

UNFULFILLING. Boring. Draining. Impossible. Does this sound like your job? If it does, you're not alone. As the pace of life increases, fewer people look forward to going to work each day. Like rats, we scurry about, each day a carbon copy of the one before. The problem with the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat. You desperately long

can was set up at midfield. A lone gentleman stood about 30 yards away, aiming for the hole in the can. He was given the opportunity to throw one pass—one chance for a million dollar prize. Silence fell over the stadium. He took a deep breath, took aim, cocked his arm, and sent his football spiraling through the opening as though it had been laser guided. As the crowd cheered, the real

action was yet to take place. When given the mike to comment on his astounding feat, he seized

the opportunity to give God the glory and praise Jesus Christ. His comments made Romans 3:23 come alive.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

One day every believer will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ where our works and motives will be judged and rewards will be given. Our experience there can be one of joy or regret. It depends on whether we lived our lives for his glory or ours.

The world tries to mold us, Satan tries to harass us, and our flesh tries to drive us. But there's good news. God has heard your prayer and he has already addressed your dilemma. His answer, however, is consistent with his promises to deliver us through our trials, not

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from them. The change he wants to bring is in our attitude. He wants us to understand that if our joy is dependent on our situation, we will surely never find it. Paul addresses this head-on in his letter to the church at Colossae. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as

a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" (Colossians 3:23, 24). Since this verse is part of a section addressed to believers who were slaves, we can assume Paul was keenly aware of their less-than-ideal employment situations. He encouraged them to see the big picture. One day they would be rewarded for their response to what had happened to them. These eternal rewards, the only ones that matter, will come from God, not their earthly masters. So they should act with "that day" in mind. Therefore, whatever they are called upon to do, they should do with the realization that God is watching and judging. If they constantly keep this in mind, they will pour themselves into everything they are asked to do. With the Lord Christ as their ultimate master, they can learn to enjoy what previously had been drudgery.

Gaining a Heavenly Perspective

Let's face it. Eternity is a long time. We are often short-sighted. Our place of honor and authority throughout eternity depends upon what we did with what we were given on earth—finances, talents,

spiritual gifts, and perhaps most importantly, unique opportunities to glorify God. For most of us, an endless number of these can be found in our workplace. We don't have to look far to find insensitive people making unreasonable demands in impossible situations. Typically, we expend considerable energy complaining about our plight and looking for a way out. Veterans of this war know you will never win. God is not about to waste an opportunity for us to grow in spiritual maturity and for him to be glorified. He may keep us there until our attitude changes. If we quit, we can be assured that we will soon find ourselves in another quagmire, perhaps worse than the first.

The sooner we start honoring Christ in our work, the sooner we will find joy in serving—and we won't have to wait for Heaven to start seeing rewards. Consider Colossians 3:17. "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Everything we say and do is to be done in the name of the Lord Jesus as

an expression of thanksgiving to God.

Imagine that you have just helped someone at your workplace, or anywhere else for that matter. He

thanks you for your help. You respond by saying, "No problem. Happy to help." Who gets the glory? You. Who deserves the glory? God. The next time you are thanked for something you did, consider saying, "I thank God that Jesus gave me the desire and the strength to do it." This simple response fulfills the requirements of Colossians 3:17. It gives thanks to God in Jesus' name. It opens the door to share the gospel and guarantees a heavenly reward, which you will have the honor of laying at Christ's feet.

Imagine how your attitude will change and how God will be pleased as you look for ways to glorify him. You will look at your job in a new light. When it is fulfilling and rewarding, you can praise God. When it is not, you can praise God. There are rewards in both cases, but the greatest rewards follow the most difficult situations. An eternal perspective will change your outlook from "boring" to "soaring," and transform your job into a treasure chest waiting to be opened. ■

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Living For "That Day"

Making the Most of a Dull Job

to trade your pointy nose and tail for something suiting a child of the King. You yearn for meaning, fulfillment, and purpose.

Discovering Your Purpose

If you were to ask 10 people what the purpose of their life is, few, if any, would have an answer. We set goals for many things in life, but seldom for life itself. God never intended for us to be so clueless. He made it clear in Isaiah 43:7, where he refers to "everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory." The simple truth is that we were created to glorify God. While many of us acknowledge this truth when reminded, we usually go about our daily lives, especially our jobs, with little thought to glorifying God.

Most of us are familiar with Romans 3:23. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." We stress the first part in our evangelism, emphasizing that we're all sinners, but fail to grasp the implications of the last part. Reversing the verse implies that what fails to glorify God is sin. It makes sense. If God's purpose in creating us was to glorify him, then anything that does not do so goes against his will for us. This clearly is sin. The word for sin in the Greek language of the New Testament means to miss the mark. Our problem is that we have forgotten what the mark is—to glorify God. Seeing sin this way really raises the bar, doesn't it?

God provided a vivid illustration of this during the halftime festivities of the 2003 Oklahoma-Kansas State football showdown. The stunned crowd was clearly unprepared for the upset in the making as Kansas State was taking it to the number one-ranked Sooners.

As the teams left the gridiron, a giant Dr. Pepper®