

FAITH at

Slide # 01

WORK!

Finding
God
in the
9 to 5
Part FOUR



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Ps Roger Spackman
Te Atatu Baptist Church
www.TeAtatuBaptist.com

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Co-Missioned!

Can you please turn in your Bibles to James chapter 1 – and just keep your finger there for a moment.

Every week I get feedback *from around the world, and from our congregation here* – about the sermons and how they have impacted people's lives.

Allow me to share just one such response I received via email:

Dear Ps Roger

Your sermon on Sunday (Faith at Work) reminded me of the impact this had on my own life.

In my 20's I was in a dead end purchasing job. Our GM was a bully & gave me a hard time. I was bored & suffered with bad depression & I couldn't see any escape. I became very negative & did just what I had to and no more. I was there over 10yrs and felt trapped.

One day I read Colossians 3:23-24 about working as unto the Lord and it was like a God moment. No audible voice or anything but I knew what I had to do. From that moment on I determined to be the

best at whatever I did, regardless of whether I was recognised for it or not.

My whole life changed, the circumstances didn't but my outlook did. It was a night and day transformation. I started relishing the thought of excelling at what I did and my depression went.

Long story short, within 7 years the GM who bullied me was reporting to me as part of my senior management team. I held no animosity towards him, and recognised him for what he was & the insecurities he had. He continued working for me for a further 4 or 5 years after this.

When I look back over the last 25 odd years I am so grateful that God spoke that into me & I cringe to think that if I hadn't grasped that truth where would I be today.

I've always encouraged my kids to be the best at whatever they do & yet I see many Christians (I've even worked with some) who haven't grasped this truth of this and are missing out.

People have complained to me that they're not been treated fairly or its unjust so they won't do more than they have to.

While there's nothing wrong in addressing injustice or leaving, if they could approach their job as working unto the Lord I wonder how different it would be.

Good job.

I believe over the last month, we have learnt from the Bible about the *attitude* we should each have towards the *daily tasks* we are called upon to perform.

And it doesn't matter whether these tasks are paid or unpaid, working in the office or nurturing our children and being a fulltime home-maker, student or retiree.

The Bible makes it very clear, and encourages us that just as we are made in the image of God – and God is a creator/worker – so too are we hard-wired to find fulfilment and enjoyment through daily and active *hard work*.

Those Lotto add that promise you a life of leisure and freedom from having to work – are really *deceptive* and *lying* to you!

They are simply taking advantage of the carnal lusts that reside within all of us – the lust to get what we don't have – without realising that lust promises what it can never deliver.

We were created in the image of a loving and hard-working God – and this Creator has imparted the mission of *tending* and *working* this world – to you and to me.

But not only this!

We are also liberated – and our work *no matter what it is* gains an eternal perspective of worth and purpose – when we believe and recognise the truth of Scripture – that no matter what it is you do – work at it as unto the *Lord* and not man!

The attitude we should have towards our daily tasks is one of seeing the hand of God in and through what we do.

God is creative – and He wants to express this creativity and love through your life and daily tasks!

Scripture makes no distinction between secular and Christian.

My working as a pastor from Sunday to Thursday is no more working for the Lord than working in my part-time engineering business on my day off.

In fact, while you still have your finger in James chapter 1, allow me to quote to you from the gospel of Matthew.

Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

The above scriptures spoken by Jesus – have been called the Great Commission – are actually a co-mission – a *joint* effort by Jesus and you – to become salt and light in your daily work and life.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 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

Your daily tasks – whether paid or unpaid – at home or at work - becomes a *mission field* for Jesus – when you recognizing that it is the Lord that you ultimately serve and obey.

Therefore today – as the pastors and leadership of Te Atatu Baptist church – we want to commission you to the task of fulfilling the Great Commission through your daily tasks.

We want to challenge and encourage you to view your daily work and tasks as appointed to you by the Lord Jesus Christ – and *commission* you towards this purpose.

Now – to James chapter 1 – reading from verse 23:

23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror

24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

We want you to be blessed in what you do – in your *daily* tasks.

And we want you to also be a blessing to others.

Indeed, we are blessed to be a blessing!

When Debbie and I were called to be pastors of this church, we had a commissioning service, where we were encouraged and challenged to view this job as a ministry to the Lord – to serve Him and to serve the spiritual family of Te Atatu Baptist church.

Here's the thing.

Working here is no more spiritual, Christian or 'working for the Lord' than any *other* job.

In fact, I dare to say the role you play in your daily tasks are just as important, if not *more* important than the role I play as teacher and pastor.

In fact, it's been calculated that Christians spend only 2% of their daily lives within a church building, and the rest of the time out there in the *real world*.

Today we want to give you the opportunity to respond to the call of God's Spirit.

We want to *commission* you into the task and role God has called you in life.

We want to *pray* for you, and believe with you that God has called you for a purpose!

We have printed off over 100 Commissioning Certificates – as a reminder that today you have chosen to respond favourable to the Lord – and begin or continue viewing your daily tasks as appointed by, and working for the Lord.



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