the whole incident will come to light and those responsible will be brought to justice.
* Parents will listen to their children and those under their care when they complain about being beaten, and investigate the matter.
* The authorities will put in place sound guidelines and rules to such incidents from happening.
* Those in charge of schools and institutes of learning will be wise in selection and hiring their staff.

***"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 18:10)***

* **A TRANSFORMED WORLD: USA**

*President Donald Trump has just completed 100 days as the USA’s president. He has tried to make some changes. Reactions to his presidency is as divisive as ever.*

**Pray:**

* God’s wisdom upon President Donald Trump to make wise decisions.
* He will be surrounded by wise and godly men and women to give sound advice.
* He will be diplomatic in handling difficult and sensitive issues, like the current situation with North Korea.
* As much as he wants to put USA first, he will still keep diplomatic and positive working relationships with other nations.
* The work of the ‘opposition’ to prevent good things from taking place will be stopped.
* God to open the eyes of those who live in darkness to see the light through dreams, visions and hearing from the Holy Spirit.

***I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.(1 Timothy2 :1-2)***