

# FBC Evergreen Connection

August 29, 2007

First Baptist Church of Evergreen

## Pastoral Thoughts

As a child, I remember hearing my pastor say that work was the punishment that God imposed on Adam for his sin in the Garden of Eden. He based this idea on Gen. 3:17: “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.” My pastor took this verse to mean that Adam enjoyed a life without work in the Garden, but after his sin he had to “go to work” and live a life of “labor.” Thus, for many years I held the view that work, or living a life based on labor, is a bad thing because it was the punishment for sin.

If this is true, then it would be wrong for us to celebrate “Labor Day.” We obviously shouldn’t celebrate something that is evil. However, I now realize that my dear pastor misinterpreted the role of work or labor in Genesis. The fact is that God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden so that he could *work* there: “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it” (Gen. 2:15).

The Bible doesn’t teach that work is a curse upon humans for sin. To the contrary, work is seen as a blessing rather than a curse. The very first commandment given by God was the law of the Sabbath. Just as God “rested” after the work of creation, so humans are to rest after the week of work. From the beginning, God assumed that humans would work. The later Mosaic Law added the command to work as well as rest: “Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God” (Exod. 20:8). Jesus said that everyone must work in this present life (John 9:4). Paul said that he “worked hard with his own hands” (1 Cor. 4:12), and he commended all of us to seek employment so that we can help others (Eph. 4:28).

All we have to do to understand that work is a blessing is to talk to an unemployed person. Nothing is a greater curse than losing a job and having no income to pay the expenses necessary for life. There is no greater blessing for an unemployed person than to find a job that lets him/her work.

So, if work is a blessing rather than a curse, what was the actual curse placed on Adam in the Garden? Adam was punished for his sin by being *cast out* of the Garden. While inside the Garden his work was a genuine pleasure. He was working in the perfect environment. However, when he sinned he suffered the loss of this wonderful place to work. Inside the Garden there were no “weeds” that made cultivating the soil hard work. But after his sin, he had to work “outside the Garden” in an environment full of “thorns and thistles” (Gen. 3:18). Work in the Garden was enjoyable, but work outside the garden was hard.

In the Bible work is a blessing if we’re working “inside the Garden,” but it is hard if we’re working outside of it. What does this mean? Paul gave us the answer. He told us that whatever we do we’re to do it for God’s glory (1 Cor. 10:31). This means that even if one has the worst of all possible jobs, that of a slave (who gets no pay at all), he can still find it meaningful employment. This is done by working for God rather than the human master (Col. 3:22-23). In other words, to work “in the Garden” is to work for the glory of God whatever our job is. If we do our labor for God, we can find work to be the blessing it is really supposed to be.

Have a great Labor Day!

Fred

## Men's Retreat September 21–23

### ATTENTION ALL MEN!

The Men's Retreat will be held on the weekend of September 21-23. Our speaker will be Dr. Bob Ryan, director of Missions for the Mile High Baptist Association. He will be previewing his book, Return To The Campfire, encouraging men to be engaged in their local church.

Meals will be served starting Friday evening through Sunday breakfast. On Saturday afternoon, the men will have free time to play basketball in the gym, hike on the beautiful campus, golf or fish in the nearby Frasier River.

The cost of the weekend is only \$75.

Signup sheets are in the information center.

Registration through Sunday, September 16.

For more information, contact Mike Bornhouser at 303-904-8966.

Hope to see you there to share this dynamic weekend.

## BIBLE STUDIES AVAILABLE

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS @ 6:00 P.M.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

TUESDAYS 6:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAYS 7:00 A.M.

## Sermons

Have you been out of town or on vacation lately? Check out our church website at [www.fbcevergreen.com](http://www.fbcevergreen.com) and listen to those of Pastor Fred's sermons you may have missed while away. You may also pick up a copy on CD at the Information Center.

## Sunday Schedule

8:15 am—Early Risers ABF

9:30 am—Family Service

Nursery

Preschool Promiseland

11:00 am—Redefining Life/YALE ABF

Nursery

Children's Bible Study

Middle School Bible Study

High School Bible Study

COMMUNION

SEPTEMBER 9

## FBCE Congregational Meeting

### September 9 @ 11:00

Business to be discussed:

- Pastor Search Committee Election—Member to elect 4 members from the list of 10 nominees:
  - Mike Bornhouser
  - Steve Butler
  - Tom Gorman
  - Brendan Huff
  - Steve Jones
  - Anne Kemp
  - Nancy Maule
  - John Smith
  - Gary Tristler
  - Ron Walton

## Contacts

Church Office

Pastor—Dr. Fred Meeks

Admin. Assistant—Brooke Huff

Youth Ministry—Nancy Maule

Adult Bible Fellowship—Steve Jones

Women's Ministry—Wendy Kitting

Men's Ministry—Mike Bornhouser

Small Groups—Allana Williams

Missions—Dave and Pam Erwin

Ministry Facilitator—Ann Fuller

Worship Coordinator—Trudy Horth

Choir Director—Jim Travis

Elders

Deacons

Transition Team

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