



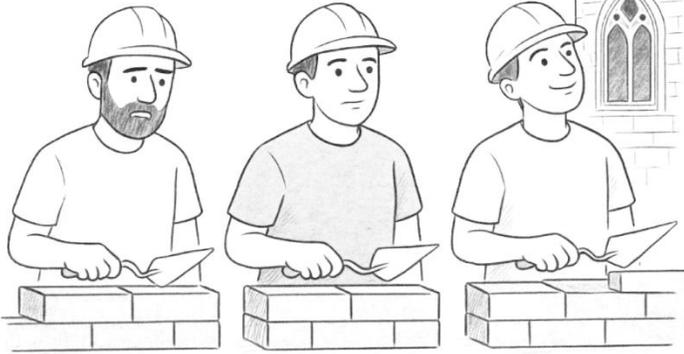
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Renew: Faith & Work

Session 1: How We View Work

What are you doing?



#1 C _____ #2 C _____ #4 C _____
#3 C _____

"I can only answer the question, 'What am I to _____?' if I can answer the prior question, 'Of what _____ or _____ do I find myself a part?'"

-Alasdair MacIntyre

I. The Cultural Stories About Work

The 3 C's

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____



II. The Biblical Story About Work

Chapter 1: The _____ of Work

Chapter 2: The _____ of Work

Chapter 3: The _____ of Work

Chapter 4: The _____ of Work

The 4th C: _____



Resources

Books

- [*Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work*](#) – Timothy Keller

Articles

- [Redeemer Center for Faith & Work](#)
- [Gospel Coalition Faith & Work Resources](#)
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/02/religion-workism-making-americans-miserable/583441/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/will-we-work-in-eternity>
- https://www.cutsinger.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/3_saints_1.pdf
- <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/reflections-december-2013/>

Video/Audio

- [4 Ways the Gospel Transforms Work](#) – Timothy Keller
- [When Faith Meets Work](#) – Katherine Alsdorf, Carolyn McCulley, Bethany Jenkins
- [Theology of Work Podcast](#) – Bible Project



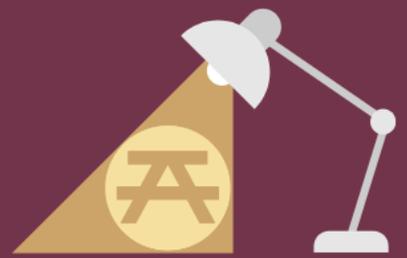
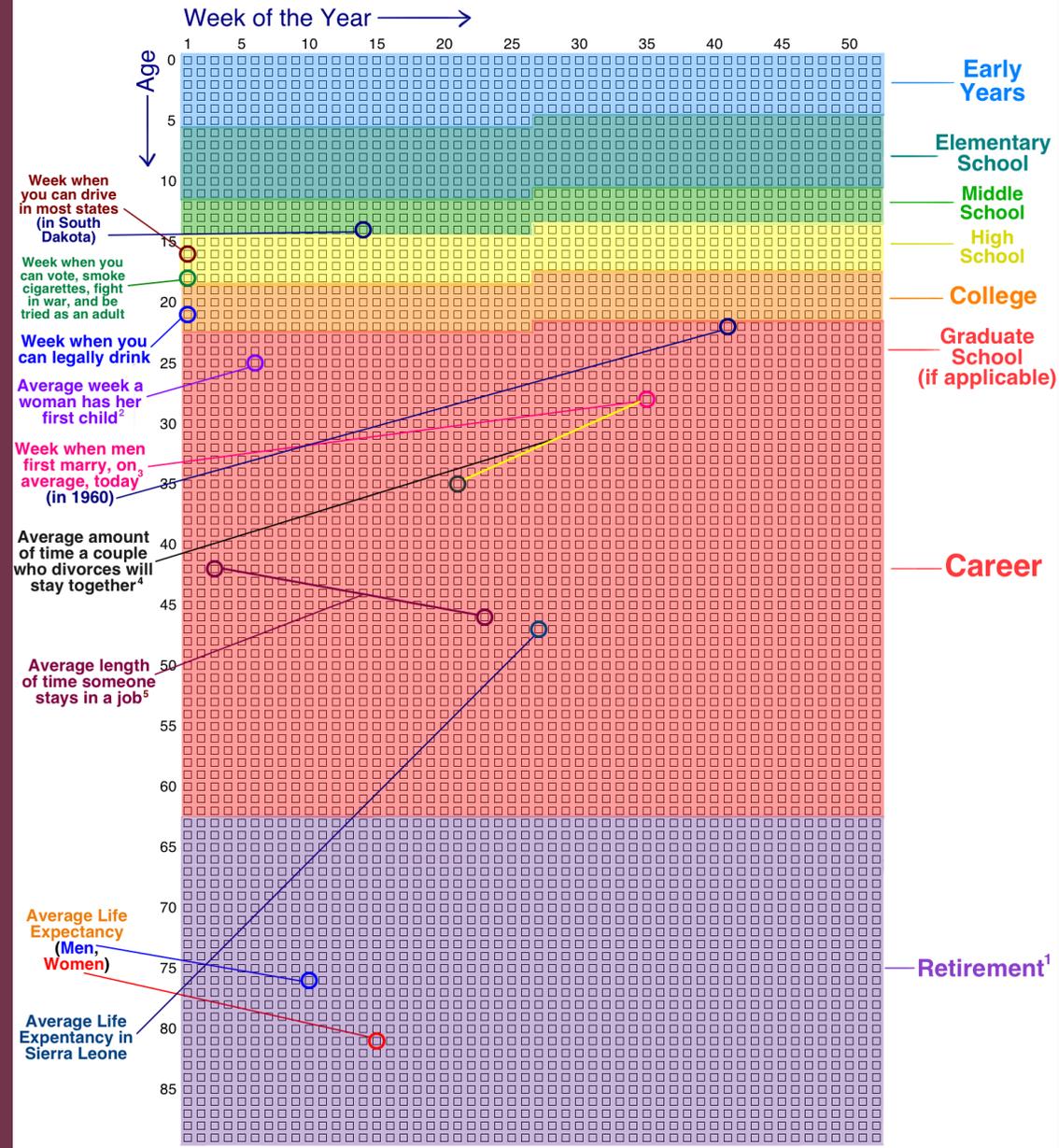
**FAITH
&
WORK**

**RE
NEW**



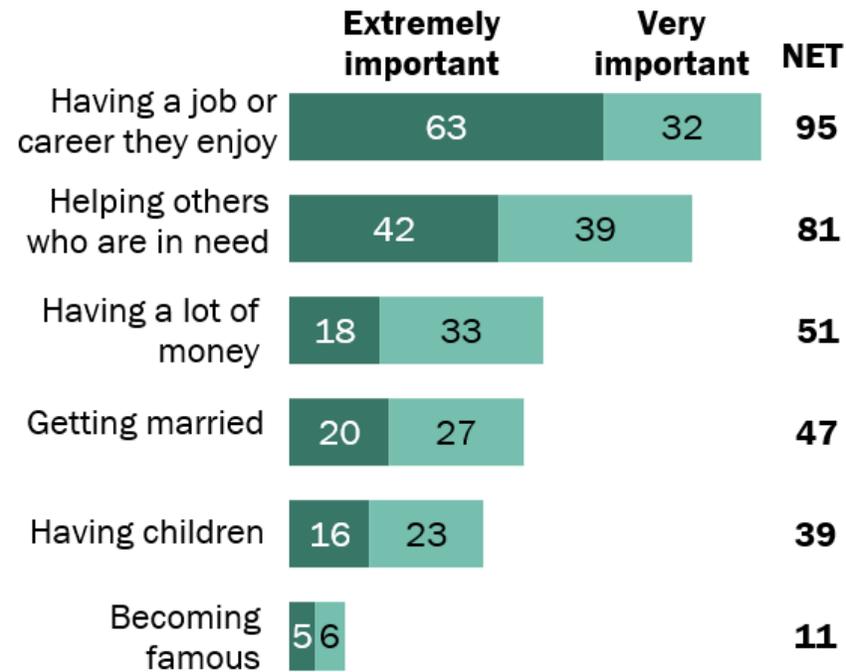
Session 1: How We View Work

The Life of a Typical American



Most teens say having a job or career they enjoy would be extremely important to them as adults

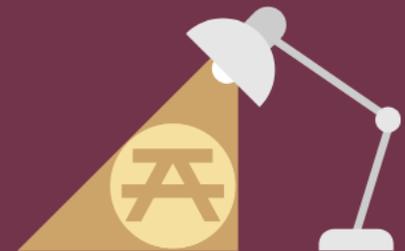
% of teens saying each would be ____ to them, personally, as an adult



Source: Survey of U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 conducted Sept. 17-Nov. 25, 2018.

“Most U.S. Teens See Anxiety and Depression as a Major Problem Among Their Peers”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



***“Looking along the
beam and looking
at the beam are
very different
experiences.”***

- C.S. Lewis in *Meditation
in a Toolshed*

***"I believe in
Christianity as I
believe that the
sun has risen;
not only because
I see it, but
because by it I
see everything
else."***

***-C.S. Lewis in *Is
Theology Poetry?****



SERIES GOALS

Answer....

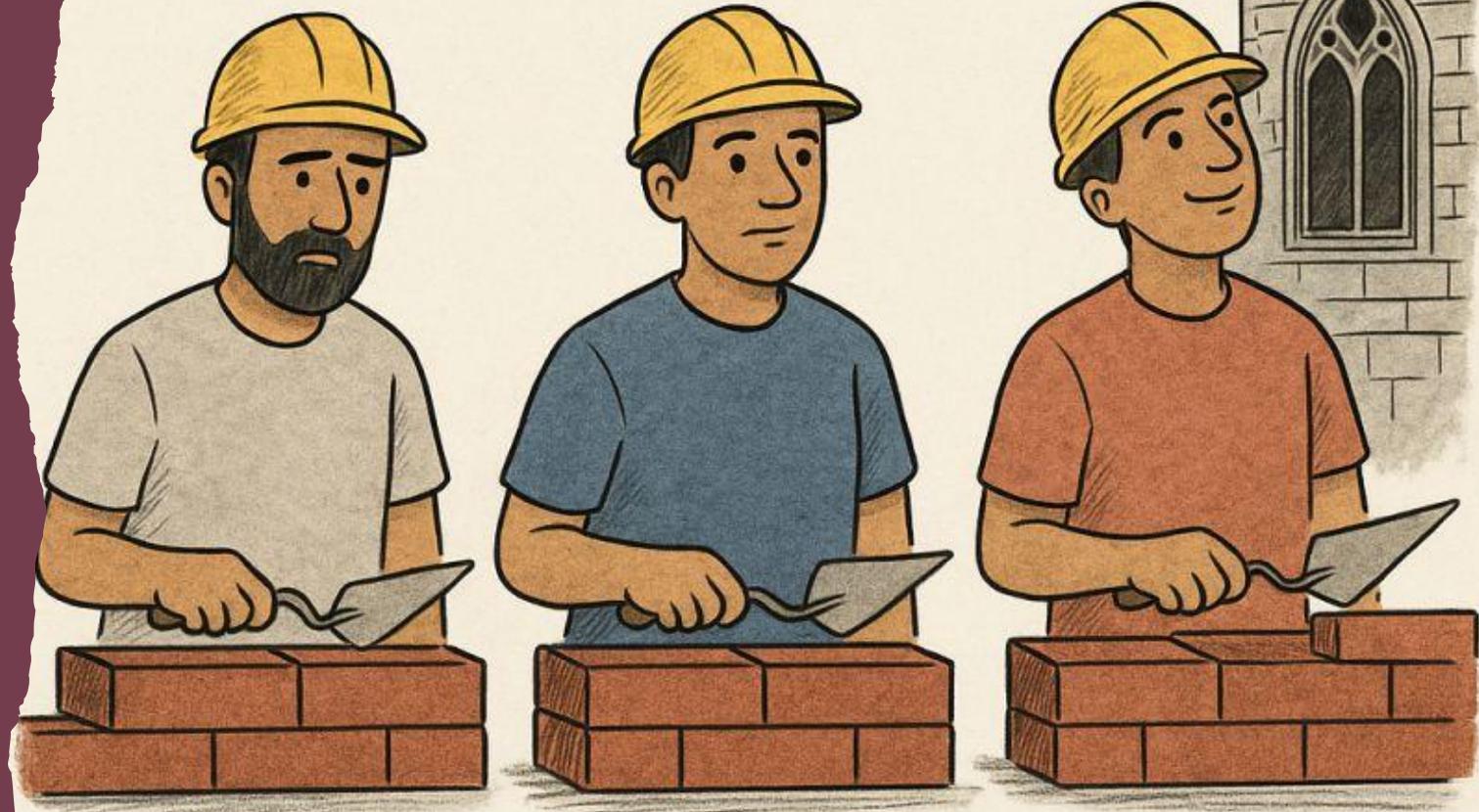
- *What is work?*
- *Why do we do it?*
- *Why can it be so fulfilling?*
- *Why can it be so frustrating?*
- *How should I do my work?*
- *What are the limits of work?*



SERIES LAYOUT

- *Session 1: How We VIEW Work*
- *Session 2: How we DO Work*
- *Session 3: How we DO Work*
- *Session 4: How we DON'T Work*

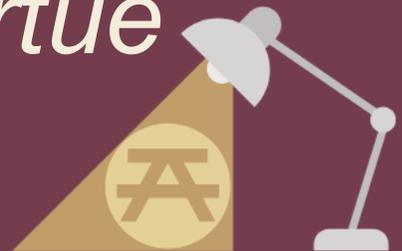
What are you doing?



A photograph of Alasdair MacIntyre, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie. He is holding a pair of glasses in his right hand and appears to be speaking into a microphone. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

“I can only answer the question, ‘What am I to do?’ if I can answer the prior question, ‘Of what story or stories do I find myself a part?’”

***-Alasdair MacIntyre
in *After Virtue****



I. The Cultural Stories About Work



#1) Compensation

- Work is a means to another end.
- Problem:
 - *Does not make sense of all our experience.*



MAKING SENSE

SAM HARRIS



#2) 'Chievement

- The work is the end.
- Problem:
 - *Never enough.*



**“Why do I have
three Super Bowl
rings and still
think there is
something greater
out there for me?”**

-Tom Brady



#3) Core Identity

- I am my work.
- Problem:
 - *Will crush us, not create us.*





“To be a workist is to worship a god with firing power.”

- Derek Thompson in “The Religion of Workism is Making Americans Miserable”



The very first day in the hospital, the psychiatrist asked me, 'Who are you?'

'I'm the co-host of the 700 Club.'

'That's not what I meant,' he said.

'Well, I'm a writer. I'm a singer.'

'That's not what I meant. Who are you?'

'I don't have a clue,' I said.

And he replied, 'Now that's right and that's why you're here.'

- Sheila Walsh



II. The Biblical Story About Work



Ch. 1: The Beginning of Work

- God works.



Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.



Ch. 1: The Beginning of Work

- God works.
- We get to participate in his work.



Genesis 1:27-28

(27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (28) And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion...



***“I am the world’s
best raker. I rake
fantastically and I
love to rake. I don’t
know why, but I
find it very
satisfying.”***

- Bill Bryson in an
interview with *The
Guardian*, November
2025



Ch. 1: The Beginning of Work

- God works.
- We get to participate in his work.
 - *Work is good.*



Genesis 2:15

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.



Ch. 1: The Beginning of Work

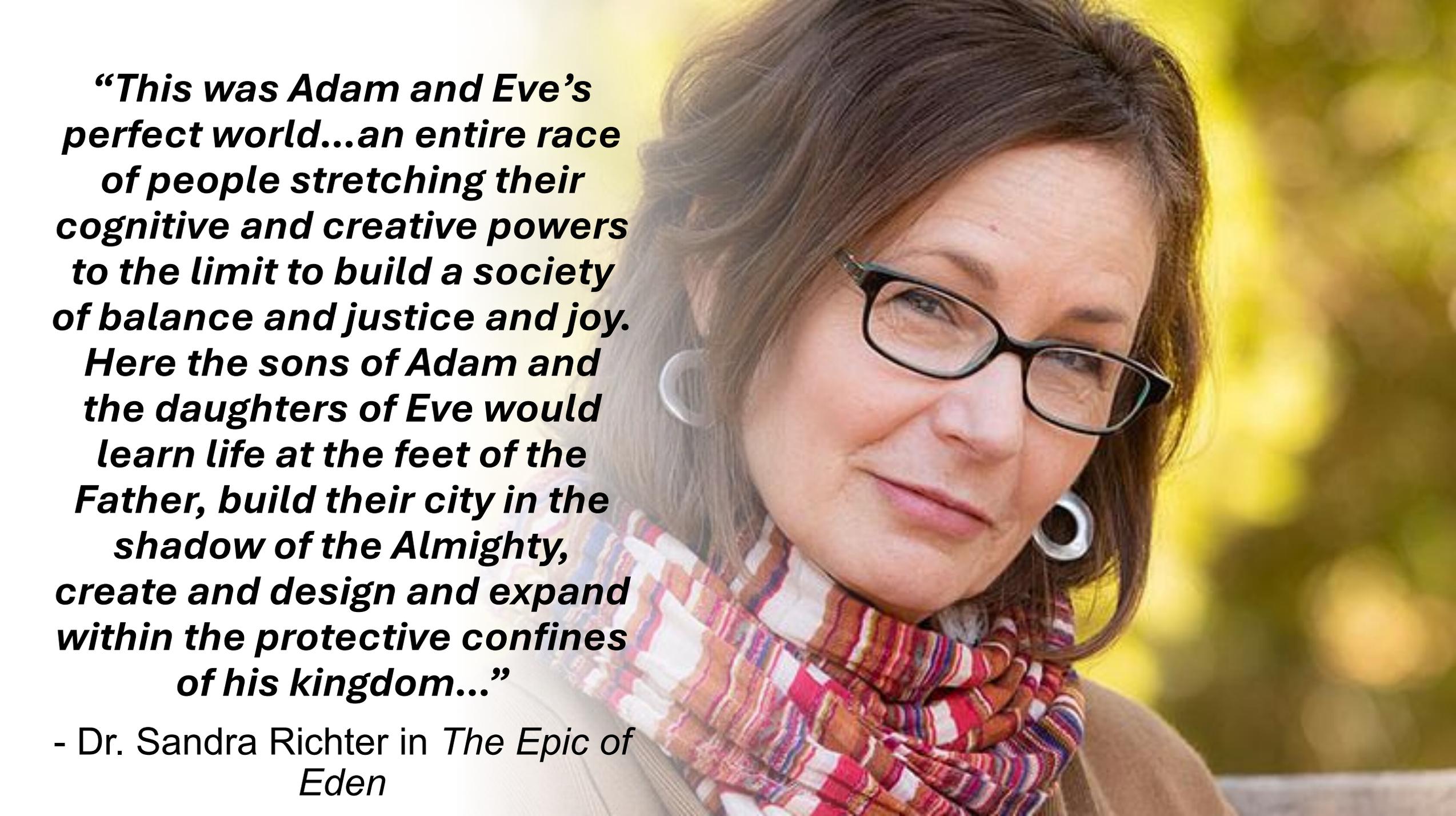
- God works.
- We get to participate in his work.
 - *Work is good.*
 - *Work is worship.*
 - *Work is limited.*



Genesis 2:1-3

(1) Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. (2) And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. (3) So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.



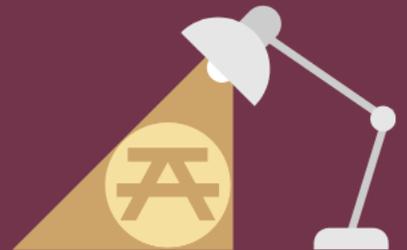


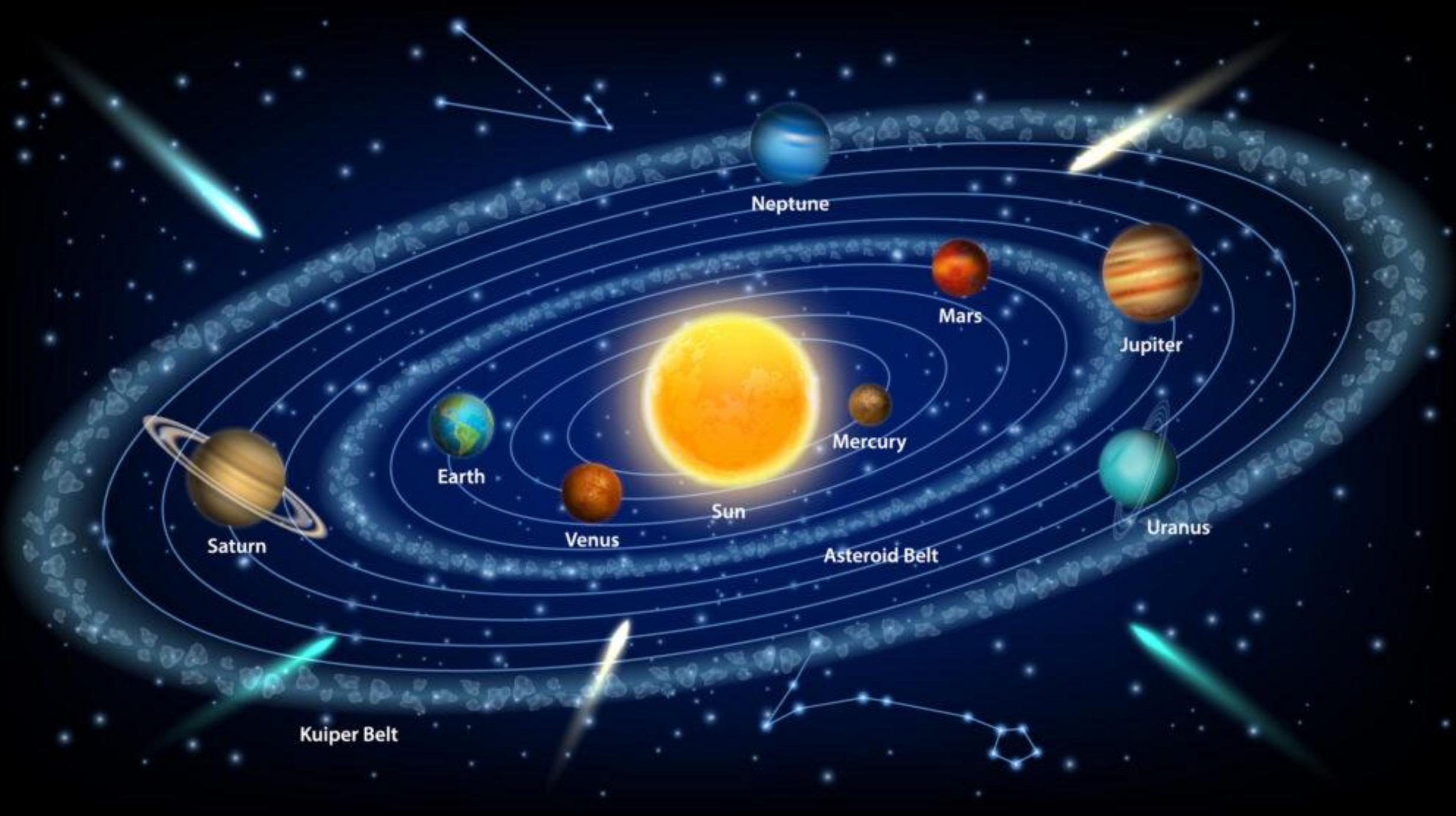
“This was Adam and Eve’s perfect world...an entire race of people stretching their cognitive and creative powers to the limit to build a society of balance and justice and joy. Here the sons of Adam and the daughters of Eve would learn life at the feet of the Father, build their city in the shadow of the Almighty, create and design and expand within the protective confines of his kingdom...”

- Dr. Sandra Richter in *The Epic of Eden*

Ch. 2: The Fall of Work

- Humanity rebelled.





Neptune

Mars

Jupiter

Mercury

Uranus

Sun

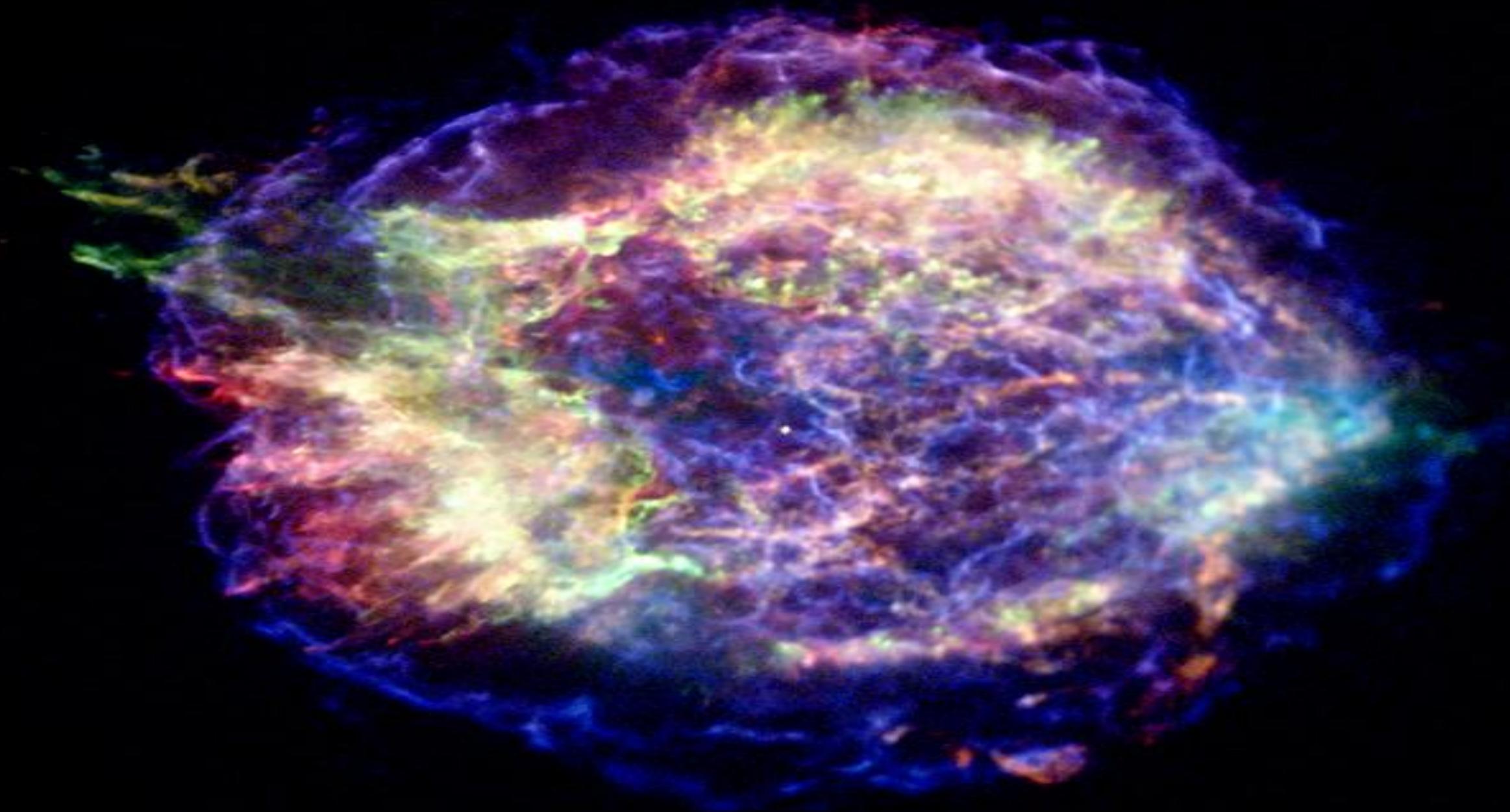
Earth

Venus

Asteroid Belt

Saturn

Kuiper Belt



Ch. 2: The Fall of Work

- Humanity rebelled.
- Order → Disorder



Genesis 3:17-19

(17) ...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; (18) thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. (19) By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground...



Genesis 11:4

Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”

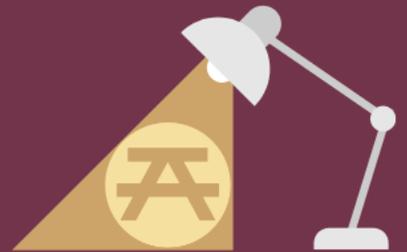


Ch. 2: The Fall of Work

- Humanity rebelled.
- Order → Disorder
 - *Work is still good.*
 - *Work is (often) painful.*
 - *Work is (often) an idol.*



Ch. 3: The Redemption of Work



Colossians 1:15-20; 3:10

(1:15) [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (16) For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him...(19) For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, (20) and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross...(3:10) and [you] have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.



Ch. 3: The Redemption of Work

- Jesus died to renew work.



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.



Ch. 3: The Redemption of Work

- Jesus died to renew work.
- All our work can serve Christ and his purposes!



“Work now involves creation and healing, repairing, restoring. There is twice as much work to do now than there was in the garden.”



Ch. 3: The Redemption of Work

- Jesus died to renew work.
- All our work can serve Christ and his purposes!
 - *Work is still (often) painful.*
 - *Work is still (often) an idol.*
 - *Work is being renewed.*



Ch. 4: The End of Work



Revelation 21:1-2; 22:1-2

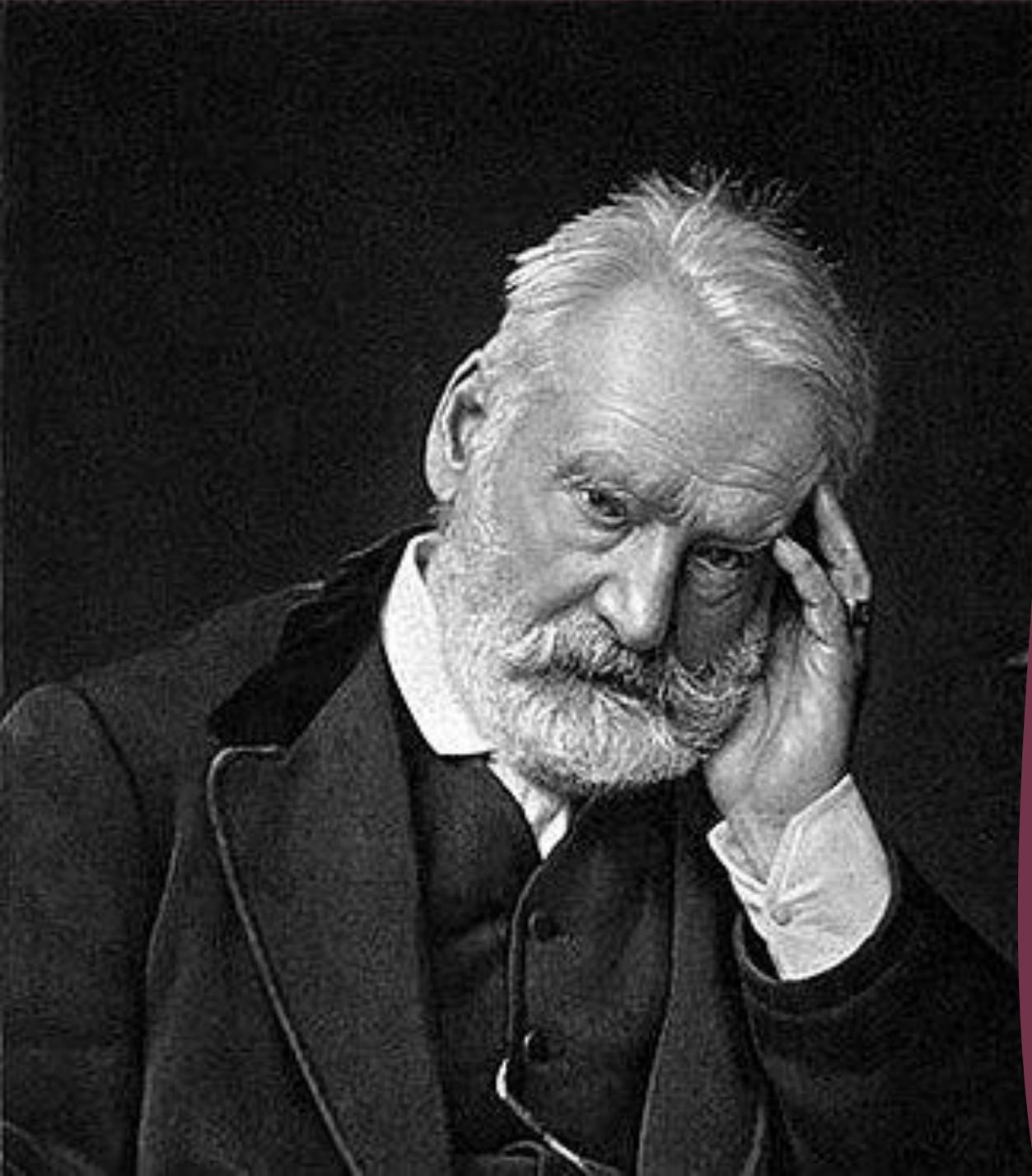
(21:1) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband... (22:1) Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb (2) through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.



Ch. 4: The End of Work

- New heaven AND new earth
- A garden AND a city
- Continuity AND discontinuity
 - *Work will be fulfilled.*



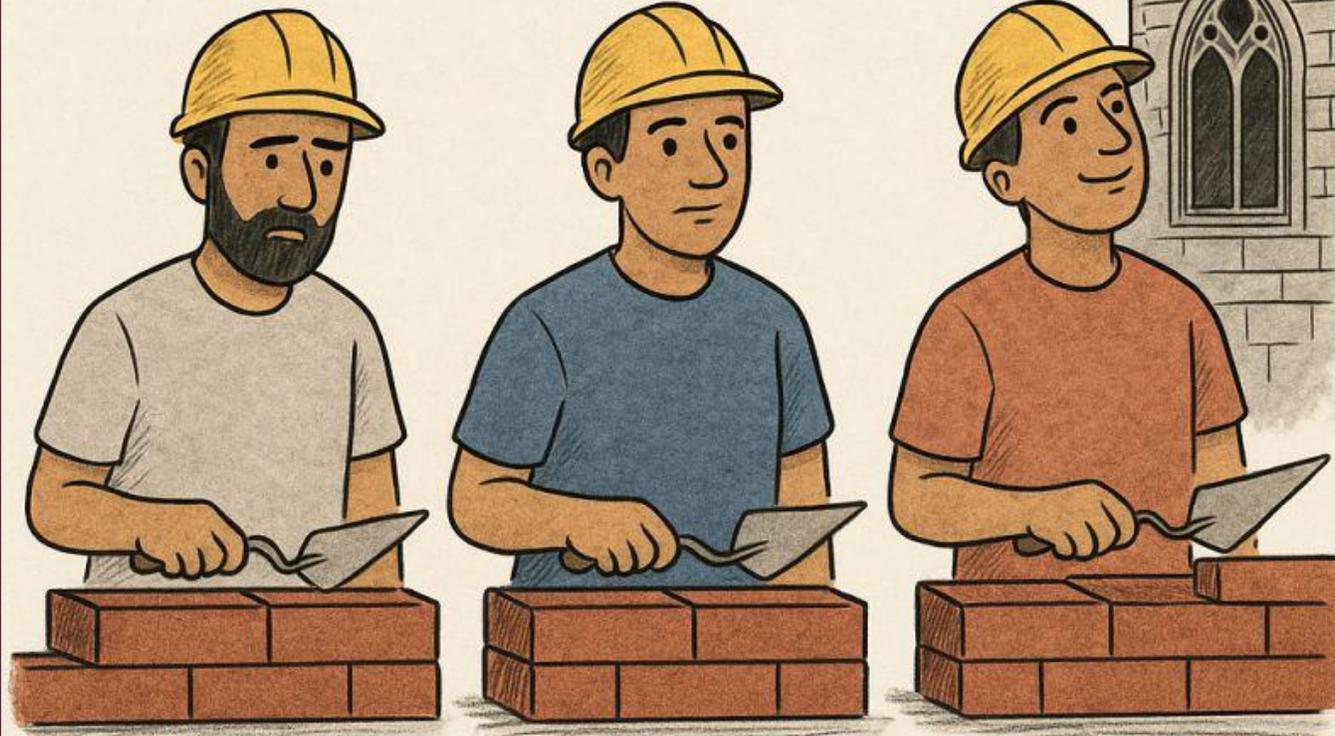


“I feel within me that future life...For half a century I have been translating my thoughts into prose and verse...but I feel I haven’t given utterance to the thousandth part of what lies within me. When I go to the grave I can say, as others have said, ‘My day’s work is done.’ But I cannot say, ‘My life is done.’ My work will recommence the next morning.”

- Victor Hugo



What are you doing?

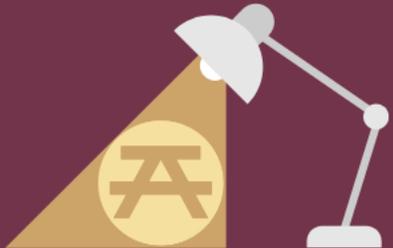


COMPENSATION

ACHIEVEMENT

CORE IDENTITY





What are you doing?



COMPENSATION

ACHIEVEMENT

CORE IDENTITY

CALLING



1 Corinthians 7:17

Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.



#4) Calling

- All legit work (not just “spiritual” work) = calling
- No longer me-centered; God- and other-centered.





“To make a real difference...[there would have to be] a reappropriation of the idea of vocation or calling, a return in a new way to the idea of work as a contribution to the good of all and not merely as a means to one’s own advancement.” - Robert Bellah in *Habits of the Heart*

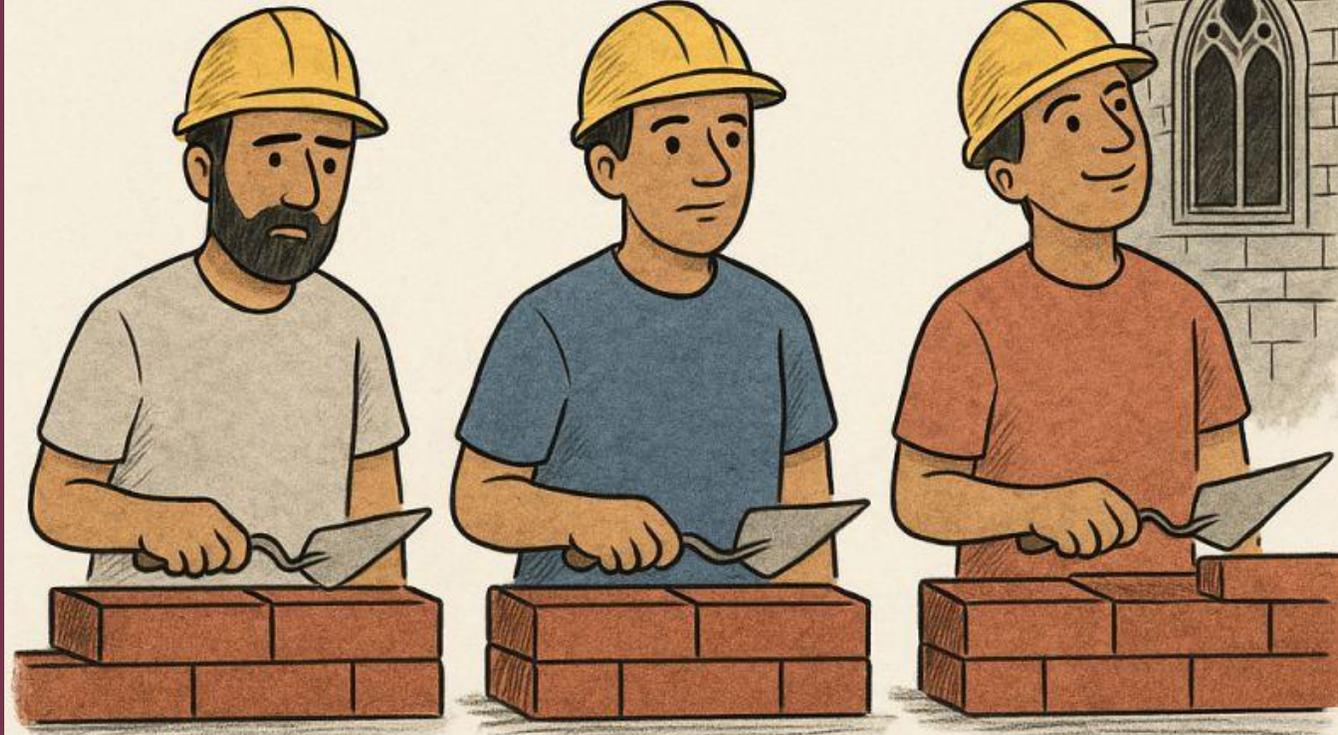


#4) Calling

- All legit work (not just “spiritual” work) = calling
- No longer me-centered; God- and other-centered.
- An enlarged vision of work



What are you doing?



COMPENSATION

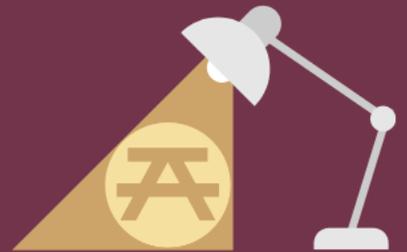
ACHIEVEMENT

CORE IDENTITY

CALLING



**Is your story of work
working?**



MAR
18
7:00

RE
NEW



FAITH & WORK: Session 2