

# The Church on the Move: The Gospel and Your Work

Acts 18:1-4 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 4 September 2022

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,  
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,  
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.  
– CG Mission Statement*

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**Icebreaker:** Would you rather skydive, bungee jump, or explore an uncharted cave system?

**Worship:** [Psalm 136:1-9](#) (Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation?)

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**Sermon Summary for [Acts 18:1-4](#)** (Read aloud before reading the sermon summary.)

Our Father declares His glory and shows forth His handiwork in the heavens and on earth. And He desires for us to work alongside Him in truth and beauty for the common good of His creation. But too often our work lives are broken. Our labors can be misdirected and misaligned. We devote ourselves to our work in unhealthy ways, elevating its importance above all else in our lives – even above God. Idolatry and oppression often find their home in workplaces. Thorns and thistles come up from the ground for us in our toil, as they did for Adam and Eve.

God is a worker // In the opening verses of scripture, God is at work. It's foundational to all existence, as the Almighty forms and fills the universe from nothing. He carries out His eternal plans by making the world, then rules over it with perfect wisdom and generous love. This means that work is by definition inherently good, for God is good. How rarely though, do we look at the work we do and see it as good! We fail to recognize that what we do is a privilege – a means to serve and honor the Lord. But even if our work and workplaces are broken, marred by our sin, this doesn't negate that work itself is good under God. May each of us reach a place where we love our work because we love God. And may we feel pleasure in the goodness of God as we go about our work.

All kinds of work are good under God, not just religious work // Work is inherently good for all who are God's people. And this must therefore include all kinds of work, even what we might consider simple or beneath us. Which means there is no division between sacred or secular work for Christians. Nor is any job too small if it's done for the glory of God. This is a call to integrate all of our work, all unto the glory of God. As Brother Lawrence said, "*We ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work but the love with which it is performed.*"

Trials and failures may get us in the right places to do our work for God // Paul has met resistance in Athens, and so he moves on to Corinth. Priscilla and Aquila had been driven from Rome by persecution before arriving in Corinth. Closed doors or challenges in our lives may be key hinge points for God to reset and relocate us to do his work.

Before we get to work with God, we rest with God – in God, in Jesus and in His finished work for us // The early church moved sabbath from the seventh day of the week to the first – to celebrate and honor that Christ rose on the first day. This is a picture of the truth that our rest in the Lord precedes and supersedes any working together with Him. Christ has done the great work for us. We enter Gospel rest together with Him, basking in the glories of what He has accomplished through death and resurrection – even as God basked in the glory of His original work of creation on the first Sabbath day. This means that our rest comes first with God. Our work does not define us, nor does it enhance our status before Him. And it certainly doesn't gain us entrance to God's presence. We do not have to work to justify ourselves. Christ has done the work that we might rest truly and deeply in Him.

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**Discussion Questions** (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

**God is a worker**

- What is God doing when we first meet Him in Scripture in Genesis 1?
  - Read [Gen 1:1-2:4](#) and reflect on the type of work God does and His view of it.
- How often do you think of your work as good? If not “good,” how do you regard your work?

**All kinds of work are good under God, not just religious work**

- What makes viewing work as “good” challenging?
- In what tangible ways do you feel God calling you to change your outlook?
  - Do you feel led to act and do good in your workplace? What does that look like?
- What little thing(s) does God want you to engage with for His glory?
  - Can you give an example of God doing this previously in your life?

**Trials and failures may get us in the right places to do our work for God**

- What trials or failures has God put in your work-path?
  - How has God revealed Himself to you in the midst of struggle or difficulty?
  - How has God used these trials in your life? If you are still in the midst of trials, where or how do you think God wants you to flourish?

**Before we get to work with God, we rest with God – in God, in Jesus and in His finished work for us**

- After six days of work, God rests. Why do you think God does that?
- Sunday became the new day of Sabbath for the early Christians in order to rest on the first day of the week before beginning work. How do you rest on Sunday?
  - If this is something you struggle with, as many of us do, what actions can you take to begin finding rest on the Sabbath?

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**Prayer**

This week’s Prayer Guide for personal or group use is [HERE](#).

**Engage & Experience: Prayer**

CG Discussion Guides will be provided through November 20th, the last day of our sermon series on **Acts: The Church on the Move**. As we continue our 2022 Focus on Prayer, we suggest you and your CG read a book on prayer together for the end of the year. Here are our recommendations:

- [Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God](#)  
Timothy Keller
- [Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference?](#)  
Philip Yancy
- [If God Already Knows, Why Pray?](#)  
Douglas Kelly