

Finding the Joy in Work

If you are into bumper-sticker philosophy, you've probably seen the axiom: ***I owe, I owe, so off to work I go.***

For a vast portion of the nation's work force, that's the best reason they can muster for going to the job each day.

According to one poll, only 43 percent of American office workers are satisfied with their jobs. In Japan, the figure drops to 17 percent.

In the first century, Christian slaves had even less reason to be enthusiastic about their work. But Paul gave them a way to grasp a glimpse of glory amid the grind. He wanted them to "adorn the doctrine of God our Savior," that is, to show the beauty of their faith in Christ by how they work (Titus 2:10 ESV).

A significant and often overlooked way that we serve God is in our everyday tasks. Martin Luther (1483 – 1546) – German professor of theology, composer, priest and monk – understood this when he wrote, "The maid who sweeps her kitchen is doing the will of God just as much as the monk who prays; not because she may sing a Christian hymn as she sweeps but because God loves clean floors. The Christian shoemaker does his Christian duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship."



That is powerful theology, and certainly appropriate for the daily routines of the associates of Life Care and Century Park, whatever the job may be. After all, our mission is to be a premier provider of long-term health care and the facility of choice in any community in which we operate.

Many responsibilities we have are repetitive and may be considered routine, but should still demand our best. As one farmer observed: "The hardest thing about milking cows is that they never stay milked."

Whatever we are called on to do in the workplace – or, for that matter, in our personal lives – the Bible makes clear what our effort should be:

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might (Ecclesiastes 9:10 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter