

Session #7: THE ULTIMATE VALUE OF OUR LABOR

I. Introduction & Review:

A. Using the framework approach we have looked at God's historic revelation concerning the most of the players in labor and pricing:

B. Our findings so far concerning the "cause-effect" of labor:

1. Our labor an analog of God's labor, therefore. . . creates value and reveals character.
2. The Sabbatical principle of periodic rest is to remind us that. . . .
3. Envy expresses anger at God for what one thinks is the value of his present situation (capacities & wealth consequences of past choices) compared to what is perceived to be the value of others' situations.
4. Theft springs forth from envy and is an attempt to gain value independently of God's design. Thieves believe in the zero-sum game... .
5. The family is the normative unit of labor (due to the division of labor between the male and female), the possessor of labor's fruit in private property and children, the educator of the next generation, the welfare source of the elderly, and the compounder of material and spiritual wealth into an ongoing inheritance.
6. The end of all labor isn't material wealth; it is more life— more godly children, more time for enjoying revelation of Him and helping others toward that goal.

II. The link between our labor and what is going on in heaven

A. What is going on in heaven throughout the Church Age? (**Heb 1:13; 2:5-9; Rev 5**)

Q #1:

Q#2:

Q#3: (**Deut 32:1** & later prophets; **Eph 3:10; Rev 2-3; Eph 6:10-20** cf **Isa 59:15-19**)

B. Our labor here on earth

Taking dominion over our rebellious flesh

Standing by faith against every trial .

Includes our economic labors by trusting that its **value** is recognized by God if not by the price men put on it (**Eph 6:5-9**)

C. The ultimate value of our work will be decided by God at the Bema Seat judgment (**1 Cor 3:12-15; 2 Cor 5:9-11**)

III. Encouragement to center on the family enterprise

A. The divine model of social progress and redemption not a kingdom but a marriage & family (note 1 Cor 5:5 analogy with Deut 15:15-21)

B. Social survival in a collapsing culture will center on the family (backup is the church **1 Tim 5:3-4**)