



2 OCT 2022 | LAM ZHENG XIN THE THEOLOGY OF WORK | VARIOUS PASSAGES

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

- Have a better understanding of why we work and how we should work
- Have practical steps on how to turn their work into worship.

SERMON SUMMARY

As believers, we should have a correct view (theological framework) of work:

- a) Work is good, it is part of God's perfect design for us. ([Genesis 2:8 & 15](#))
- b) As a result of the fall, Scripture says that work became burdensome, especially because we work with fallen people ([Genesis 3:17-19](#)). Work is not the curse. The thorns and thistles of work is the curse.
- c) Because of the cross, the motivation, purpose and character we carry in our workplaces should carry a redemptive nature ([Romans 6:18-23, 2 Corinthians 5:17](#))
- d) In heaven, there will still be work. But the work will be enjoyable, fulfilling and life-giving ([Revelation 21:1-5](#))

SERMON RECAP

We are disciples of Christ not just on Sundays, but on Mondays to Saturdays as well. Just as our church services and cell group meetings are meant to be holy ground, our workplaces are also meant to be set apart for God.

Your work would make no sense to you, unless you put it into some kind of narrative. Our society provides a few cultural narratives:

1. Work is a means to an end - Its only value is to provide income and bring food to the table.
2. Work is a necessary evil - I work so that I can look forward to the weekend.
3. Work as self-fulfilment/self-actualisation - I find my worth in my work/I find my identity in my work.
4. Secular work has value to the degree it supports sacred work.



Scripture gives us a Biblical narrative for our work – Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration. The speaker provided us with a theological framework of work:

- a) **Work is good, it is part of God’s perfect design for us. (Genesis 2:8 & 15)**
- In the original creation, God made man to work. Creation was not presented as a finished product in Genesis.
 - From God’s perspective, the world needs work: it needs to be filled, to be ruled over, to be subdued, to be placed in order. And God has appointed man to do this important work.
 - Therefore, work has always been part of God’s perfect creation.
- b) **As a result of the fall, Scripture says that work became burdensome, especially because we work with fallen people (Genesis 3:17-19).**
- As a result of the fall, Scripture tells us that work will now become burdensome.
 - Work is also difficult because we work with fallen people, and we ourselves are fallen.
 - Work is not the curse. The thorns and thistles of work is the curse.
- c) **Because of the cross, the motivation, purpose and character we carry in our workplaces should carry a redemptive nature (Romans 6:18-23, 2 Corinthians 5:17)**
- Jesus has set us free from the power of sin – this should transform the way we work – the character we carry into our workplaces, the motivation for our work and the purpose of our work.
 - As a new creation, we are already part of God’s restoration plan to bring all of creation back to what it once was, where work would be a gift, without the thorns and thistles that sin has corrupted work to be.
- d) **In the new heaven and earth, there will still be work. But the work will be enjoyable, fulfilling and life-giving (Revelation 21:1-5)**
- At the end of history, there will be a new heaven and a new earth.
 - We will continue to rule and reign with Christ – stewarding this new creation with God and working to bring about its prosperity and well-being.
 - There will be work in the new heaven and new earth.

There are 2 application points that were provided during the sermon:

- a) **Our work becomes worship when it is done unto the Lord (Colossians 3:22-24)**
- When we work, we need to remember the bigger story line, that we are participating in the creation mandate.
 - We need to understand that the work we do pleases God, and that is why we can do this unto the Lord. This is why we can work, as working for the Lord, and not for human masters
- b) **Our work becomes worship when it is done with kingdom values**
- This means that God is our ultimate master, and the way we do our work should be aligned to his value system, the value system of the Kingdom of God.
 - God desires us to do our work excellently, with all of our heart, because we are working for Him.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Share with the cell your current approach towards your work. Do you look forward to it? Do you think you are being God’s “light” in your workplace? Is there a purpose in your work in light of the kingdom?**

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question. This question is meant to help members to process through their work journey so far and if they are intentional in their work. You can encourage and challenge your members to turn their work into worship by doing it for the Lord and working with kingdom values.

Transition

Our approach towards work will change if we see work in light of God’s kingdom and His values.

2. **Zheng Xin shared that as redeemed people, we have been set free from the power of sin and this should transform how we work. Why is it then that so many believers still struggle to work in a way that brings glory to God?**

Leader's Notes

This is a reflect question. Although we have all been saved, there are still the principalities of the kingdom of darkness actively at work in the world. They tempt and seduce believers away from their identity in Christ and their God-given destiny. As a result, many Christians fall into the temptation of sin, and cannot glorify God through their work.

Transition

Therefore, it is critical that all of us are constantly alert to the schemes of the enemy and his work to distract us from who we are in Christ.

3. **In light of that, what is one thing you need to change in your approach towards work in order to turn your work into worship?**

Leader's Notes

This is a response question. Having a practical step forward will help your members to change their approach towards work so that it can become worship unto the Lord.

Closing

God desires that we become salt and light in the world today. One key area where this can happen is in our workplaces. May we His salt and light in our workplaces through how we work and the values we carry.



PRAYER

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- For us to turn our work into worship by instilling kingdom values in our work
- For us to have a kingdom motivation towards our work.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Pray for God's protection especially from the Omicron variant.
- Pray that the community cases will be low.

3. World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Pray for peace especially in areas of conflict (Ukraine) and potential conflict – China & Taiwan.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **Pulpit Series** – Worship at Work. This series will help to address the misconceptions we may have towards work and help us to become salt and light in our workplaces.

- 2 Oct – The Theology of Work
- 9 Oct – The Idolatry of Work
- 16 Oct – The Testimony of Work

2. **Leaders Advance 2022**. 3-5 November. More details and registration here: rlc.sg/la2022

3. **Global Hunger Fund**. This fund will go towards RLC's mission partners to help their local churches and communities gain access to food amid soaring costs. Refer to the [Digital Bulletin](#) for more details.

4. **Children's Day Book Gift Sets**. Missions from Home (MFH) are selling children's day book gift sets to help families in Myanmar with food and necessities. Link: rlc.sg/mfhm-book

5. RiverLife Kindergarten

- RLC has vacancies for Chinese Teachers. If you wish to apply, please send your resume to Mrs Tan Oi Leng (oileng@riverlifekindergarten.org.sg).
- RLC are looking for volunteers for their Annual Concert and K2 Graduation. Full Dress Rehearsal – Thu, 10 Nov, 8am-1pm. Concert & Graduation – 12 Nov, 9am – 12pm. Contact: 65114168

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6. **Updated Safe Management Measure.** Mask wearing for indoor worship services and religious classes is now optional. All worshippers and performers can sing and play instruments without wearing masks. For services involving more than 500 persons (excluding religious workers, performers and supporting workers), worshippers must be fully vaccinated (present vaccination status upon entry).
 7. **RiverLife Missions Upcoming Trips.** Signup: rlc.sg/signupformissions.
 - Arise and Shine Church Pastors & Leaders Conference. Pangasinan, North Philippines. 9-14 November. Cost: \$800.
 8. **Call for Musicians and Vocalists.** The Worship & Music ministry is on the lookout for musicians and vocalists – keyboardist, electric guitarist, bassist, drummer and singers. If you are interested, you can sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Do note that an audition will be required before joining the ministry.
 9. **Call for SuperLife Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Immediate needs:
 - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
 - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
 10. **F&B Related Ministries Recruitment.** We're looking for RiverLifers who love connecting with new people and enjoy cooking and serving. Team members will serve once a month. For more details Karen Koh (Welcome Lounge) at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg and Jonathan Cho (The Café and Volunteers Corner) at jonathancho@riverlife.org.sg.
 11. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our [digital bulletin](#) for more details.
 12. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:
 - You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: rlc.sg/rcs2022.
 - You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our



beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at office@rcs.org.sg.

- RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items – toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at volunteer@rcs.org.sg.
- RCS is looking for 20 Food Collection Helper/Driver that is able to help with the loading/unloading of fresh food items at blocks where we are reaching out to. Commitment: Minimally once a month for 6 months, Saturdays, 12-4pm. Contact: rlcares@rcs.org.sg.

13. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search **'The RiverLife Podcast'** on Spotify.
14. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
15. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is open from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday for children 24 months and below. *NO booking of tickets is required.*
16. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
17. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
18. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

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