



T.G.I.M. Work Shift

#NPTGIM

Week 4
4 of 4
September 25, 2016

Bottom Line: Dedicate your work to be used for God's purposes. Whatever you want God to bless, give to Him first – dedicate it, consecrate it, hallow it, and then God will bless it.

Icebreaker: What is the reason you have the job that you do?

Key Verse: *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.* Colossians 3:23

We have looked at this verse several times in this series. Yet, one of the great benefits of God's Word is that it is always profitable. There is always something to find and always something true to bring out in our lives. This verse summarizes all that we have been trying to communicate in this series – when we work, we don't work for men, but for God.

People work for a lot of different reasons – because they have to, because they love it, because they find their sense of worth in it, and because they want to provide for their family – the list could go on. However, we have a greater reason than any of these: We work for the Lord.

Notice what Paul says in this verse. You are called to work "with all your heart." It's this part of the command that we likely have the hardest time obeying. On some level, many of us see our jobs, even jobs we don't like, as a means the Lord has given us to love and provide for our families. Yet when it actually comes to doing our work, we do so with limited enthusiasm and no joy. But God tells us that our attitude in work matters.

There is more to life and work than simply making a living. God wants to use you, through your work, to make a difference for Him. Go about your work with joy and enthusiasm, love your co-workers, and help your supervisors. Each of these things is a reflection of your love for your Savior.

Begin to view work the way God sees work; use your work to advance His purposes.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said we need to . . .

1. Put God first.
2. Sharpen our skills.
3. Work with enthusiasm.
4. Become likeable.
5. Exceed expectations.
6. Develop our character.
7. Establish boundaries.
8. Express gratitude often.

What purpose has God given you in your work? How could the skills you have be used to advance His kingdom?

How could your work be used to shape your character more into the image of Christ?

What changes about your job when you see yourself as working for God and not for men?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Worship is what happens anywhere that God is. In that sense, how could you do your job with passion and enthusiasm, and that in turn be a way you worship the Lord?

What is keeping you from doing your work "with all your heart"?

How will you leverage your job to grow spiritually and build your character?

Whom do you know who fully trusts God with their career, maybe even one that they do not enjoy? What could you learn from this person?

Do you have a personal growth plan? Does anyone else know about it to pray for you and check up with you about your progress?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

1. We close out a month-long series with this lesson. In what ways has your attitude toward your work been most significantly impacted by working through these lessons together? Think together about the ways we can continue to apply these truths to our working lives.
2. Pray that God would help you see your work from His perspective, as a place designed for your good and your growth. Ask that you would find joy in your labor and that through reflecting on the truth from this series, it would lead you to think differently about your work.

EVALUATION/ACTION **Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ**

Bottom Line: Dedicate your work to be used for God's purposes.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Matthew 20:20-28

Day 2: Ecclesiastes 2:24-25

Day 3: Ecclesiastes 2:26

Day 4: Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Day 5: Ecclesiastes 3:9-12

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)