

Oakland Church of Christ Sermon Series
Sunday, January 2, 9, 16, 23

Bible Class 9 AM
Worship Service 10 AM

PRIORITIES



1. GOD
2. FAMILY
3. Work

God Expects Us to Work

- **Genesis 2:15** - ¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Old Testament

- **Leviticus 23:22** - ²² “And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.”

New Testament

- **Colossians 3:23-24** - ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

We Are To Be Productive

- We are not to be idle and lazy – but to work and be productive.
- **2 Thessalonians 3:10-12** - ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

WE ARE NOT TO CONSUMED WITH MATERIALISM

- **Matthew 6:19-21** - ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- **Luke 12:15** - And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”
- **1 Timothy 6:6-7** - ⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

3 Methods to Prioritize Work

1. Honesty – Honest Work
2. Bless Others – Set the Example
3. Honor God With Your Work

Honesty – Honest Work

- **Matthew 6:24** - ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

From Whom Are You Seeking Approval?

- **Galatians 1:10** - ¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Work Goals

- Do my goals align with the teachings of the Bible?
- **Psalm 19:14** - Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

HONEST WORK VS DISHONEST GAIN

- **Proverbs 11:6-8** - ⁶The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust.
⁷When the wicked dies, his hope will perish,
and the expectation of wealth perishes too.
⁸The righteous is delivered from trouble,
and the wicked walks into it instead.

A Good Name

- **Proverbs 22:1** - A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.
- How will YOU be remembered for YOUR work?
- What will people say and think when they hear your name associated with your work?

Bless Others – Set the Example

- **Philippians 2:3-4** - ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- **1 Peter 4:10** - ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace

FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

- **Matthew 20:26(b)-28** - But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

OPPRESSING THE NEEDY/POOR FOR PROFIT

- **Proverbs 14:31** - Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.
- **1 Timothy 6:9** - ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

A LEGACY OF LOVE AND SERVICE

- **Galatians 6:8-10** - ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Treat People with Respect

- **James 5:9-10** - ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.

Honor God With Your Work

- **Proverbs 3:9-10** - Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

YOUR HONORING GOD BRINGS LIGHT TO DARKNESS

- **Matthew 5:16** - ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ **In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**

Psalm 1 - Blessed is the man

who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,

nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

² but his delight is in the law of the Lord,

and on his law he meditates day and night.

³ He is like a tree

planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,

and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

⁴ The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶ for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked will perish.