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God Loves Your Work:

Discover Why He Sends You to Do What You Do

by Larry Peabody

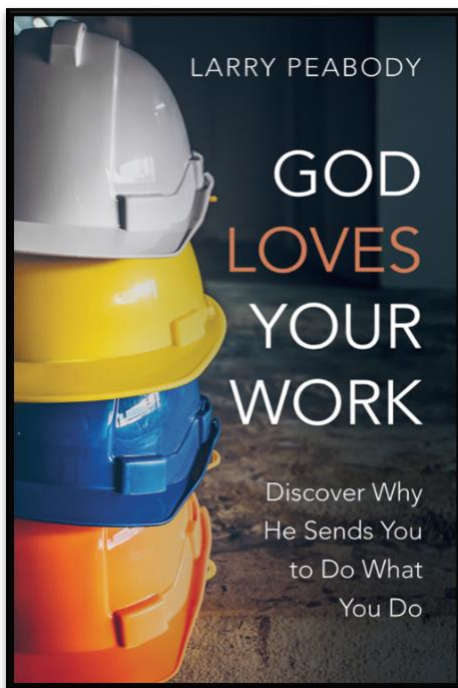
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New Title from Larry Peabody

God Loves Your Work: Discover Why He Sends You to Do What You Do

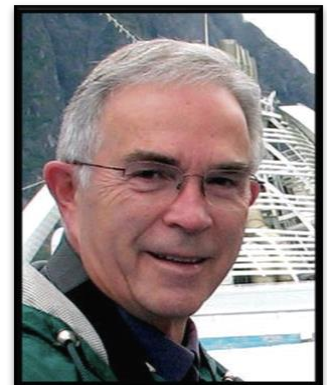


If you know God loves your work, you can—as Paul put it—“work at it with all your heart.” But too often even Christians find it hard to engage fully with what occupies them for hours every day. This book will help you relate your work to God’s eternal kingdom purposes. Here you will find not just one or two but several biblical reasons for getting up and going to work.

During your lifetime you will spend, perhaps, 100,000 hours working in paid or unpaid work. Will you see spiritual significance in those hours? In the end, will they really matter? These easy-to-read chapters will help you view your daily work within a new and much larger perspective. For example, what if you were to begin seeing your work as a worship offering that God gladly receives? Or what if you were to discover how he intends to use your work to further your own spiritual growth?

Get set to move from “Thank God, it’s Friday!” to “Wonderful, it’s Monday again!”

Larry Peabody serves as adjunct theology-of-work professor for the Bakke Graduate University. His earlier books include: *Serving Christ in the Workplace: Secular Work is Full-Time Service*, *Job-Shadowing Daniel: Walking the Talk at Work* and *Curing Sunday Spectatoritis: From Passivity to Participation in Church*. Peabody has served as a state employee, business owner, church planter, and senior pastor.



Interview with Larry Peabody

Why are you qualified to write about the everyday work of Christians?

Underlying everything else, I have worked for more than 60 years in a variety of roles. Retail wage-earner. Editor and writer. Business owner. Church planter and pastor. Graduate-school professor.

For nearly 50 years, I have studied what the Bible says about our faith as it relates to our work. My first book on the subject, *Serving Christ in the Workplace: Secular Work is Full-Time Service*, was published by Christian Literature Crusade in 1974. This was followed in 2010 by *Job-Shadowing Daniel: Walking the Talk at Work*. Now, in 2022, Wipf and Stock has just published *God Loves Your Work: Discover Why He Sends You to Do What You Do*.

From 2012 through 2020 I served as professor in the Bakke Graduate University, teaching the theology of work to well over 200 doctoral and master's students. This role also involved serving as supervisor and second reader for many doctoral dissertations on the theology of work.

What has created the need for this book?

Centuries of church tradition still distort the view of work so common among Christ-followers. The wrong and damaging idea plays out like this: God prizes the work of pastors and missionaries and those working in church-related roles. But so-called “secular” work doesn't matter much in his eternal value system. Yes, it's necessary for paying the bills and financing those in “spiritual” work. But just hang on until retirement, and then you'll have more time to devote yourself to work that really matters to God.

Holding this unbiblical view of work makes it impossible for Christians in the work world to see themselves as self-supporting agents of God's Kingdom in the here and now. As a result, when Jesus sends his followers into the work world, the blessing and light he intends for that world get blocked. This leaves the world spiritually poorer, the Christian working person unfulfilled, and the mission of Jesus obstructed.

In what ways do you hope this book will benefit readers?

I wrote the book to benefit readers in three ways:

Foundation. Christians have been conditioned to adopt a deformed view of their daily work. Leaving that frame of reference behind requires a strong base, a competent grasp of how Scripture consistently supports the new, biblical worldview. *God Loves Your Work* provides that scriptural foundation, beginning with the basic truth that God himself is a worker and that we, made in his likeness, are therefore also workers.

Motivation. Serious Christians want to please God. However, if they believe their so-called “secular” work fails to satisfy him, they will find it difficult to keep clocking in day after day with any enthusiasm. *God Loves Your Work* names and illustrates at least seven God-pleasing reasons to get up and go to work.

Fulfillment. Reading *God Loves Your Work* will help Christians see what they do as fitting into the larger picture of God's purposes in the world. As a result, they will find themselves increasingly grateful for the parts they have been called to play.

Where is this book available--and in what formats?

The book is available from the major booksellers: Amazon.com, Christianbook.com, Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million, Thriftbooks, and others. Editions include: hardback, paperback, Kindle, and audio-book.

How did you come to have such an intense concern for Christians in the work world?

Having grown up in a strong, Bible-believing, regular-at-church home, I went off to college thinking that if my work were to count with God, I should become a pastor or missionary. But during my sophomore year at a Christian college, I began to sense God's call into the so-called "secular" work world. This resulted in a deep inner struggle which finally culminated in my going to work as an information officer in a state government agency.

While I was working in that job, the pastor of our church frequently signaled that God ranked church-related work above other forms of employment. For example, one Mother's Day, he invited all moms who had raised sons or daughters serving as pastors or missionaries to come to the platform. Each mother who responded received an orchid corsage. Seated in a pew about halfway back, I felt my heart beat faster. Where, I wondered, were the corsages for the moms who had raised Christian accountants, grocery store checkers, public school teachers, and so on?

Today, one of my greatest joys is helping Christians discover how to close the gap and connect the dots between their faith and their daily work.

An Excerpt from *God Loves Your Work: Discover Why He Sends You to Do What You Do*

During my first year of college, I took a janitorial job. My territory—the third floor of a junior-high school (something later known as middle school). For each room, the job description was what you would expect. Move the desks to sweep the floor. Put the desks back into straight ranks. Dust the desks. Clean the chalkboard. And empty the wastebaskets.

Unless I had done my work, those classrooms would have turned into such chaotic messes that faculty would have refused to teach there, and parents would have pulled their kids out of school. After my orientation, no one told me what to do or when to do it. In other words, when it came to the care of floor three in that school, I had the rule over it. I was shepherd-king, the cleanup czar in those rooms.

As part of God's earth, those classrooms belonged to him. I ruled over them by working as his property manager, seeking to see that his will was done in that part of his earth as it is in heaven.

Let me suggest a game you can play with family members or friends. Search online for help-wanted ads—you know, the kind that list a job title and a bit of information about what the work will involve. Then see how well you and those with you can describe how the person who fills that job will be doing their share in tending God's earth. To get you started, I've included five job titles I just found advertised online:

VETERINARY FRONT OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: In addition to tasks like answering the telephone and billing clients, a veterinary receptionist may help remove animals from cages, weigh them, and carry them to the examination room. How does this work carry out God's will? We know that God delegated to humans the care for "every living creature that moves on the ground" (Gen. 1:28). God cares about his earthly animals.

HOUSEKEEPER/HOUSE CLEANER: The well-being of those in a home partly depends on it being clean and uncluttered. Unsanitary countertops can harbor dangerous bacteria. Floors covered with carelessly tossed clothing and objects become tripping hazards. The house cleaner is serving God's interest in protecting the lives of people—an interest reflected in this verse: "When you build a new house, you must build a railing around the edge of its flat roof. That way you will not be considered guilty of murder if someone falls from the roof" (Deut. 22:8, NLT).

RETAIL STOCKING ASSOCIATE. Someone in this position will make certain that products in this hardware store are available and accessible to buyers. Many of the items in the inventory are essential for life in the 21st century to flourish—hammers, chisels, pipe wrenches, and on and on. A stock associate helps to carry out God's will that his earth be filled with humans properly provided for. God told his people living in Babylon to "build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce" (Jer. 29:5). If Jesus were to operate his construction business today, he might well depend on the work of a retail stocking associate.

FINGERPRINT TECHNICIAN: In its present condition, God's earth includes those who steal from, injure, abuse, and kill people made in God's image. A fingerprint technician serves the purposes of God by assisting "God's servants [who are his] agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer" (Rom. 13:4).

UNIVERSAL BANKER: This role includes opening and servicing all kinds of savings and deposit accounts. If human life on earth is to flourish, it requires a functioning economy (on this, see comments by Lester DeKoster in Chapter 2 of *Work: The Meaning of Your Life*). Through savings and deposit accounts flow the funds that fuel such life-sustaining economic activity—and empowering people in countless ways to carry out God's will on earth as it is done in heaven.

Praise for *God Loves Your Work: Discover Why He Sends You to Do What You Do*

“Larry Peabody has gathered up his life of learning, teaching, and working in this superb book. It is personal, practical, accessible, enlightening, evocative, comprehensive, beautifully crafted, and above all, scripturally sound, even prophetic. I commend it wholeheartedly. It could change your life for the good!”

—**R. Paul Stevens, Regent College, emeritus**

“Skillfully weaving the beautiful threads of a robust biblical theology with down-to-earth, practical wisdom, *God Loves Your Work* persuasively narrows the perilous Sunday-to-Monday discipleship gap so prevalent today. . . . Larry Peabody is a wise and seasoned sage to guide you in your Monday world as a faithful and fruitful apprenticeship with Jesus. I highly recommend it!”

—**Tom Nelson, President, Made to Flourish**

“Larry goes far beyond a Sunday sermon of being good Christians at work. He helps us reorientate our perspective and relationship with work to be truly impactful for God’s kingdom. Larry’s stories and down-to-earth wisdom make this an easy yet profound read for everyone, especially for us folks in the working trenches of helping civilization survive and thrive. It’s tremendously encouraging to know God truly does love our work. Thanks, Larry!”

—**David Hataj, President, Edgerton Gear**

Attn: Christ Followers! Read this book and you’ll fortify your workplace calling. Study this book with family and friends. Using memorable stories, case studies, and a fresh consideration of the theological/biblical context for why your Monday-to-Friday work matters to God, Peabody’s enthusiasm for this movement is contagious. . . . What if the next generation of Christ followers entered the workplace with an authentic theological/biblical understanding of why “God Loves Your Work!”

—**John W. Pearson, John Pearson Associates, Inc.**

