

The Gospel and Culture Part 2: School, College, Work, and God's Will for Your Life

Goals of the Series

- ❖ To submit fully to the teaching from God's Word
- ❖ To discover what God's Word says about modern cultural topics
- ❖ How are we as Christians to engage with each of these topics
- ❖ Become equipped to take the Gospel in the culture
- ❖ Let the Word of God be our ONLY source of authority

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. - 1 John 2:15-17

"I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church Put your finger on any prosperous page in the Church's history, and [you] will find a little marginal note [that says]: 'In this age [people] could readily see where the Church began and where the world ended.' Never were there good times when the Church and the world were joined in marriage with one another." Charles Spurgeon

Goals of this particular night

- ❖ Find the answer to "What is God's will for my life?"
- ❖ Discover how to make decisions that honor God in all aspects of our life
- ❖ Live a Gospel-centered life in a 21st century, American culture
- ❖ Glorify God in this process

Questions/concerns/challenges

- ❖ How do I live in obedience to the astounding commands of Christ...

Luke 9:23 – Then he said to them all, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

Matthew 28:19-20 – Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.

- ❖ ...While attending school, college, work and simple everyday life?

The New Testament is sometimes very specific on how to live as a Christian in 1st century Roman Empire

Acts 15:29 - that you abstain from food offered to idols, from blood, from eating anything that has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. You will do well if you keep yourselves from these things.

It's not so specific on dealing with issues of the 21st century America

- Do I go to college? If so, which college? Which degree? What career? When do I find a new job? When should I move out? What neighborhood do I live in? When do I get married? Which person should I marry? Am I called to missions? Or to Bible college? Am I supposed to evangelize to all my friends?
- ❖ Which method is right in discovering the will of God?
 - The “Coincidence” method?
 - The “Open the Bible and See What Happens” method?
 - The “Open Door” method?
 - The “Closed door” method?
 - The “Still Small Voice” method?
- ❖ How do I really know I'm making the right decision with my life?

Gospel Foundations

- ❖ There exists one God, who is eternal, all-powerful, and all-knowing

Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Exodus 15:11 – Lord, who is like you among the gods? Who is like you, glorious in holiness, revered with praises, performing wonders?

- ❖ All things were created by God, through God, and for God

Colossians 1:16 – For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him.

- ❖ Humans were created to enjoy God in their relationship with Him

Genesis 1:26-27 – Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

- ❖ We were created to exalt His glory to the ends of the earth

Isaiah 43:7 – everyone who bears my name and is created for my glory. I have formed them; indeed, I have made them.”

- ❖ God is holy, which makes all of creation accountable to His standard

Revelation 4:8 – Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come.

- ❖ Any rebellion against this God warrants a just punishment of His wrath

Psalms 5:4-6 – For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil cannot dwell with you. The boastful cannot stand in your sight; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who tell lies; the Lord abhors violent and treacherous people.

If you have any questions throughout the night, please text 310-710-3028

- ❖ Through the sin of one man, all human beings have become morally evil and corrupted by sin

Romans 5:12 – Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned.

- ❖ Because of the stain of sin, all humans are incapable of making decisions and performing actions that honor God

Romans 3:10-12 – There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one.

Sin stains even the greatest intentions

- ❖ Because of sin, we are completely unable to honor or please God on our own
Romans 8:8 – Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- ❖ Our rebellion against God has created a separation from Him and a guilty standing, which warrants eternal destruction

Isaiah 59:2 – But your iniquities are separating you from your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not listen.

- ❖ The tension in Creation

If God is just, how does He forgive sin without payment?

If God is holy, how does He obliterate sin without obliterating us in the process?

If God is love, how can He save guilty sinners?

Proverbs 17:15 – Acquitting the guilty and condemning the just— both are detestable to the Lord.

- ❖ God substitutes Himself in our place
 - Dies in our place (1 Peter 3:18)
 - Pays our punishment (1 John 4:10)
 - Reconciles us to God (2 Corinthians 5:18)
 - Removes our guilt (Psalm 103:12)
 - Makes us spiritually alive (Ephesians 2:4-5)
 - Declares us as righteous (Phil. 3:9)

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Adopts us as sons and daughters (Romans 8:15)
Fills us with His Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:22)
Transforms our desires (2 Corinthians 5:17)
Makes a place for us in the New Earth (Revelation 21:3)

This is the *MOST IMPORTANT*** decision you will ever make in your entire life!**

Will you turn **TO** Christ?

- Repent for sin, receive His forgiveness, live with Him forever?

Will you turn **FROM** Christ?

- Live in sin, stand under the judgement of God, endure His wrath forever?

School, College, Work, And God's Will for Your Life

The Sovereign Will of God

- ❖ God is ultimately sovereign (holds supreme power) over every single detail and moment past, present, and future

Ephesians 1:11 – In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will

- ❖ God has a plan for every facet and human being of His creation

Proverbs 16:9 – A person's heart plans his way, but the Lord determines his steps.

Psalms 139:16 – Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began.

- ❖ God's plan is eternal, not changing nor chronological

Ephesians 1:4 – For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him.

- ❖ God's plan in this world is ultimately for His own praise and glory

Isaiah 48:11 – I will act for my own sake, indeed, my own, for how can I be defiled? I will not give my glory to another.

- ❖ God will always choose to do as He wills
He is not accountable to anyone or anything!

Isaiah 40:13-14 - Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or who gave him counsel? Who did he consult? Who gave him understanding and taught him the paths of justice? Who taught him knowledge and showed him the way of understanding?

- ❖ Scripture reveals the multiple wills of God
God's Revealed Will: What He declares

Exodus 20:13 - Do not murder.

God's Secret Will: What He decrees

Acts 2:23 – Though he was delivered up according to God's determined plan and foreknowledge, you used lawless people to nail him to a cross and kill him.

The Free Will of Man

- ❖ God's law tells the Israelites to obey God

Leviticus 20:22 – “You are to keep all my statutes and all my ordinances, and do them...”

- ❖ Joshua tells the Israelites to choose to follow God

Joshua 24:14-15 - Therefore, fear the Lord and worship him in sincerity and truth. Get rid of the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and worship the Lord. But if it doesn't please you to worship the Lord, choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship?

- ❖ Peter tells the first believers to make a decision to follow Christ

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Acts 2:37-38 – When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- ❖ We are making choices
 - We have hearts and minds and a will
 - We choose freely
 - But we cannot act in a way contrary to God’s plan
 - The choices we make are completely real, but not completely free
- ❖ Our choices have real consequences with real responsibility
 - The problem is that we consistently choose wrong
 - People are born slaves to sin

John 8:34 - Jesus responded, “Truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.”

We are naturally, morally, intellectually, and ultimately responsible to God for every single decision we make

How Are These Two Reconciled?

- ❖ The plan of God is always compatible
 - God is sovereign. Man is responsible

Acts 2:23 - Though he was delivered up according to God’s determined plan and foreknowledge, you used lawless people to nail him to a cross and kill him.

Genesis 50:20 – You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people.

- ❖ The plan of God is always beneficial

Romans 8:28 – We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

- ❖ How do I live in light of God’s revealed will?
 - Pray for the accomplishment of God’s revealed will

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Matthew 6:9-10 – Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Proclaim the Gospel of the revealed will

Romans 10:13-17 – For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news. But not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed our message? So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.

- ❖ How do I live in light of God's secret will?
Face the past redemptively

Genesis 50:20 – You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people.

Face the present joyfully

Romans 12:12 – Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer.

Face the future hopefully

Proverbs 3:5-6 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.

The Gospel and Everyday Living

Matthew 22:34-40 – When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. And one of them, an expert in the law, asked a question to test him: "Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT: Love the Lord your God....

❖ **...WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND SOUL - INTIMACY WITH GOD**

The Lord calls us to daily prayer

Psalm 63:1 – God, you are my God; I eagerly seek you. I thirst for you; my body faints for you in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water.

Prayer expresses our deepest need for God

Hebrews 4:16 – Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.

Our request: “Lord, teach us to pray”

Luke 11:1 – He was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples.”

We pray to experience intimacy with God

- The goal of prayer is not to get something
- The primary goal of prayer is to know Someone

We pray to experience the power of being used by God

James 5:16-18 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. Elijah was a human being as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the land. Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its fruit.

How do we pray?

Matthew 6:9-13 - “Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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- Address the Father
- Pray for the glory of God
- Ask for His gifts
- Ask for His grace
- Ask for His guidance

The Secret to Answered Prayers

- Make your wants God's wants

Psalm 37:4 - Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires.

- Ask for whatever you want

John 15:7 – If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.

❖ **WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND STRENGTH – OBEDIENCE TO WORD OF GOD**

The Lord calls us to fill our mind with truth from His Word

- God's Word is essential for spiritual growth

1 Peter 2:2 – Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow up into your salvation

- God's Word is essential for life and ministry

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- God's Word is essential for spiritual warfare

Matthew 4:1-11 – Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. Then the tempter approached him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." He answered, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Then the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their

hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus told him, “It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God.” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ And he said to him, “I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus told him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.” Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him.

- God’s Word is essential for joy, peace, and satisfaction

Psalm 19:7-11 – The instruction of the Lord is perfect, renewing one’s life; the testimony of the Lord is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise. The precepts of the Lord are right, making the heart glad; the command of the Lord is radiant, making the eyes light up. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are reliable and altogether righteous. They are more desirable than gold—than an abundance of pure gold; and sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb. In addition, your servant is warned by them, and in keeping them there is an abundant reward.

Psalm 1:1-2 – How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.

All of Psalm 119

How do we read the Bible?

- Step 1: Read the Bible
 - Read it humbly, prayerfully, carefully, corporately, confidently
- Step 2: Examine the text
 - What’s happening? Who’s writing? What’s the context?
- Step 3: Apply the text
 - How does this apply to my life in the 21st century?
 - What sins do I need to avoid?
 - What commands should I obey?
- Step 4: Pray
 - Ask God for wisdom.
 - Seek wise counsel from others through your journey

THE 2ND GREATEST COMMANDMENT

❖ LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

Consider the Father's Heart for people

John 3:16 – For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Consider Jesus's heart for people

Matthew 9:36 - When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.

Consider how Jesus lived in complete obedience to the Father

John 5:19-20 – Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, the Son is not able to do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son likewise does these things. For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing, and he will show him greater works than these so that you will be amazed.

- The Father was working. Jesus completely submitted and obeyed

Consider how the Holy Spirit works in your life

John 16:13-15 – When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything the Father has is mine. This is why I told you that he takes from what is mine and will declare it to you.

God is already at work in the lives of the people around you

- God delights in using you in His work
- Look and listen for how God is at work
- Sacrifice your time, agenda, goals, and dreams to participate in the work of God
- Stand in awe that God chose to use you, not because He needs you, but because He loves you
- Trust the work God does through you will bear fruit and last forever

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Ephesians 2:10 – For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

SHOWING LOVE TO BELIEVERS

- Be united

John 17:23 – I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.

- Division is deadly

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 – Don't you yourselves know that you are God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and that is what you are.

- Serve one another

Philippians 2:3-4 - Make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.

- Forgive one another

Colossians 3:13 - Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.

- Grow together

Acts 2:42 – They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

- Serve together

1 Corinthians 12 – Body of Christ

SHOWING LOVE TO NON-BELIEVERS

- We are called to rearrange our lives for the sake of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 – Although I am free from all and not anyone's slave, I have made myself a slave to everyone, in order to win more people. To the Jews I

became like a Jew, to win Jews; to those under the law, like one under the law—though I myself am not under the law—to win those under the law. To those who are without the law, like one without the law—though I am not without God’s law but under the law of Christ—to win those without the law. To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some. Now I do all this because of the gospel, so that I may share in the blessings.

- We are called to stand out around non-believers
 - By the way we live

Matthew 5:13-16 – “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

- By the conduct of our character

1 Peter 2:12 – Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits.

- We are called to be the peacekeepers

Rom. 12:18 – If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

- We are called to hold a good reputation

1 Timothy 3:7 – Furthermore, he must have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the devil’s trap.

- Above all, we are called to make this Gospel known

Matthew 28:19-20 – Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.

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- Therefore, we endure anything for the sake of the Gospel

2 Timothy 2:8-10 – Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead and descended from David, according to my gospel, for which I suffer to the point of being bound like a criminal. But the word of God is not bound. This is why I endure all things for the elect: so that they also may obtain salvation, which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

God's Will for Your Life

- ❖ God's Will is not hidden!

Ephesians 5:17 – So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

How to Live in Light of The Two Wills Of God:

- ❖ The Secret Will: What God decrees

Nothing will happen to you that is outside the sovereign hand of God

Job 37:6-13 – For he says to the snow, "Fall to the earth," and the torrential rains, his mighty torrential rains, serve as his sign to all mankind, so that all men may know his work. The wild animals enter their lairs and stay in their dens. The windstorm comes from its chamber, and the cold from the driving north winds. Ice is formed by the breath of God, and watery expanses are frozen. He saturates clouds with moisture; he scatters his lightning through them. They swirl about, turning round and round at his direction, accomplishing everything he commands them over the surface of the inhabited world. He causes this to happen for punishment, for his land, or for his faithful love.

- Nothing will ever happen to you that is outside of His perfect will
- There are no accidents in the plan of God!
- Everything that happens has a purpose

Colossians 1:17 – He is before all things, and by him all things hold together.

- If you are in Christ, you will lack nothing!

2 Peter 1:3 – His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

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❖ The Revealed Will: What God Declares

Be in complete obedience to the Word of God

1 John 5:3 – For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands.

Be Spirit-filled

Ephesians 5:18 – And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit:

Be filled with the fullness of God

Ephesians 3:19 – so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Be submitted

Proverbs 3:5-6 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.

KNOWING GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS SIMPLY KNOWING GOD!

We are not to ask: "God, what is your will for my life?"

The question we must ask daily is: "God, what is your will for this world and the people around me, and how do I align my life with it today?"

How Do I Make Daily Decisions?

❖ Spend intimate time in prayer and worship with God

James 1:5 - Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him.

❖ Study the Word of God

Ps. 40:8 - I delight to do your will, my God, and your instruction is deep within me."

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“Will my decision cause me to sin?”

“Will my decision affect my ability to obey God?”

Luke 14:33 – In the same way, therefore, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.

If the Word of God addresses a certain choice, obey the Word!

❖ Use Wisdom

Pray

Gather information

Consider all your options

Seek Godly counsel

Choose wisely

❖ Do what you want!

Psalm 37:4 - Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires.

Proverbs 3:5-6 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.

❖ God desires to give us His best!

Romans 8:32 – He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything?

Matthew 6:33 – But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Objections/Questions:

❖ Why should I go to school or get a job in this country if there's billions going to Hell? Shouldn't I drop out to spend more time telling people about Jesus?

God is a God who works

John 5:17 – Jesus responded to them, “My Father is still working, and I am working also.”

God designed us to work

Gen. 2:18-22 – Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him.” The Lord God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. Then the Lord God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man.

We work for our good, and for His glory

Colossians 3:22-24 – Bondservants, obey your human masters in everything. Don’t work only while being watched, as people-pleasers, but work wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:17 – And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

We work to provide for others

1 Timothy 5:8 – But if anyone does not provide for his own family, especially for his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

We should never idolize our work

Proverbs 23:4 - Don’t wear yourself out to get rich; because you know better, stop!

We work to obtain more in order to give more

Acts 4:32-37 – Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them. For there was not a needy person among them because all those who

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owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus by birth, the one the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

When considering a school, or career, consider work that strategically advances the Kingdom of God

Matthew 28:19-20 – Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.

Practical Takeaways:

- ❖ Surrender your life to God every single day

Galatians 2:20 – I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- ❖ Abide in God all throughout the day

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – pray constantly

John 15:1-11 - "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want

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and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. "I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

❖ Memorize the Gospel

Romans 3:23-26

Romans 8:28-39

Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesians 2:1-10

❖ Be disciplined/Make a disciple

❖ Invest yourself into a local church

How do I know what a good church looks like?

See next week!

Recommended Reading

For further study on the topics covered in tonight's sessions, see the resources listed below. Please note, however, that Hope Chapel Youth ministry does not endorse everything contained in these resources. As always, we urge you to examine these resources and the topics covered in this study in light of the truths of God's Word.

❖ *Living the Cross-Centered Life* – C.J. Mahaney

❖ *Knowing God* – J.I. Packer

❖ *Desiring God* – John Piper

❖ *Providence* – John Piper

❖ *A Call to Prayer* – J.C. Ryle

❖ *Pursuit of God* – A.W. Tozer

❖ *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* – Donald Whitney

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