

Ephesians- A New Way To Be Human

Part 9: New Goals

We Were Created To Work

Genesis 2:15- The LORD God took the man & put him in the garden of Eden to work it & keep it.”

Our Work No Longer Satisfies Us

Ecclesiastes 2:9-11- “So I became great & surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained w/ me. And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, & this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done & the toil I had expended in doing it, & behold, all was vanity & a striving after wind, & there was nothing to be gained under the sun.”

Our Work Is Cursed

Genesis 3:17-19- And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife & have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns & thistles it shall bring forth for you; & you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, & to dust you shall return.”

We Try To Break The Curse

Brad Pitt: “Man, I know all these things are supposed to seem important to us - the car, the condo, our version of success - but if that's the case, why is the general feeling out there reflecting more impotence & isolation & desperation & loneliness? If you ask me, I say toss all this - we gotta find something else. Because all I know is that at this point in time, we are heading for a dead end, a numbing of the soul...”

Rolling Stone: So if we're heading toward this kind of existential dead end in society, what do you think should happen?

Pitt: "Hey, man, I don't have those answers yet. The emphasis now is on success & personal gain. I'm sitting in it, & I'm telling you, that's not it. I'm the guy who's got everything. I know. But I'm telling you, once you've got everything, then you're just left w/ yourself. I've said it before & I'll say it again: it doesn't help you sleep any better, & you don't wake up any better because of it."

We Need Satisfaction:

We Need Someone Greater Than Us To Break The Curse

Ephesians 2:8-10- "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

John 6:35- "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, & whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

John 4:13-14- "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

We Get This Salvation By Resting, Not Working

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Rest Doesn't Mean Laziness

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Doing Good Works Means A Lot More Than 'Not Doing Bad Works'

Matthew 5:16- "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works & give glory to your Father who is in heaven"

There Are Good Works All Around You & Me

John 4:34-35- "Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me & to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet 4 months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes & see that the fields are white for harvest"

Colossians 3:23- "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord & not for men,"

We Don't Get As Exhausted Because These Works "Fit" Us: