

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In Ephesians 6:5–9, Paul teaches you that your work matters to God more than you may realize. Even though this passage was written into a culture where bondservants and masters existed, the gospel begins to transform those relationships from the inside out by reminding every person that they are accountable to God. Whether you work at a job, attend school, lead a team, care for children, or serve behind the scenes, God sees your faithfulness. Your work is not only about earning a paycheck or completing tasks; it is an opportunity to worship Christ with integrity, purpose, and humility. When you surrender ordinary responsibilities to God, He uses them for His glory and for the good of others.

MAIN POINTS

- 1. Work with Integrity (Ephesians 6:5–6).** Your job may have an earthly boss, but you have a heavenly audience. God cares about how you work, not just what you accomplish. Integrity means you honor Christ even when no one else is watching. You are not called to be a “people-pleaser,” but a Christ-follower. Your earthly authority may supervise you, but your true audience is God. God created you for good works that reflect His character (Ephesians 2:10, 6:5–6).
- 2. Serve with Purpose (Ephesians 6:7–8).** Ordinary tasks can make an extraordinary impact. Every task can become an act of worship when done for Jesus. God sees faithful service that others overlook. Small acts of obedience can have eternal impact. Your purpose is not found only in a career title, but in glorifying God. You can serve joyfully because your reward ultimately comes from the Lord (Colossians 3:23–24; 1 Corinthians 10:31).
- 3. Lead with Humility (Ephesians 6:9).** Authority is about stewardship, not superiority. Biblical leadership is about serving others, not controlling them. Every leader is also under God’s authority. God shows no partiality between positions or titles. Leadership is influence that helps people move toward a common purpose. You can lead by example through your words, actions, love, faith, and purity (Mark 10:43–45; 1 Timothy 4:12).

Big Idea: Your work has an earthly assignment, but a heavenly calling.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What does Ephesians 6:5–9 teach you about God’s view of work?** Possible Answer: God sees work as more than a temporary responsibility. He calls you to honor Him through faithful service, integrity, and humility because your work can become worship when done for Christ (Ephesians 6:5–9; Colossians 3:23–24).
- 2. How does the gospel begin to undermine slavery and human superiority in this passage?** Possible Answer: Paul reminds both bondservants and masters that they share the same Master in heaven. The gospel teaches that every person has equal value before God and is united in Christ (Philemon 16; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 6:9).
- 3. Where are you tempted to work for people’s approval instead of God’s approval?** Possible Answer: You may work harder when others are watching but lose motivation when no one notices. God calls you to serve faithfully because He always sees your heart (Ephesians 6:6; Proverbs 15:3).

GOSPEL CONNECTION

The gospel reminds you that Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for sinners. Every person has failed to work perfectly for God’s glory. You may struggle with laziness, pride, selfish ambition, bitterness, dishonesty, or using authority in harmful ways. Yet Jesus lived with perfect integrity, served with complete obedience, and humbled Himself even to death on a cross so that sinners could be forgiven and made new.

If you are a believer, repent of the ways you have disconnected your work from worship. Ask God to renew your heart so that you can serve faithfully for His glory, whether anyone notices or not. Depend on the Holy Spirit to help you honor Christ through your attitude, effort, and leadership.

If you are not yet following Jesus, recognize that your deepest need is not simply better motivation or greater purpose; it is reconciliation with God. Turn from your sin and place your faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Through Him, you can receive forgiveness, a new identity, and a new purpose that reaches far beyond temporary success.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Monday — Work with Integrity

Key Verse: *“Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ.” (Ephesians 6:5)*

Reflection: God cares deeply about the condition of your heart while you work. It is easy to work hard only when someone is watching, but Jesus calls you to live with integrity even when no one notices. Because Christ sees every act of faithfulness, your unseen obedience is never wasted.

Application Question: How can you honor God with integrity in a place where no one else may notice?

Possible Answer: You can choose honesty, diligence, and faithfulness in your responsibilities even when recognition is absent or you have become apathetic because your true audience is the Lord.

Prayer Response: Lord, help me work with a sincere heart today. Change me from the inside. Guard me from seeking only the approval of people or sitting in apathy, and teach me to honor You through integrity, faithfulness, and obedience, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Tuesday — Created for Good Works

Key Verse: *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...” (Ephesians 2:10)*

Reflection: God intentionally created you with purpose and value. Even ordinary responsibilities like studying, parenting, cleaning, helping others, or working a job can become opportunities to glorify Him. Your work is not meaningless when it is surrendered to Christ.

Application Question: What ordinary responsibility can you approach as an act of worship this week?

Possible Answer: You can approach daily responsibilities with gratitude and excellence, remembering that God can use small acts of faithfulness for eternal impact.

Prayer Response: Father, thank You for creating me with purpose. Help me remember that every task matters when it is done for Your glory. Give me joy and perseverance in the work You have placed before me today, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Wednesday — Serve with Purpose

Key Verse: *“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.” (Colossians 3:23)*

Reflection: Your purpose is greater than simply finishing tasks or earning success. God calls you to serve with a willing heart because your work ultimately belongs to Him. Even when your efforts feel unnoticed, the Lord sees and rewards faithful service.

Application Question: What would change if you truly viewed your work as service to Jesus?

Possible Answer: You would likely work with greater joy, patience, and faithfulness because your motivation would come from pleasing Christ instead of pleasing people.

Prayer Response: Lord, help me serve with purpose today. Remind me that my work matters because it can honor You and bless others. Strengthen me to serve wholeheartedly in every responsibility You give me, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Thursday — Lead with Humility

Key Verse: *“Whoever would be great among you must be your servant.” (Mark 10:43)*

Reflection: Biblical leadership is not about power, status, or superiority. Jesus modeled leadership through humility, compassion, and service. Whether you lead at work, at home, at church, or among friends, God calls you to influence others with grace and humility.

Application Question: How can you serve someone instead of simply trying to control a situation?

Possible Answer: You can listen carefully, encourage others, offer help, and use your influence to build people up rather than focus only on your own preferences.

Prayer Response: Lord, protect me from pride and selfish ambition. Teach me to lead like Jesus by serving others with humility, wisdom, and love. Help me reflect Your character in every relationship today, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Friday — Your Work Has a Heavenly Calling

Key Verse: *“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)*

Reflection: The gospel changes the way you see your everyday life. Because Jesus saved you and gave you new life, your work can now become worship. No task is too small to matter when it is done for the glory of God and empowered by His grace.

Application Question: What is one way you can intentionally glorify God through your work today?

Possible Answer: You can show kindness, pursue excellence, speak with integrity, and serve others with a Christlike attitude in every responsibility you face.

Prayer Response: Heavenly Father, thank You for giving my life eternal purpose through Jesus Christ. Help me glorify You in both big and small responsibilities. May my work point others to Your goodness, faithfulness, and grace, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.