

Week of April 8, 2024

Book: No More Excuses by Tony Evans

Chapter: No More Clock Punching (ch14)

Scripture Memory: James 4:13-15

Overview:

I've had the privilege of rebuilding holes on the greatest golf venue in the world. I remember getting the call from my boss that I was headed to Augusta. It was a thrill and a terror that shot through my entire body. In my early 20's, I had reached the pinnacle of my profession. I was given two golf holes to renovate within a 3-month span. Every aspect of the renovation was much bigger than its parts. I envisioned the finished product on Sunday's final round with Tiger, Phil, and millions watching either in attendance or via television. As Tony Evans says, "Some men lay bricks, while others build cathedrals. The difference has to do with one's perspective on work." God emphasizes physical work in Genesis 1 and 2, but throughout the Bible, we also see that that spiritual work is crucial for every believer. Is your vocational life viewed as a "job" or a "ministry" for the King? --Chris Hamil

Daily Devotions (Scripture & Meditation):

- **Monday:** Genesis 1
 - God has always been a worker and He has made us in His image. When you start and end the day in your vocation, can you proclaim as God said, "It is good?"
 - What changes can you make in your attitude towards your vocation as you strive to make it good?"
- **Tuesday:** Gen. 2:15-23
 - God gave Adam tasks in naming the animals and a garden to work and maintain. What has God given you to work, maintain, and share for His glory to others?
 - What changes can you make to transform the word "job" or "work" into "ministry"?
- **Wednesday:** James 4:13-17
 - Since the fall, there is a temptation to make work an idol in one's life. Is there something within your vocation that takes precedence over God?
 - What changes can you make to put God first in all things including your vocation in life?
- **Thursday:** Colossians 3:22-24
 - Whether you are serving a boss or clients, you are ultimately called to serve the Lord.
 - How are you able to do your job and still serve the Lord at the same time?
 - How does doing so, allow you to do your job even better?

- **Friday:** Ecclesiastes 2:24-25
 - Tony says, “The goal of work is the joy and sense of achievement you get when you accomplish a God-given task.”
 - According to Ecclesiastes 2:24-25, how is it possible to enjoy your labor?

- **Saturday:** Genesis 2:1-3
 - God gave us a day to rest. It wasn’t because He needed it. It was because we need it. How can you “rest” better on the Sabbath?
 - The Sabbath was also about trusting Him for the next day and week. How can you trust Him better on the Sabbath day?
 - What changes will you make to worship well on the Sabbath Day?

- **Sunday (Accountability Day):** Psalm 127:1-2
 - How are you trusting the LORD to build the house?

Weekly Challenge:

Pursue transforming your vocation in life from a “job” to a ministry for the Kingdom of God. Put Christ first before your job, sporting events, hobby, child, and yourself in order to find “rest” in God.