

The Destination of Work Isaiah 60

Despite the great difficulty of work, we look forward to a future in the new heavens and new earth that will likely involve work. Since work was present in the Garden in Genesis 1 before sin and work seems present in the new City in Revelation 21-22, we can clearly conclude that work has meaning and significance now in its continuity with God's future purposes.

THE DESTINATION OF WORK

"I can't stand the thought of that **endless tedium**. To float around in the clouds with **nothing to do** but strum a harp ... it's all so terribly **boring**. Heaven doesn't sound much better than Hell. I'd rather be annihilated than spend eternity in a place like that." – Randy Alcorn

1. Overemphasis on Destruction

"The day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will **pass away** with a roar and the elements will be **destroyed** with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be **burned up**."
– 2 Peter 3:10

"You break the ships of Tarshish." – Psalm 48:7

"The Lord of hosts will have a day of reckoning against ... all the cedars of Lebanon ... against all the ships of Tarshish and ... all the beautiful craft." - Isaiah 2:12-16

"When we begin to grasp ... that the future destiny of work and our world is not complete annihilation but radical healing, it changes how we view our daily work. If we believe that the earth – everything about it and everything we do on it – is simply going to one day be abolished and disappear, then the logical conclusion is that our work is virtually meaningless. Why should we work hard, make a tasty meal, learn a new skill, run a business, write a piece of music, or design a building if everything will one day be consumed by fire? It would make sense to work only enough to survive or simply to get by. But if our daily work ... in some way carries over to the new heavens and new earth, then our present work itself is overflowing with immeasurable value and eternal significance." - Nelson

2. Omission of Restoration

Isaiah 60

"The judgment that will visit the ships of Tarshish is of a purifying sort. We might think here of the 'breaking' of the ships of Tarshish as more like the breaking of a horse rather than the breaking of a vase. The judgment here is meant to tame, not destroy. The ships of Tarshish will be harnessed for service in the Holy City ... it is their former function that will perish." - Richard Mouw

Revelation 21-22

"The work of Christ, therefore, is not just to save certain individuals ... The total work of Christ is nothing less than to redeem this **entire creation** from the effects of sin. That purpose will not be accomplished until God has ushered in the new earth, until **Paradise Lost has become Paradise Regained**."
- Anthony Hoekema