

# PERSPECTIVES

Faith & Work



*Pastor René Dekker*



WORK



# Why our work matters

- WE ARE CREATED WITH WORK IN MIND.



LET US MAKE MANKIND IN OUR IMAGE, IN OUR  
LIKENESS.... SO GOD CREATED MANKIND IN HIS  
OWN IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE  
CREATED THEM.

Genesis 1:26-27



Creative  
artist

Gardener

Potter

King

**GOD IS A WORKER**

Builder

Homemaker

Teacher

Shepherd

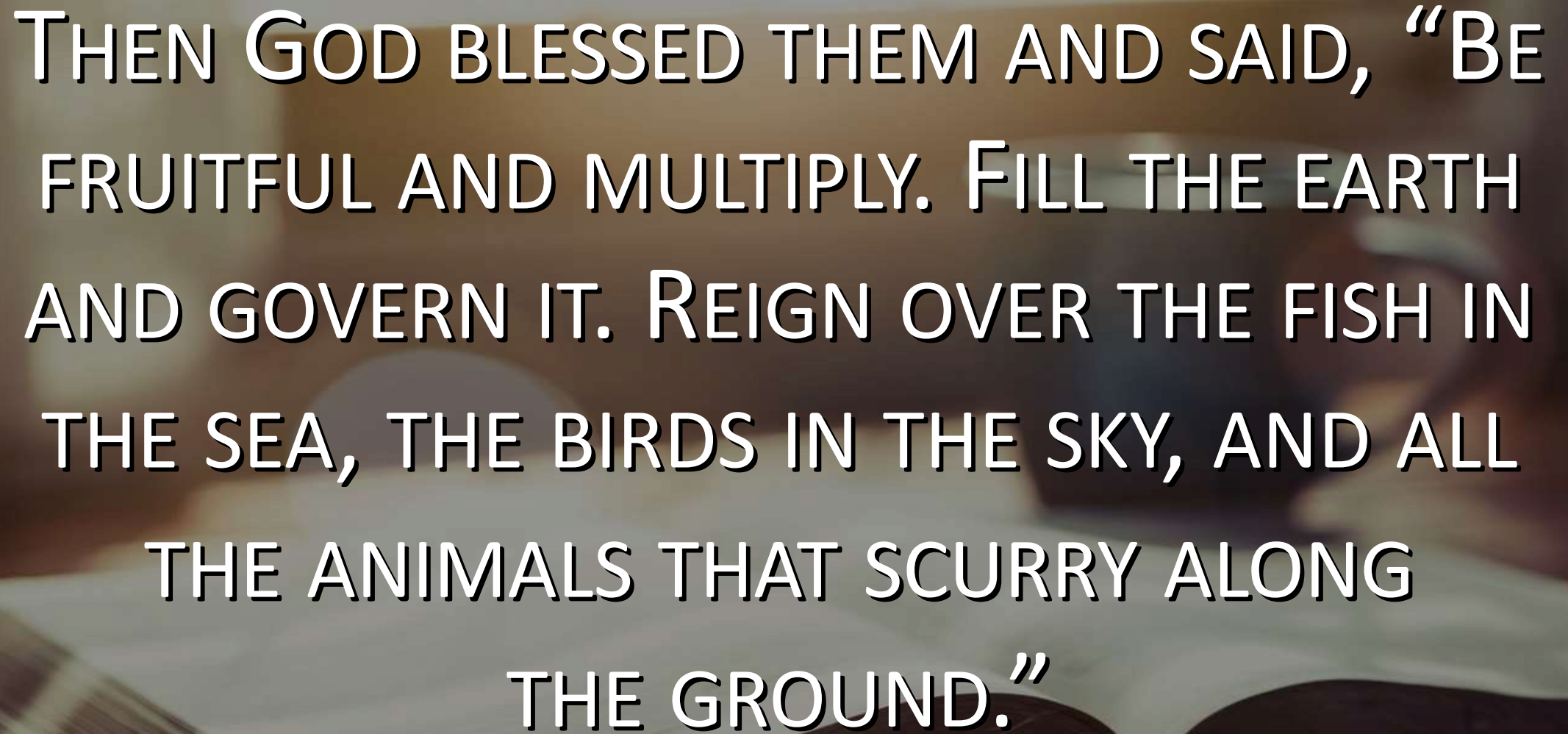
Carpenter



# Why our work matters

- **WE ARE CREATED WITH WORK IN MIND.**
  - WE ARE MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF A WORKING GOD.



An open Bible is shown in the background, lying flat. The pages are slightly aged and the text is visible but blurred. Overlaid on the Bible is a large, white, serif text with a black outline, which is the quote from Genesis 1:28. The text is centered and occupies most of the upper and middle portions of the image.

THEN GOD BLESSED THEM AND SAID, “BE  
FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY. FILL THE EARTH  
AND GOVERN IT. REIGN OVER THE FISH IN  
THE SEA, THE BIRDS IN THE SKY, AND ALL  
THE ANIMALS THAT SCURRY ALONG  
THE GROUND.”

Genesis 1:28 (NLT)

# Why our work matters

- **WE ARE CREATED WITH WORK IN MIND.**
  - WE ARE MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF A WORKING GOD.
  - GOD CALLS US TO STEWARD HIS CREATION....



THE LORD GOD TOOK THE MAN AND PUT  
HIM IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN TO WORK IT  
AND TAKE CARE OF IT.

Genesis 2:15

# Why our work matters

- **WE ARE CREATED WITH WORK IN MIND.**

- WE ARE MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF A WORKING GOD.
- GOD CALLS US TO STEWARD HIS CREATION AND MAKE AN ONGOING CONTRIBUTION TO IT.

# Why our work matters

## ■ WE ARE CREATED WITH WORK IN MIND.

- WE ARE MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF A WORKING GOD.
- GOD CALLS US TO STEWARD HIS CREATION AND MAKE AN ONGOING CONTRIBUTION TO IT.
- GOD CONTINUES HIS CREATIVE, SUSTAINING, AND REDEEMING WORK THROUGH OUR WORK.



# Why our work matters

- **WORK IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP.**

**WORK AS WORSHIP**

IN OUR WORK WE ARE TO SHOW OFF  
GOD'S EXCELLENCE, CREATIVITY, AND  
GLORY TO THE WORLD.

Tom Nelson

**WORK AS WORSHIP**



**AVODAH**

**WORK = WORSHIP**

**WORK AS WORSHIP**



# Why our work matters

- **WORK IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP.**
  - GOD DESIGNED WORK AND WORSHIP TO BE SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATED.

**WORK AS WORSHIP**

WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU?  
TO ACT JUSTLY AND TO LOVE MERCY AND TO  
WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD.

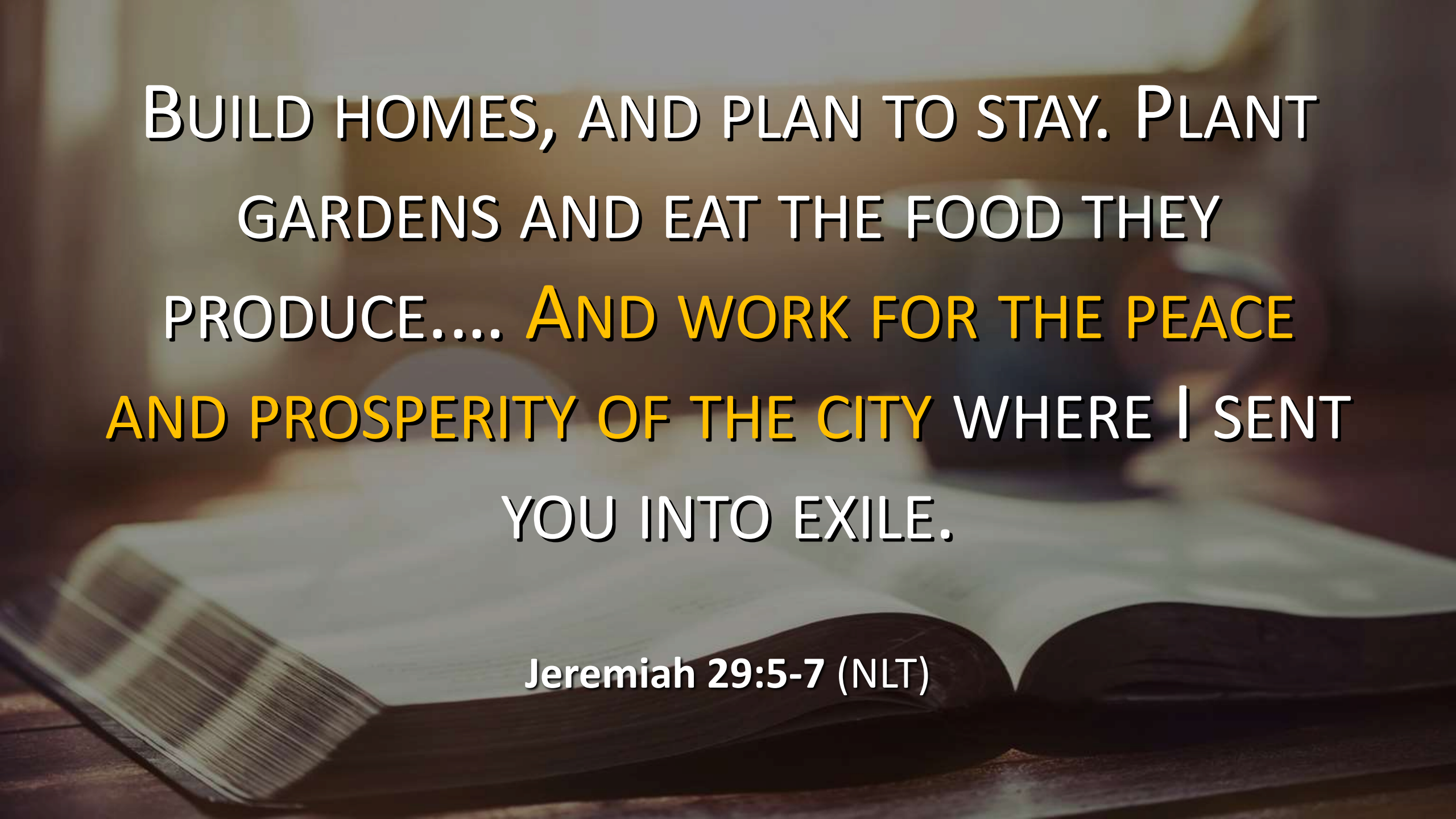
Micah 6:8

# Why our work matters

- WE WORK TO SERVE THE COMMON GOOD.
- OUR WORK IS MEANT TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF OTHERS.

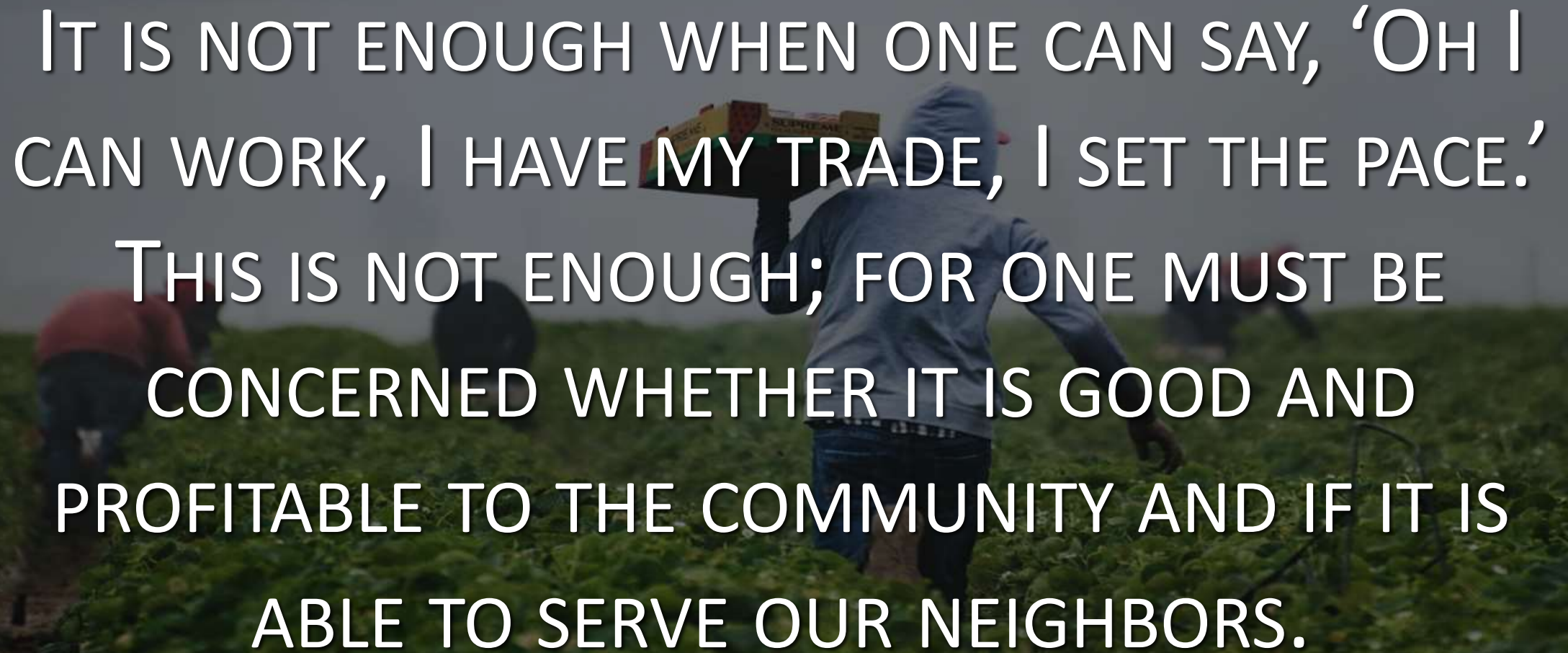




An open book with a dark cover lies flat on a wooden surface. The pages are white and appear to have some faint, illegible text. Overlaid on the image is a large block of text in white and yellow. The text is centered and reads: "BUILD HOMES, AND PLAN TO STAY. PLANT GARDENS AND EAT THE FOOD THEY PRODUCE.... AND WORK FOR THE PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF THE CITY WHERE I SENT YOU INTO EXILE." The words "AND WORK FOR THE PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF THE CITY" are highlighted in yellow, while the rest of the text is white. The background is slightly blurred, showing the texture of the book and the wood.

BUILD HOMES, AND PLAN TO STAY. PLANT  
GARDENS AND EAT THE FOOD THEY  
PRODUCE.... **AND WORK FOR THE PEACE  
AND PROSPERITY OF THE CITY** WHERE I SENT  
YOU INTO EXILE.

Jeremiah 29:5-7 (NLT)

A person wearing a blue hoodie and dark pants is walking away from the camera in a field of green plants. They are carrying a large, colorful crate on their head. In the background, other people are visible working in the field. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting an overcast day.

IT IS NOT ENOUGH WHEN ONE CAN SAY, 'OH I  
CAN WORK, I HAVE MY TRADE, I SET THE PACE.'  
THIS IS NOT ENOUGH; FOR ONE MUST BE  
CONCERNED WHETHER IT IS GOOD AND  
PROFITABLE TO THE COMMUNITY AND IF IT IS  
ABLE TO SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS.

John Calvin



# Why our work matters

- **WE WORK TO SERVE THE COMMON GOOD.**
- **OUR WORK IS MEANT TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF OTHERS.**
- **OUR WORKPLACE GIVES US THE CLEAREST PATHWAY TO FULFILL THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT.**





# Why our work matters

- SIN HAS CORRUPTED GOD'S ORIGINAL DESIGN OF WORK.



**CURSED** IS THE GROUND BECAUSE OF YOU; THROUGH **PAINFUL TOIL** YOU WILL EAT FOOD FROM IT ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE. IT WILL PRODUCE **THORNS AND THISTLES** FOR YOU, AND YOU WILL EAT THE PLANTS OF THE FIELD. BY THE **SWEAT OF YOUR BROW** YOU WILL EAT YOUR FOOD UNTIL YOU RETURN TO THE GROUND, SINCE FROM IT YOU WERE TAKEN.

Genesis 3:17-19

# Why our work matters

- SIN HAS CORRUPTED GOD'S ORIGINAL DESIGN OF WORK.
  - EXHAUSTION, SELF-CENTEREDNESS, WORKAHOLISM.





# Why our work matters

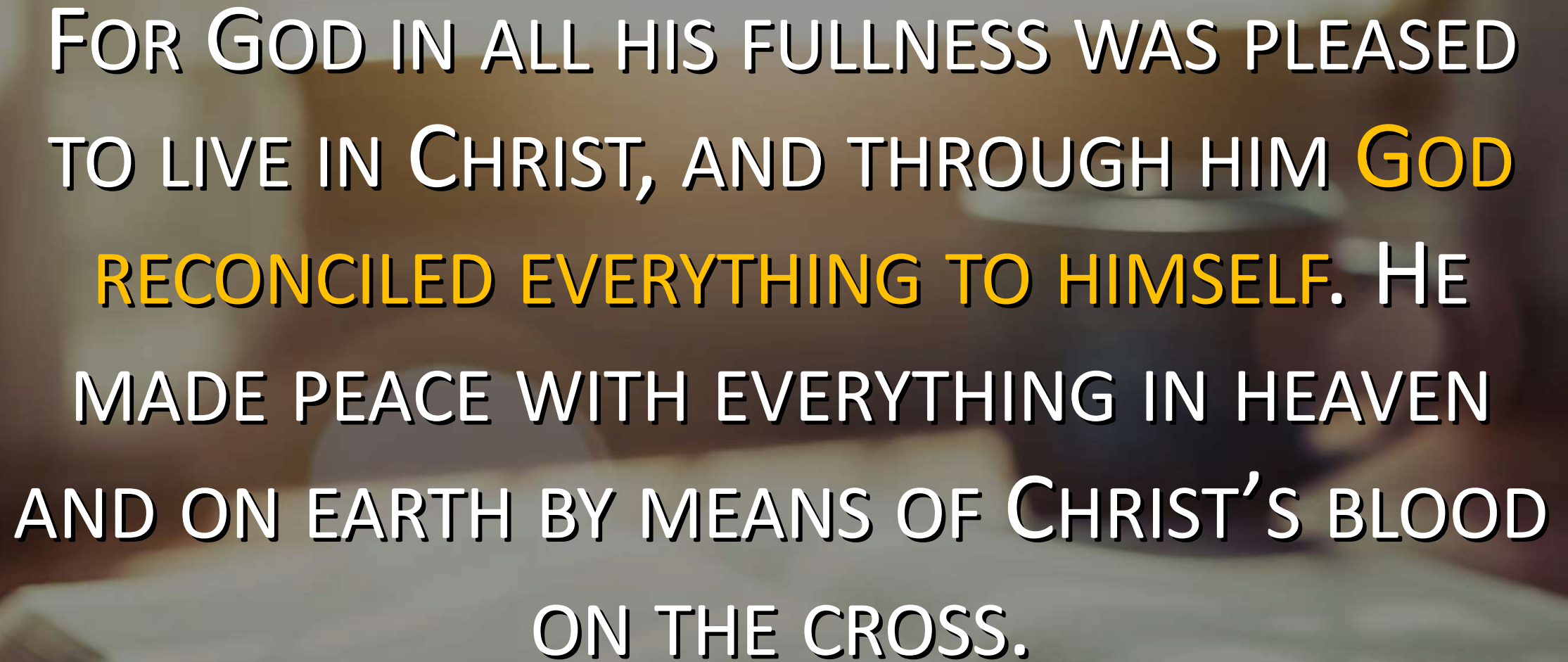
- **SIN HAS CORRUPTED GOD'S ORIGINAL DESIGN OF WORK.**
  - EXHAUSTION, SELF-CENTEREDNESS, WORKAHOLISM.
  - **WORK AND WORSHIP HAVE BECOME DISCONNECTED.**



# Why our work matters

- GOD HAS REDEEMED OUR WORK BY THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE GOSPEL.




An open book with a dark cover lies flat on a wooden surface. The pages are white and appear to have some faint, illegible text. Overlaid on the image is a large block of text in white and yellow. The text is centered and reads: "FOR GOD IN ALL HIS FULLNESS WAS PLEASED TO LIVE IN CHRIST, AND THROUGH HIM GOD RECONCILED EVERYTHING TO HIMSELF. HE MADE PEACE WITH EVERYTHING IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH BY MEANS OF CHRIST'S BLOOD ON THE CROSS." The words "GOD RECONCILED EVERYTHING TO HIMSELF" are highlighted in yellow, while the rest of the text is white. The background is slightly blurred, showing the texture of the book and the wood.

FOR GOD IN ALL HIS FULLNESS WAS PLEASED  
TO LIVE IN CHRIST, AND THROUGH HIM **GOD**  
**RECONCILED EVERYTHING TO HIMSELF.** HE  
MADE PEACE WITH EVERYTHING IN HEAVEN  
AND ON EARTH BY MEANS OF CHRIST'S BLOOD  
ON THE CROSS.

Colossians 1:19-20



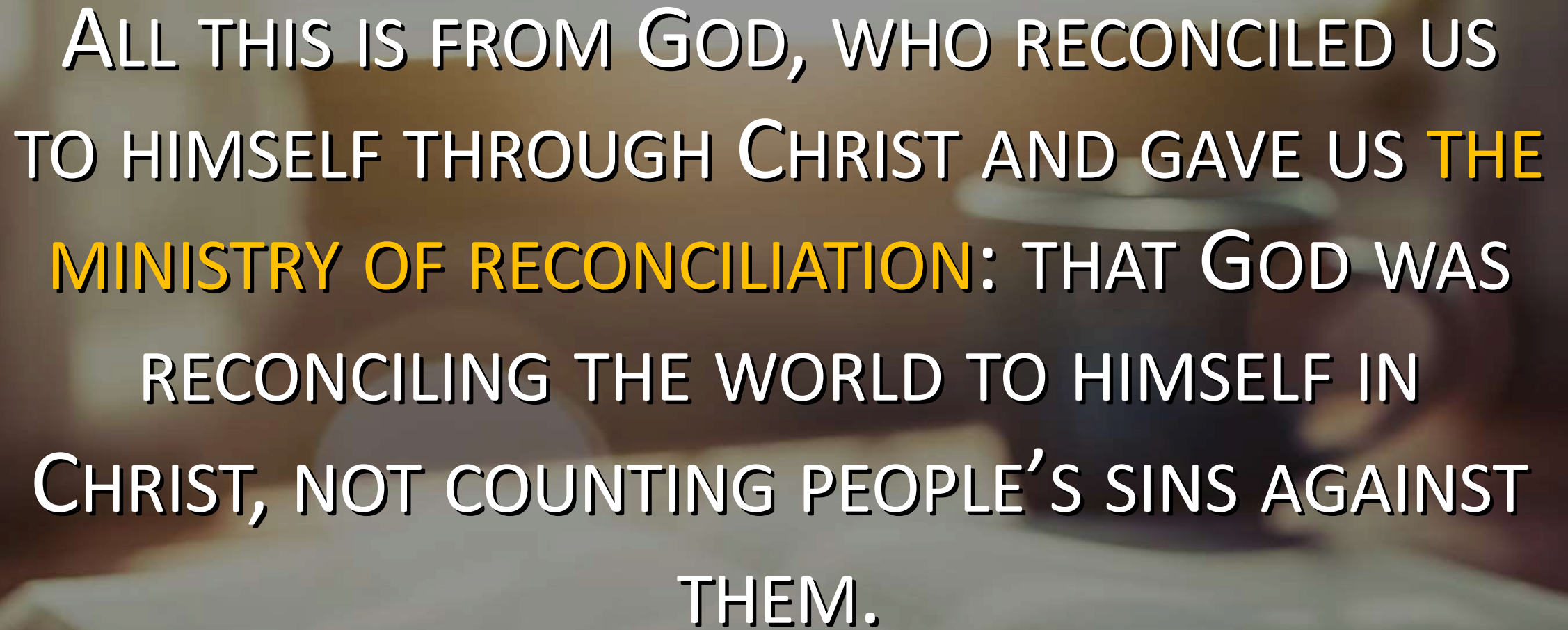
An open book with a dark cover lies flat on a wooden surface. In the background, a dark-colored cup sits on a saucer. The scene is softly lit, creating a warm and contemplative atmosphere.

IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, THE NEW CREATION  
HAS COME: THE OLD HAS GONE, THE NEW IS  
HERE!

2 Corinthians 5:17

# Why our work matters

- GOD HAS REDEEMED OUR WORK BY THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE GOSPEL.
- AS NEW CREATIONS IN CHRIST WE ARE ABLE AGAIN TO DO THE WORK WE ARE CREATED FOR.

An open Bible is shown in the background, lying flat on a wooden surface. The pages are slightly aged and the text is visible but blurred. Overlaid on the Bible is a large block of text in white and yellow. The text is centered and reads: "ALL THIS IS FROM GOD, WHO RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF THROUGH CHRIST AND GAVE US THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION: THAT GOD WAS RECONCILING THE WORLD TO HIMSELF IN CHRIST, NOT COUNTING PEOPLE'S SINS AGAINST THEM." The words "THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION" are highlighted in yellow, while the rest of the text is in white. The overall tone is solemn and religious.

ALL THIS IS FROM GOD, WHO RECONCILED US  
TO HIMSELF THROUGH CHRIST AND GAVE US **THE**  
**MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION**: THAT GOD WAS  
RECONCILING THE WORLD TO HIMSELF IN  
CHRIST, NOT COUNTING PEOPLE'S SINS AGAINST  
THEM.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20



AND HE HAS COMMITTED TO US THE MESSAGE  
OF RECONCILIATION. WE ARE THEREFORE  
**CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS**, AS THOUGH GOD  
WERE MAKING HIS APPEAL THROUGH US.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

# Why our work matters

- **GOD HAS REDEEMED OUR WORK BY THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE GOSPEL.**
  - AS NEW CREATIONS IN CHRIST WE ARE ABLE AGAIN TO DO THE WORK WE ARE CREATED FOR.
  - GOD CALLS US TO PARTICIPATE IN HIS WORK TO SAVE THE WORLD.

# Why our work matters

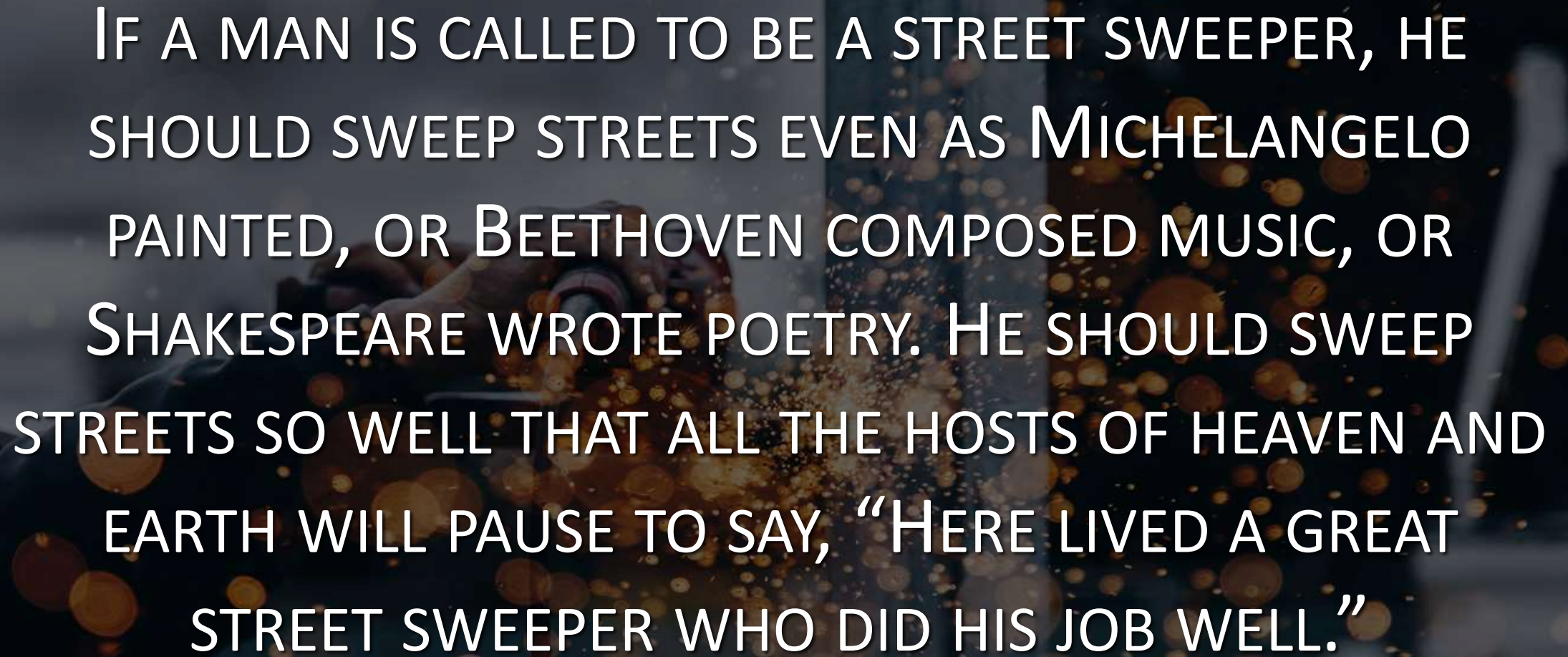
- GOD IS MORE INTERESTED IN *HOW* WE WORK THAN *WHERE* WE WORK.





**WHATEVER YOU DO, WORK AT IT WITH ALL  
YOUR HEART, AS WORKING FOR THE LORD, NOT  
FOR HUMAN MASTERS...**

**Colossians 3:23**

A person is sweeping a street with a broom, creating a cloud of dust or debris. The background is dark and blurry, with many small, glowing orange and yellow particles floating in the air, suggesting a street scene at night or in low light. The text is overlaid on this image.

IF A MAN IS CALLED TO BE A STREET SWEEPER, HE  
SHOULD SWEEP STREETS EVEN AS MICHELANGELO  
PAINTED, OR BEETHOVEN COMPOSED MUSIC, OR  
SHAKESPEARE WROTE POETRY. HE SHOULD SWEEP  
STREETS SO WELL THAT ALL THE HOSTS OF HEAVEN AND  
EARTH WILL PAUSE TO SAY, "HERE LIVED A GREAT  
STREET SWEEPER WHO DID HIS JOB WELL."

**Martin Luther King Jr.**



# Why our work matters

- GOD IS MORE INTERESTED IN *HOW* WE WORK THAN *WHERE* WE WORK.
- WORK AS FOR THE LORD.



# Why our work matters

- GOD IS MORE INTERESTED IN *HOW* WE WORK THAN *WHERE* WE WORK.
  - WORK AS FOR THE LORD.
  - DOING OUR WORK WITH INTEGRITY, DILIGENCE AND EXCELLENCE POSITIONS US FOR EVANGELISM.

# Why our work matters

- GOD IS MORE INTERESTED IN *HOW* WE WORK THAN *WHERE* WE WORK.
  - WORK AS FOR THE LORD.
  - DOING OUR WORK WITH INTEGRITY, DILIGENCE AND EXCELLENCE POSITIONS US FOR EVANGELISM.

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*

**1 Peter 3:15**

# HOW DOES MY WORK REFLECT GOD'S DESIGN FOR WORK?

- CONTRIBUTING TO HIS WORK.
- SERVING THE COMMON GOOD.
- PARTICIPATING IN HIS REDEMPITIVE WORK.



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