

Sermon Outline

“BETTER TO GO TO A FUNERAL THAN A WEDDING” | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Ecc 7:1-6; 1 Cor 15:50-58

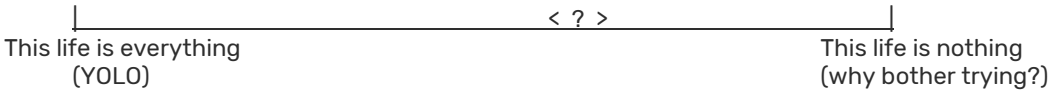
Ecc 1:2 “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

=> “meaningless” = fleeting/fading/passing away ≠ futile/pointless/worthless

- 3 interpretive keys in Ecclesiastes:
 - the passage of time (1:3-11)
 - the inevitability of death (11:7-12:9)
 - the reality of judgment (12:9-14)

Ecc 7:2 It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart.

Ps 90:12 Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

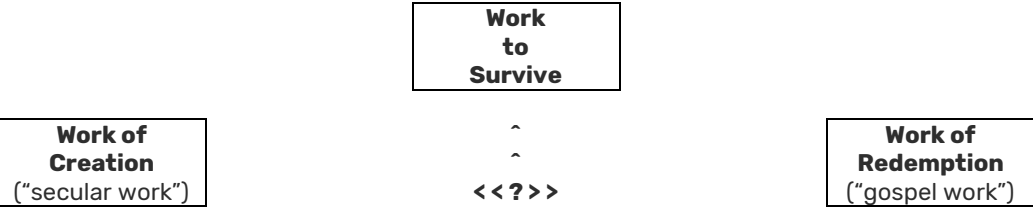


- “God has set eternity in the human heart” (Ecc 3:11)
- “treasure as a firm foundation for the coming age” (1 Tim 6:19)
- “treasures in heaven” (Mt 6:19-21)
- “an inheritance which can never perish, spoil or fade” (1 Pet 1:3)

1 Cor 15:50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” 55 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

- Deep Dive (Nov 14)
- “work” vs “ministry”

Why do Christians “go to work”?



2 Thess 3:7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. 9 We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”

Gen 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Gen 3:17 To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

- Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna supported Jesus “out of their own means” (Lk 8:1-3)
- Priscilla and Aquilla (Rom 16:5), Nympha (Col 4:5), Philemon (Phm 1:2), Lydia (Acts 16) allowed whole churches to meet in their homes
- Barnabas sold land and gave the proceeds to the church (Acts 4)

For discussion: where are you on the triangle? What might cause you to change?

Recommended Reading
Peter Orr, “The Work of the Lord”, <http://thebriefing.com.au/2014/09/the-work-of-the-lord/>
William Taylor, *Revolutionary Work: What’s the point of the 9 to 5?* (2016)