

The God of your Workplace

**Sermon Series: "Shining Like Stars"
8 March 2015**

Last week – “Work”

“Work” (Oxford Dictionary + Bible):

Activity involving mental or physical effort done in order to **produce a blessing**.

Last week – “Work”

“Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.”

Genesis 2:15 (NASB)

Work = Cultivate & Keep (take care of)
Till & Guard
Serve & Steward

Last week – “Workplace”

“The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.”

Genesis 2:8

Workplace =

- A gift from God
- Place where
 - blessing is produced
 - we spend most of our waking hours

Last week – “Workplace”

“The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.”

Gen 2:8

Where?

Wherever God has planted us until He replants us somewhere else!!

Reflection Questions

- Who am I accountable to at work?
- What is my attitude at the workplace?

Today's Scripture

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” (NIV)

“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.” (New Living Translation)

Colossians 3:22 (NIV)

“Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.”

Relationship

With employer/customer/client it is usually transactional (based on legal contract)

With God, it is a relationship with our Creator who has forgiven our sins and who says to us “I am the LORD your God.”

Isaiah 43:25 (NIV)

“I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”

Exodus 20:2 (NIV)

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.”

“I am the LORD your God”

He knows us intimately.

“God, investigate my life;
get all the facts firsthand.
I’m an open book to you;

even from a distance, you know what I’m thinking.

You know when I leave and when I get back;
I’m never out of your sight.

You know everything I’m going to say

before I start the first sentence.

I look behind me and you’re there,
then up ahead and you’re there, too -
your reassuring presence, coming and going.
This is too much, too wonderful –
I can’t take it all in!

Psalm 139: 1-6
(The Message)

“I am the LORD your God”

Sovereign.

God has plans for us.

“ For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

“I am the LORD your God”

He is ever present.

“God, investigate my life;
get all the facts firsthand.
I’m an open book to you;
even from a distance, you know what I’m thinking.
You know when I leave and when I get back;

I’m never out of your sight.

You know everything I’m going to say
before I start the first sentence.

**I look behind me and you’re there,
then up ahead and you’re there, too -
your reassuring presence, coming and going.
This is too much, too wonderful –
I can’t take it all in!**

Psalm 139: 1-6
(The Message)

Christ, our Master

“Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

Luke 9:23 (NIV)

Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy
Spirit,

thou art mine, and I am thine.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

Wesley's Covenant Prayer

**Let me be employed for thee
or laid aside for thee**

“...work with all your heart”

“Whatever you do, work at it **with all your heart**, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

Colossians 3:23, NIV

Work “heartily” - **Out from the soul**

Matthew 5:14 (NIV)

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

“... working for the Lord”

Right Relationship	God who: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• knows us intimately (Ps 139:1-6)• who is sovereign (Jer 29:11)• who is ever present (Ps 139:1-6)
Right Focus	Deny ourselves, follow Christ (Mat 6:24), (Lk 9:23)
Right Attitude	Work heartily for God (Col 3:23) Serve others - Light of the world (Mat 5:14)

Our lives are to be transformed

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to **offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God** - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Peter Tsukahira

“The essence of worship is found in decisions made every day in small ways as large – decisions to bow down, surrender and yield to your heavenly Father. This is true worship and it can take place at any time of the day, whatever your occupation, whenever and wherever you decide to turn your heart toward Him. God’s plan is to build a community of worshippers who are disciplined in honouring Him in the marketplace. He desires that the workplace become an environment of spiritual intimacy and union with God rather than a labyrinth of alienation, cutthroat competition, and idolatry. True worship will always mean submitting to God’s highest and best will for your life”.

Luke 5:4-6 (NIV)

“When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

Simon answered, “Master, **we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything**. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.”

Luke 5:4-6 (NIV)

“When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. **But because you say so, I will let down the nets.**” When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.”

Luke 5:11 (NIV)

“So they pulled their boats up on shore, **left everything and followed him.**”

Story:
Lead me to the Rock

*“You haven’t
asked me for help”*

Transformed lives at the workplace

Right Relationship	God who: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• knows us intimately• who is sovereign• who is ever present	Worship Obedience Rest
Right Focus	Deny ourselves, follow Christ	
Right Attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work heartily for God• Serve others - Light of the world	

Transformed lives at the workplace

Worship
Obedience
Rest

King

At the starting line...

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,”

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)