**Rethinking Work 1.24.21**

**I. Intro:** The church has failed to understand what the Word teaches concerning how Christians are to view our work in relationship to God.

**II. We need to “reframe”, “redefine” and “restore” work.**

**A/** **We must “reframe” work:** Understand and carry out the tasks God has given us through the “lens” of the 4 Chapter Gospel.

**1/ Creation:** God created work as good and mandates us is to steward all we have, are and do, (all our daily tasks/work), for His glory and the flourishing of others; the way things ought to be.

**2/ The Fall:** Work is now toilsome, broken, like all God’s creation. It’s not what it was meant to be.

**3/ Redemption:** Christ establishes His Kingdom, provides salvation and models how things could be, including our life tasks.

**4/ Restoration**: Christ will return to renew all things. We will be heirs and reign with Him, labor, create and worship in joy together, in the New Heavens, Earth.

**B/ We must “redefine” work**: Our work/career/activities are not just about “compensation” (pay check) but about “contribution”. We were created to contribute to God’s good world and He desires that our work be a main way we accomplish that.

**C/ We need to “restore” work:** God saves us ***from*** our sin ***to*** eternal life and **to** new life **now**. But we’re also saved **for** the purpose of doing God’s good work, alongside him … and doing it well

**III. Four reasons why work matters**

**A Work as Worship:** Our work is one of the main ways we’re to glorify and worship the Lord. 1 Cor 10:31 “ ..do all to the glory of God.” Our primary “worship sanctuaries” are wherever He places us to accomplish His purposes. There’s no “Sunday-to-Monday gap”. **B. Work & Our Spiritual Formation:** God chooses to conform us to the image of His Son in all the places where we interact with people daily; our work, family, community, with its challenges and opportunities to model Kingdom values. **“Iron Sharpens Iron**”: **C. Gospel Demonstration:** We are to model Christ’s goodness and offer a “foretaste” of the Kingdom to come by our words and actions to all those we meet, in whatever the situation or setting. **D. Gospel Proclamation**: Wherever and with whomever He places us (job, volunteering, caring for, leisure, school, etc.) is the primary “mission field” God has given us to share His love.

**IV. Five Ways to Witness Where God Places You**:

**1. Do your work/tasks with excellence:** Work with purpose, creativity, kindness and encouragement. And when you get to share the gospel, people will see how you reflect the character of your King. **2. Learn to “put God on the table**”: Let people know in natural, easygoing, confident ways that you’re a Christian. They are often more interested in spiritual things than you think. **3. Build relationships “beyond the office”** Have coffee together and share info about yourself, struggles, hopes, dreams, that encourages the other person to open up as well. Show you care about and are “for” them. **4. Use the “witness” of the church:** As you build relationships with people, look for ways to involve other believers from your church as well. Let them see what it’s like to “take faith seriously”. They’ve not seen that. **5. Have a “mission field” mindset about your activities:** One of the reasons God may have put you where He did, is so you can break into a particular “venue”/circle/ or subculture with gospel grace.