

Gospel Shaped Work

Tom Nelson

Session 8: What are we working toward?

Review:

Creation	The Fall	Redemption	New Creation
Genesis 2:15	Genesis 3:16-19	Romans 8:19-23	Isaiah 65:21-23
God created us to _____	Work was _____ By the fall	Work is being renewed and transformed by _____	Work will _____ and _____ In the new creation

Warm-Up:

1. What are the primary images our culture uses to think about God?
2. When you think about eternity, what pictures come to your mind? Which do you find the most appealing or attractive?

Workout:

Watch DVD 8.1

Read Revelation 21:1-2 and 22:3-5

21 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. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.¹

22 ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.²

1. Discuss the significance of the work God did at the end of 21:2. How does the wedding analogy bring greater importance to the point?
2. Describe the work that we will do in the new heaven and new earth based on 22:3 and 22:5. Specifically the words “worship” and “reign”. What work will God do?

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Re 21:1–2). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Re 22:3–5). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Watch DVD 8.2

Re-Read Isaiah 65:17, 21-25

65¹⁷ “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.”³

²¹They shall **build** houses and inhabit them; they shall **plant** vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and **my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands**.²³ They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them. ²⁴Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,” says the LORD.⁴

1. Describe our attitude toward our work in the new heavens and new earth. Is this something you experience now? Why or why not?
2. What other observations do you make about the new heavens and new earth from this passage. How does knowing what we are looking forward to in the new creation help you when facing struggles with work today?

Watch DVD 8.3

1. How does the role of people in the Garden of Eden compare to our future role in the new creation?

Wrap-Up

1. Looking back on this study:
 - a. What have you been encouraged by?
 - b. What have you been challenged by?
 - c. What changes have you made as a result?

³ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Is 65:17). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁴ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Is 65:21–25). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.