



I've Been Thinking about . . . Vocation by Pastor Chris

Labor Day presents a good time to reflect upon the question, "What is work?" Our lives will be bettered by an understanding of the labor to which we devote so many of our days, abilities, and energies.

Is work "just a job"? Do we go to work with the goal of "making it through the day"? Do we work to pay the bills, get ahead, and become successful? Or is our work something Beyond all that?

We rightfully describe our work as our vocation. Our English word "vocation" comes from the Latin word *vocatio*, which means "calling." Thus, our job is not "just a job." Our work is our *vocatio*, our calling from God.

Our calling from God—that understanding of work carries joyous implications!

Since our work is our calling from God, our work is sacred.

The distinction between sacred and secular disappears in the workplace. The plumber, the teacher, the farmer, the homemaker, the accountant, the electrician, the doctor, the businessperson, the nurse, the manager, the cashier, the mechanic, the engineer—each fulfills a calling from God, and thus, their work is as sacred as that of the pastor and the missionary.

Since our work is our calling from God, we work to honor God by fulfilling the calling that he has entrusted to us. Our work goal is to honor God by fulfilling our *vocatio* from him. We serve God not only in our church, but also in our workplace. Thus, we work to the best of our abilities, by his enabling grace, as unto the Lord.

In making the biblical case for the sacredness of work as *vocatio*, Dorothy Sayers urges:

The Church's approach to an intelligent carpenter is usually confined to exhorting him not to be drunk and disorderly in his leisure hours, and to come to church on Sundays. What the Church *should* be telling him is this: that the very first demand that his religion makes on him is that he should make good tables.

Church by all means, and decent forms of amusement certainly—but what use is all that if in his life and occupation he is insulting God with bad carpentry? No crooked table legs or ill-fitting drawers ever, I dare swear, came out of the carpenter's shop at Nazareth.¹

When you understand your job to be your *vocatio* from God, you do more than the minimum just to get by. You honor God by doing your very best work.

Since our work is our calling from God, we serve him in our work as bearers of his image. As God's image-bearers, we have been given dominion over his earth (Gen 1:26-28). Thus, the purpose of our *vocatio* is to exercise stewardship over that which belongs to God.

Genesis 2:15 says, "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." Work is not part of the curse, but a consequence of creation in its original perfection. Adam was to work God's garden and take care of it. Since work is not a result of the Fall but a ramification of creation, then work is part of God's perfect design for his image bearers. Thus, work is not a curse to be endured but a privilege to be enjoyed! We have the joyous privilege of working as faithful stewards of that which is God's!

Everything belongs to God, and the purpose of work is to take care of that which is his. The financial services professional takes care of God's money. The plumber takes care of God's pipes. The homemaker takes care of God's

“Are We Focused?”

Associate Pastor of Ministry Advancement & Adult Ministries
Howard Lundeen

A couple months ago I began my article by quoting Bill Hybels who has said, “*There is nothing as exciting in life as befriending, loving, and leading wayward people toward faith in Christ.*” The Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:13-14 says, “*But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*” Paul’s delight and focus in life was to bring the gospel of Christ to those who had not heard. He passionately wanted them to understand the truth. Paul speaks of his crown and joy when the Lord returns as those people who have come to saving faith in Christ, believers who are prepared to meet the Lord Jesus.

As I view our nation today, I know of no greater need than people hearing and believing the gospel of Christ. We could have no greater call than that of making Christ and the truth of his gospel known. The great commission of making disciples of every nation still is “The Great Commission!” All of us are prone to placing too much faith in man, government, wealth, or other things. As Christians, we know that our only hope is in Jesus Christ. More than anything, America needs a change of heart. The fear of the Lord must return and we must recognize our sovereign God for whom He is, the One and Only God before whom we all will bow some day. We are powerless to transform a heart, but heart transformation is God’s specialty! Let’s pray fervently for revival and devote ourselves to the exciting challenge of introducing our family, friends and neighbors to Jesus Christ.

God has given to us the glorious gospel of Christ, the limitless power of the Holy Spirit, the authority of his Name, and a marvelous facility to work out of. With these, and armed with the truth of God’s Word, let’s unite as one to fight the good fight and claim the victory that is ours in Christ. Let’s focus our efforts and labors of love on reaching the lost and making disciples of Jesus Christ. Surely there is no greater reward than knowing that God has used us to help people come to saving faith in Him! By God’s grace let us remain focused on God and extending his kingdom.

Open House Celebration Sunday: What a wonderful day God provided for us! The weather was perfect and we had about 600 people stop by. Thanks to all of you who worked in preparation for this celebration, to all who served as volunteer workers on Sunday, August 19th, and to all of you who attended and invited friends to come. We were truly blessed by the many conversations we were able to have with community people. I believe God was honored and seeds of interest planted. It is my prayer that God will enable these seeds to grow, causing many people to further seek Him.

New Life Groups: If you stopped by the Small Group display at the open house, I trust you became aware of some new opportunities for involvement in Life Groups this fall. We hope to begin several new groups in September. Our plan is to have a 7-week “Sermon Series” set of Life Groups beginning the week of September 16th. People will gather together in homes to further discuss the sermon topic from the previous Sunday. The sermon series is entitled “God and America”.

Also, we plan to start a “Seeker” Life Group series. If you are rather weary of Christianity as you know it and would like to have some critical questions answered, a “Seeker” Life Group may be just what you need. These groups will discuss the foundational biblical truths and disciplines related to our Christian faith. The desire is to see “head-knowledge” become “heart-knowledge” which is being lived out every day in our lives. Check the Information Booth for further information.

Seeking to know Him & make Him known,
Pastor Howard

the Pulse: Thoughts from the Heart.

by: Pastor Zach Marino

Does this water look clean to you? For my dog Cooper, it's like the cleanest, purest water he can find! When he sees this water gushing from the spout, he sometimes starts drinking it right from the spout! It's refreshing to him on a very hot day. Yet, it's also a required nutrient for his body to keep healthy. A dog's body contains about 70% water and thus needs it to survive. So, I must make sure Cooper has plenty of water to drink in a given day. What kind of water should I give him though? I mean, does it really matter to him? Won't he just drink anything that cools him off? It could even look like this..



Yes, I catch him filling his doggy body with this black, nasty, grimy, warm water as I'm walking around the corner with fresh, crisp, and clean water. I find myself telling him "Cooper, no!" I re-direct him to the source of this very cool,

rejuvenating water. What intrigues me the most is this dog is smart. He knows when I am going to fill up his water dish, yet he continues to go the pail of dirty water, drink a little and then wait for the fresh stuff to come. Can't he eventually figure out that once he sees his water dish go, he should wait like 20sec and just get all pure water his doggy body desires? Then, of course, I am reminded of how much I am like Cooper when it comes to my relationship with God.

God knows the right amount of spiritual nutrients I need to stay healthy and vibrant. God knows the right time I need that life-giving fill. God loves me enough to daily offer himself to me as the source of life. Yet, daily I find myself going to the bucket of dirty water for a quick fix, while knowing all along what I really need is God himself. I'm stubborn though. I keep dipping into the bucket, getting a temporary fill and then God, full of grace, still showers me with Himself, reminding me of how silly it was for me to even consider drinking from any other source than Himself.

What's the hard part of this? Just like Cooper, every day he goes to the bucket looking for water, he develops a reliance on water always being in that bucket for his quick fix. Yet the source of that water isn't in the bucket. The source of true life flows from the nature and person of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. I must fight the temptation to rely on the "quick fixes" because one day, those "fixes" will backfire and won't be there anymore. God will remain forever. God will never cut you off from the source of life if you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ. It is very clear in Jeremiah 2:13 of this truth: "*My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.*"

Continued on page 6

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Upcoming Events!!!



FALL BIBLE STUDIES:

*Registration and sign up sheets for all studies are at the Information Booth
Please register for studies by August 26*

WOMEN'S THURSDAY EVENINGS

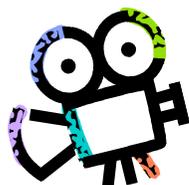
Jesus, the One & Only by Beth Moore
Begins Thursday, Sept. 6th, 7-9pm
Cost of study is \$18

WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNINGS

Beloved Disciple by Beth Moore
Begins Monday, Sept. 10th, 10-noon
Cost of study is \$18

Jude - Precepts Bible Study

Open to everyone
Begins Monday, September 10th
Meets Monday evenings 6:30-8:30
Workbook is \$12.50



LADIES' MOVIE NIGHT

Truth Be Told
A lighthearted romantic comedy
Friday, October 5th 7:00pm



COFFEE & CONVERSATION



Monday, September 18th 7 - 9:00 pm

At the home of Mary Milton – 18855 N Tetonka Lake Lane, Waterville

BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY

The Isaiah 9:10 Judgement
Saturday, October 13th 9-11:00am
Breakfast will be served promptly at 9:00am





MAKS is an organization for mothers of young children. We desire to minister to the hearts of mothers and to encourage and nurture them in their personal and family lives.



September 18
"Coast into Fall"
 Join us for our first day of MAKS. We'll be making a coaster craft. Come and enjoy conversation and lunch with other moms!

Join us on the first & third Tuesdays of each month, in the Fireside Room, from 10:00am to noon.



Next Man Up Notes

We are in a 7-month series looking at the seven deadly sins. Join us the second Saturday of each month from 7:30-9:00am as we look at the following subjects: September 8 - Lust and October 13 - Gluttony. As always, the notes from the forums are available online at jmnexmanup.weebly.com.

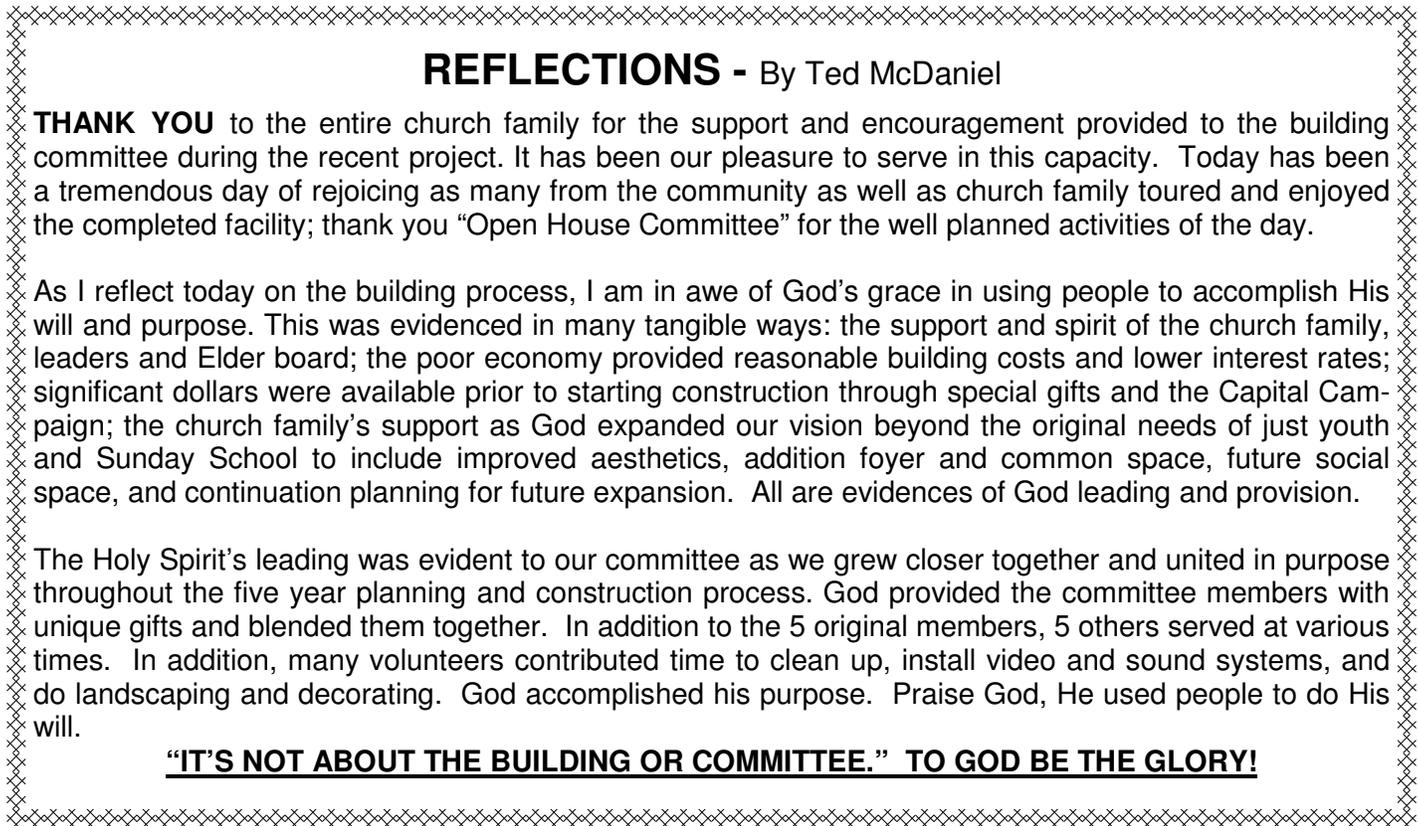
REFLECTIONS - By Ted McDaniel

THANK YOU to the entire church family for the support and encouragement provided to the building committee during the recent project. It has been our pleasure to serve in this capacity. Today has been a tremendous day of rejoicing as many from the community as well as church family toured and enjoyed the completed facility; thank you "Open House Committee" for the well planned activities of the day.

As I reflect today on the building process, I am in awe of God's grace in using people to accomplish His will and purpose. This was evidenced in many tangible ways: the support and spirit of the church family, leaders and Elder board; the poor economy provided reasonable building costs and lower interest rates; significant dollars were available prior to starting construction through special gifts and the Capital Campaign; the church family's support as God expanded our vision beyond the original needs of just youth and Sunday School to include improved aesthetics, addition foyer and common space, future social space, and continuation planning for future expansion. All are evidences of God leading and provision.

The Holy Spirit's leading was evident to our committee as we grew closer together and united in purpose throughout the five year planning and construction process. God provided the committee members with unique gifts and blended them together. In addition to the 5 original members, 5 others served at various times. In addition, many volunteers contributed time to clean up, install video and sound systems, and do landscaping and decorating. God accomplished his purpose. Praise God, He used people to do His will.

"IT'S NOT ABOUT THE BUILDING OR COMMITTEE." TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



Continued from page 1 *I've Been Thinking about . . . Vocation*

home. The parent takes care of God's children. The educator takes care of God's students. The medical professional takes care of God's image bearers. The secretary takes care of God's office.

God has given us the privilege, grounded in creation, of taking care of that which belongs to him. The purpose of our *vocatio* is a grand delight!

Since our work is God's calling on us, then we work to reflect God's image in us. As God made us in his image in his work of creation (Gen 1:26-27), so we work to reflect his creativity. An engineer creates a device. A doctor creates a treatment. A teacher creates a lesson. A general contractor creates a building. A pastor creates a sermon. An assembly line worker creates a car or an electronic item or a A printing company employee creates a magazine. An artist creates a drawing, painting, or sculpture. A musician creates music. A farmer creates a crop. Like a child imitating a parent, we imitate our Creator when we work. Our *vocatio* is God's image bearers' imitation of him!

Since our work is our calling from the God who came not to be served but to serve (Mk 10:45), then we work to serve other people. The insurance agent serves others by mitigating financial hardship from a bad event. The custodian serves others by giving them a clean environment. The chiropractor serves others by relieving back problems. Scripture calls us to work in order to serve others by eschewing dependence, providing for our families, and sharing with the poor (1 Thess 4:11-12; 1 Tim 5:8; Eph 4:28). In our work, we love our neighbor as ourselves.

So our work is about more than earning a paycheck and keeping the boss happy. Our work is our *vocatio*—our calling—from God. Our work is sacred.

Thus, even when our job is hard, even when our labor is toilsome, even when our task is frustrating, the nature of our work itself is glorious and joyous—our sacred calling from God!

Therefore, let us love our neighbor by our work. Let us work to reflect the creativity of our Creator as we care for the people and things that belong to him. And let us honor God in our work; make good tables.

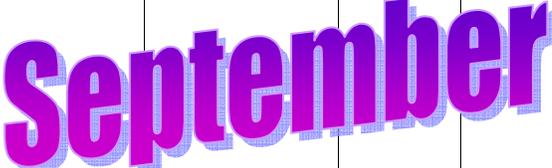
 1. Dorothy L. Sayers, "Why Work?" *Creed or Chaos?* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1949), 56-57.

Continued from page 3 *the Pulse: Thoughts from the Heart*

You my friend, are not alone! God's chosen people thousands of years ago struggled with the "quick-fixes," trying to find their source of life in other things, that cannot give life. So, are you tired of getting "quick-fixes"? Are you exhausted and need life once again? Wait patiently on the Lord, and He will respond. Pour your whole self into God and He will sweep you away in the springs of living water!

The Reality is—>An eternal source of life is waiting for you, what will you choose?

Copied from zachmarino.wordpress.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <u>9:30am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	3 <i>The church office will be closed in observance of Labor Day</i>	4 <u>6:30pm</u> Children's <u>7:00pm</u> Congr. Care <u>7:00pm</u> Property	5 <u>6:00pm</u> AWANA Registration <u>7:00pm</u> 20.20 Kick-off	6 <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Study	7 <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	8 <u>6:00am</u> Journey Men <u>7:30am</u> Next Man Up
9 <u>8:00am</u> Worship <u>9:30am</u> Sunday School <u>10:45am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	10 <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Outreach <u>6:30pm</u> Precepts	11	12 <u>6:00pm</u> AWANA <u>6:00pm</u> Jr High <u>7:00pm</u> Sr High	13 <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Study	14 <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	15
16 <u>8:00am</u> Worship <u>9:30am</u> Sunday School <u>10:45am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	17 <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Precepts	18 <u>10:00am</u> MAKS <u>6:30pm</u> Elder Board Meeting	19 <u>6:00pm</u> AWANA <u>6:00pm</u> Jr High <u>7:00pm</u> Sr High	20 <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Study	21 <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	22
23 <u>8:00am</u> Worship <u>9:30am</u> Sunday School <u>10:45am</u> Worship <u>12:00pm</u> Missions Dinner <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	24 <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Precepts	25 <u>4:30pm</u> Women's Ministries <u>7:00pm</u> Adult Discipleship	26 <u>6:00pm</u> AWANA <u>6:00pm</u> Jr High <u>7:00pm</u> Sr High	27 <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Study	28 <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	29 Journey Men's Wild Beast Feast & Barbeque Contest
30 <u>8:00am</u> Worship <u>9:30am</u> Sunday School <u>10:45am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer						

Beginning September 9th, our Sunday Worship Services will be held at 8:00 and 10:45 with Sunday School Classes for all ages at 9:30.

Christ Community Church Mission Statement

As a local body of believers, we will seek to glorify God in worship, in evangelizing the unsaved and in teaching Christians to obey everything Christ commanded. To that end, prayer will be our foremost task, Scripture will be our authority, God's Holy Spirit will be our source of power and love will be our motivation.

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