

Session #2: HOW TO USE THE BIBLE'S "FRAMEWORK STRUCTURE" TO DISCOVER GOD'S VIEWPOINT OF LABOR AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR ALL OF LIFE

I. Review and Introduction

Either _____ or _____ controls interpretation of the situation!

Which events in God's "show-and-tell" historical revelation are needed to interpret the _____ matter of labor and its implications?

II. Creation & Labor

A. Foundational questions under the political chatter.

Metaphysical question: *What is the _____ of your and my life? What is the nature of _____?*

All the labours of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and .. the whole temple of Man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruin – all these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain, that no philosophy that rejects them can hope to stand. Only within the scaffolding of these truths, only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul's habitation henceforth be safely built." Bertrand Russell, "A Free Man's Religion" (1903) essay in Mysticism and Logic (1917) pg. 45-46

Epistemological question: *Can I find truth, real truth? How can I tell if what you're telling me is true?*

Ethical question: *Who is your moral _____? What is your _____ of value?*

Ethical and values relativism:

Usual Arguments for:

- (1) circumstances differ from person to person and from generation to generation – "old school" argument
- (2) "who are we to impose *our* moral sentiments upon others?" It's intolerant to assume we somehow have a _____ so we can impose it upon others

Problems: Consequences in everyday life that follow clash with reality.

- (1) Says nothing about actions or objects themselves, only autobiographical expressions lacking basis for moral outrage over evil actions or belief in objective value.
- (2) Self-refuting since every person inevitably experiences others' judgments of him or his labor to which he objects as "unfair." ("Bible" vs. "pornography" dilemma → free-market problem left over from Adam Smith)
- (3) Resulting anarchy leads to totalitarian imposition of the judgments of the stronger against the weaker to avoid social chaos or to a centralized "pricing" system that controls property, wealth levels, according to the elite's imputing of value

B. **Genesis 1:1-2:3;** God as the 1st laborer

He had a plan so lesson for us is (1) **Luke 14:28-30** "which of you intending to build a tower does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him..."") but we're not God so (2) **Jas 4:13-16** "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit' whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.'" [To thrive labor requires an _____]

He created so being in His image, we possess _____ can improve and innovate. [We cope with labor boredom by placing our work in the "big picture"]

He spoke the universe into existence so we respect our capacity for language to discover His design in our environment and situation. [Here is why integrity of language in science and accounting and contracts must correspond with reality]

Labor Day Conference—2010
LOOKING AT LABOR & ITS REWARDS FROM GOD’S PERSPECTIVE

The analogy with God’s labor negates the pagan view of labor as worthless and meaningless; it creates lasting value.

He defined human labor in the Dominion Mandate (**1:28**)-All labor is to be viewed as an aspect of man’s corporate dominion. [*Man is the steward of nature to care for it, but he is to bring nature into its full productive potential in contrast to the “preservation” theme in modern environmentalism*]

He subjectively imputed value to his work that fit perfectly its objective value because He knows its purpose, meaning, and destiny. [*Human beings subjectively impute value without knowing its ultimate purpose, meaning, and destiny so such imputation is always approximate*]

He finished his work and rested. [*We are to rest optimally 1:7 to our work*]

C. **Genesis 2:4-25**; Man’s life of labor expounded
The garden was a “local training camp” and meeting place with God; all outside was _____wilderness

Naming fulfills the divine game of “hide-and-seek”: Prov 25:2 “It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings to search out a matter.”

Woman is “etzer” defined in terms of dominion that requires the first division of labor. [*division of labor increases economic efficiency*]

The nuclear family vs. the grand patriarchal quasi-tribal family puts the responsibility upon the husband. [*the _____ is the unit of dominion, not the “independent nomadic-cowboy”*]

III. Conclusion

Answering the metaphysical question: the meaning/purpose of my labor is that it is God’s _____ for me in His creation to fulfill His plan (solid base for social and economic growth and a pattern for the saving role of the Lord Jesus Christ)

Answering the epistemological question: we go to God’s historic verbal explanations, assignments, illustrations, and commands. Also, revelation saves tremendous _____ on the learning curve and social policies.

Answering the ethical/valuing question (next talk)

