

WEBVTT

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00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:13.620

Ray Hammond: Bit of a break and some time to get restored and rested and ready for the start of the I call this the real start of the school and work here although of course this is going to be a little different.

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00:00:14.580 --> 00:00:17.430

Ray Hammond: than anything we've quite done before.

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00:00:18.750 --> 00:00:26.790

Ray Hammond: As we're kind of getting into. I'm going to ask. We're going to start with a word of prayer. But I do want to ask if everybody might just put in the chat.

4

00:00:27.840 --> 00:00:50.490

Ray Hammond: From the summer something different special that you're grateful for and and you might want to include something that was a real challenge. If you feel like sharing. So when asked everybody just take a moment, maybe to put in the chat, something that was a really unexpected.

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00:00:51.780 --> 00:01:03.030

Ray Hammond: Blessing in this this summer break, and if you feel like you want to share it something that's been really difficult new different unexpected unprecedented

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00:01:13.380 --> 00:01:17.100

Carole Copeland Thomas: Welcome everybody. Krista LEA Johnson glad you're here. Welcome.

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00:01:22.140 --> 00:01:23.700

Christilee Johnson: Sorry. Hello.

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00:01:24.240 --> 00:01:25.740

Christilee Johnson: Hello, welcome.

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00:01:26.760 --> 00:01:29.010

Carole Copeland Thomas: I'm also, I'm going to make you co chair pastor

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00:01:29.610 --> 00:01:30.630

Carole Copeland Thomas: Co Host Okay.

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00:01:31.530 --> 00:01:32.040

Fantastic.

12

00:01:41.190 --> 00:01:41.460

Ray Hammond: It's

13

00:01:42.990 --> 00:01:58.950

Ray Hammond: Great to have you here with us. We're asking everybody maybe just to share something during this break time or over the summer. That was unexpected or new kind of blessing. And if you'd like to, to something that was a challenge or

14

00:02:02.970 --> 00:02:05.310

Ray Hammond: Difficulty trial.

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00:02:08.280 --> 00:02:14.670

Ray Hammond: Haha no sister Tracy had to move and furnish a new space from scratch and

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00:02:14.670 --> 00:02:19.380

Ray Hammond: This is this for work or or for your living situation.

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00:02:24.210 --> 00:02:25.950

Ray Hammond: Just live. Okay. Praise God.

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00:02:26.010 --> 00:02:27.240

Ray Hammond: Thank God piece in

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00:02:27.630 --> 00:02:28.650

Place grateful.

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00:02:31.110 --> 00:02:31.950

Praise God.

21

00:02:34.500 --> 00:02:45.720

Ray Hammond: Happy for the family, including the family van assistant Joe and you and I gotta catch up. All right. God bless you. I owe you a phone call. Amen. So we're going to, we're going to catch up.

22

00:02:48.300 --> 00:02:52.710

Ray Hammond: Interesting opportunities have come from working through coven

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00:02:53.730 --> 00:03:06.810

Ray Hammond: And I can imagine that's been a real terms, especially with the family. Then another kind of the challenges you guys are working with all year round. Anyway, so I'm sure it's been a special challenge. Now, during the season of Cogan. Wow.

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00:03:09.090 --> 00:03:09.930

Ray Hammond: We want else

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00:03:18.930 --> 00:03:20.370

Ray Hammond: Good to see your sister Darlene.

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00:03:22.170 --> 00:03:23.340

Ray Hammond: This is Tanya.

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00:03:26.700 --> 00:03:27.360

TANYA MILLER: Hello.

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00:03:33.300 --> 00:03:36.270

Ray Hammond: The first dog. This is a Bible study fan.

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00:03:36.270 --> 00:03:36.750

Okay.

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00:03:39.420 --> 00:03:41.820

Carole Copeland Thomas: So he'll have to be part of the blessing of the pets.

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00:03:47.340 --> 00:03:48.390

Ray Hammond: Les Paul on

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00:03:52.890 --> 00:03:55.950

Joanne Suarez: Saturdays, we get together with right now.

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00:03:56.520 --> 00:03:57.390

And he let

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00:04:00.000 --> 00:04:03.150

Carole Copeland Thomas: You go or day or day in the first dog pastor Hammond.

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00:04:13.980 --> 00:04:18.630

Ray Hammond: You for sharing those. If you come up with other things you'd like to include the, feel free to do that.

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00:04:19.950 --> 00:04:36.030

Ray Hammond: Can I get a volunteer open us up in prayer and thanks assisted Joyce also for getting the word out, of course, the cystic half are all of so both of them so faithfully, make sure we keep moving forward in our Bible study and Reverend Karen will be back with us next week.

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00:04:37.440 --> 00:04:44.640

Ray Hammond: We're going to be doing a special study that are focused on worship, kind of in the time of Christ and the power and the importance of worship.

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00:04:45.090 --> 00:04:46.320

Ray Hammond: But have some guest speakers as a

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00:04:46.320 --> 00:04:56.640

Ray Hammond: Part of that as well. And we understand the following day. We're still waiting for the final results on that, but we're hoping to kind of pick up and some of you may have

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00:04:57.990 --> 00:05:03.930

Ray Hammond: Been here when we talked about nobody knows the trouble. I've seen how we

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00:05:04.980 --> 00:05:12.750

Ray Hammond: Keep it together in the time of pandemic and crisis. So

we'll have a volunteer to get us going and prayer.

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00:05:21.990 --> 00:05:24.030

Ray Hammond: Well, I guess you're elected SISTER TANYA

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00:05:31.650 --> 00:05:32.490

TANYA MILLER: Let's pray.

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00:05:33.720 --> 00:05:42.270

TANYA MILLER: God, we thank you for this opportunity to gather. We thank you for another day. We thank you for grace in this moment.

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00:05:44.100 --> 00:06:03.870

TANYA MILLER: We pray, O God, that you would just meet us in this time together as we study and pray that it would be a place or God for renewal of our hearts of our minds and of our just bigger to go on. My God, we thank you so much for the platform.

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00:06:04.920 --> 00:06:14.790

TANYA MILLER: And the ability to connect with another tonight have your way in this meeting. And in this Bible study in your name we pray. Lord, and give thanks. Amen.

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00:06:16.110 --> 00:06:17.460

Ray Hammond: Amen. Praise God.

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00:06:17.490 --> 00:06:21.360

Ray Hammond: Man Well again, great to see everyone. Thank you for joining us.

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00:06:22.110 --> 00:06:39.450

Ray Hammond: A couple things that we're going to to to do. I'd asked and everyone may not have seen it first less alone needs to take a look at the the entire chapter that first chapter of first Thessaloniki and want to begin right now by reading verses one through three

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00:06:40.800 --> 00:06:46.020

Ray Hammond: And I think we've got a slide there with those little sister, Carol, you can bring those up.

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00:06:46.170 --> 00:06:51.090

Ray Hammond: Yes, well, we are good to have you here. And we are Coxon
envious shellman he's got

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00:06:53.460 --> 00:06:54.060

Andrea Shellman: Good evening.

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00:07:07.470 --> 00:07:24.990

Ray Hammond: Alright, so we can go back to our the just the next slide
there. I think we'll get us in the first lesson is Chapter one Paul
Silas and Timothy. This is from the NFB and I went to this particular
translation, because it makes something a little bit clear that I'll
talk about later.

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00:07:26.430 --> 00:07:38.040

Ray Hammond: To the church and the festival onions and God the Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ grace and peace to you. We always thank God
for all of you and continually mentioned you

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00:07:41.550 --> 00:07:57.450

Ray Hammond: In our prayers, we remember it before our God and Father
your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love and your
endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

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00:07:59.550 --> 00:08:00.780

Ray Hammond: I'm intrigued.

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00:08:01.860 --> 00:08:14.370

Ray Hammond: By these three things. A call really highlights in this
third verse your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love
and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

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00:08:14.430 --> 00:08:24.300

Ray Hammond: And as we say on the first slide, the question that I
really want to ask all of us to take a moment, as we're kind of
reentering the work world normally that would be the

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00:08:24.300 --> 00:08:29.190

Ray Hammond: Case, some of us didn't stop just because of the way
Kovar this kind of rearrange

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00:08:29.220 --> 00:08:39.480

Ray Hammond: Everything. It was no real summer break, no real summer vacation. But normally, that's kind of the rhythm of life will be entering into now we'd be coming back.

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00:08:39.870 --> 00:08:53.100

Ray Hammond: Into what I call the real beginning of the work year the real beginning of the school year. And the question as we come into it, is the question for tonight, which is what are you working for

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00:08:53.880 --> 00:09:08.160

Ray Hammond: What's driving your work, what's inspiring you work. What's the cause of your work, what the foundation and the undergirding of your work. And so for that reason we want to kind of look at it and

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00:09:09.300 --> 00:09:16.680

Ray Hammond: This is something that I have been really kind of wrestling with for a long time in a lot of different ways tell you a couple of quick stories.

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00:09:17.100 --> 00:09:31.710

Ray Hammond: The first of which was it about maybe more than 2025 years ago I met Christian brother by the name of Dan Smith. We actually met on the corner of Hyde Park Avenue in RIVER STREET. THE geno's pizza there and

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00:09:33.570 --> 00:09:44.130

Ray Hammond: He gotten in touch with me because he was actually leading a ministry that was trying to get believers to think more think harder think longer

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00:09:44.640 --> 00:09:50.970

Ray Hammond: About why God had them in the places that God had them. Why would they, what was it, they were doing.

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00:09:51.240 --> 00:09:59.790

Ray Hammond: Whatever hours. They've doing what is nine to five, three to 11 seven to 311 to seven whenever whatever their shift, whatever that time during the day was

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00:10:00.180 --> 00:10:17.670

Ray Hammond: Whether they were working in the home or whether they were working in the marketplace or, or, you know, in the construction side wherever it might be the question he was trying to get people to think about was what are you, what are you working for what is your work all about

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00:10:19.110 --> 00:10:29.880

Ray Hammond: And, of course, that makes a lot of sense. As we come now after Labor Day, which again significantly is kind of the start of the end of summer. Beginning of the work here.

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00:10:31.470 --> 00:10:37.020

Ray Hammond: And we really do ask ourselves, what's this work about what does this work for

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00:10:38.670 --> 00:10:51.480

Ray Hammond: So that's the challenge that I want us to kind of grapple with a little bit today and to that end, I've turned to this passage in first Thessaloniki and asked you to think about with me.

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00:10:52.560 --> 00:11:03.150

Ray Hammond: What is it that you're working for. Why are you working to what and and are you working, what does your work me for the kingdom of God.

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00:11:04.560 --> 00:11:10.290

Ray Hammond: Well, a couple things that are worth keeping in mind as you as you think about that.

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00:11:11.250 --> 00:11:25.680

Ray Hammond: The first of which of course has to do with the fact that this this issue of work all through this crisis that we've been involved in has kept coming up over and over again. And I'm particularly concerned about it because, of course,

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00:11:26.700 --> 00:11:33.840

Ray Hammond: A lot of people, particularly if their jobs have not restarted, or if their work has only been part time

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00:11:34.530 --> 00:11:42.030

Ray Hammond: Are getting to the end of their savings. They're getting

to a place in the space where it's going to be harder and harder.

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00:11:42.930 --> 00:11:53.250

Ray Hammond: For them to bounce back even if jobs come back on and and so in the middle of all this, we need to understand that this issue of work.

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00:11:53.970 --> 00:12:09.690

Ray Hammond: And the availability of work and the equity of work has always mattered to God. It's been there through the work of the prophets, going back to Isaiah, Jeremiah Amos, you look back through the writing that they

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00:12:10.740 --> 00:12:23.220

Ray Hammond: Have as a prophetic figure and time and time again they're raising their concern about the ways in which those who are working, we're not able to find work find themselves on the bottom of things.

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00:12:24.450 --> 00:12:36.540

Ray Hammond: And so it's not just an Old Testament concern you find it very much alive in the New Testament as well. Now I cite this scripture here which is called pulling up from

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00:12:37.650 --> 00:12:48.810

Ray Hammond: The contemporary English version of the fifth chapter of the Book of James and here. James is writing you rich people should cry and weep terrible things are going to happen to you.

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00:12:49.320 --> 00:12:59.880

Ray Hammond: Yet you keep on storing up wealth in these last days you refuse to pay the people who worked in your fields and now they're unpaid wages are shouting out against you.

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00:13:00.450 --> 00:13:06.090

Ray Hammond: The Lord all powerful has surely heard the cries of the workers who harvested your crops.

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00:13:06.930 --> 00:13:21.630

Ray Hammond: So this issue of work and equity and work and fairness and work. First question I want to ask is, what does it mean. I mean, if this matters to God. What does this mean for the pandemic

unemployed, what

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00:13:23.130 --> 00:13:37.560

Ray Hammond: Where, where is God in all of this, what does God think about this situation in which people have been suddenly thrown out of work for reasons that have nothing to do with them whatsoever. Any thoughts or reactions or or feedback on that.

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00:13:44.700 --> 00:13:57.570

Carole Copeland Thomas: I'm going to just speak up from my daughter, Michelle, because she is unemployed directly because of the pandemic, having worked for the Milton public school system for some 12 years where she grew up in the same system.

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00:13:58.920 --> 00:14:19.410

Carole Copeland Thomas: Her she's been unemployed before. So this was not the first time. And I think because of the previous transitions that she's been through and transformations that she's gone through. I didn't sense that she reacted as visibly as she did in past years with previous

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00:14:20.940 --> 00:14:30.360

Carole Copeland Thomas: bouts of unemployment, moving from Chicago here and that kind of thing. But I'm struck with the fact that her unemployment.

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00:14:31.380 --> 00:14:44.130

Carole Copeland Thomas: Is different than another type of unemployment, where I'm her fallback plan. She lives with me her husband lives with me. There's not a concern about not eating.

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00:14:45.990 --> 00:14:55.650

Carole Copeland Thomas: versus another person or persons who are unemployed. They have all of their bills that they're responsible for including their shelter.

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00:14:56.610 --> 00:15:16.440

Carole Copeland Thomas: And other responsibilities and children and or other family members. So I would look at it probably as levels of this kind of transition and the kind of responsibilities that a person or persons have based on

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00:15:17.640 --> 00:15:31.800

Carole Copeland Thomas: What their circumstances are now her husband has eels. My daughter's husband is ill, so she has that everybody has something, but I just am looking at others where the situations are much, much more dire.

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00:15:36.690 --> 00:15:38.490

Ray Hammond: Others other other reactions.

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00:15:38.640 --> 00:15:40.200

Joanne Suarez: I agree with difficult when

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00:15:41.250 --> 00:15:49.620

Joanne Suarez: I'm looking at the yet you keep store and wealth in these last days. But you refuse to pay your people who work in your fields and

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00:15:50.970 --> 00:16:03.450

Joanne Suarez: Lately I've been reading a lot about animal and justice, and in general about how workers get exploited in the fields.

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00:16:04.500 --> 00:16:08.520

Joanne Suarez: A lot of them working, what could be considered like modern slavery.

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00:16:08.520 --> 00:16:09.390

Ray Hammond: Conditions.

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00:16:09.870 --> 00:16:10.950

Ray Hammond: And it makes me think.

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00:16:10.950 --> 00:16:15.690

Joanne Suarez: About how there's little regard for the health and well being of

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00:16:16.740 --> 00:16:18.930

Joanne Suarez: Of the people that are working out there and

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00:16:18.930 --> 00:16:20.220

Ray Hammond: sacrificing their

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00:16:20.220 --> 00:16:22.800

Joanne Suarez: Health and sacrificing their families.

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00:16:24.660 --> 00:16:28.170

Joanne Suarez: In order to make ends meet, because

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00:16:28.320 --> 00:16:30.090

Joanne Suarez: You know they have bills to pay, and

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00:16:30.090 --> 00:16:30.960

Joanne Suarez: No one is going to

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00:16:32.850 --> 00:16:40.530

Joanne Suarez: Support them in that if they don't go to work. So those are some of the things that come to mind for me how this

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00:16:40.530 --> 00:16:48.030

Joanne Suarez: Is there's levels of injustice. Um, and it's like, you know, we're using people

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00:16:48.030 --> 00:16:49.050

Ray Hammond: As a means to an

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00:16:49.050 --> 00:16:49.500

End

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00:16:50.700 --> 00:16:51.420

Joanne Suarez: Some

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00:16:51.480 --> 00:16:57.780

Joanne Suarez: Folks to store up wealth and or and others to to just get by and be

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00:16:57.780 --> 00:16:59.640

Ray Hammond: Able to provide for their families.

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00:17:03.720 --> 00:17:08.520

Ray Hammond: The next slide I think shows it says, What does this mean for the pandemic.

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00:17:08.550 --> 00:17:09.420

Unemployed.

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00:17:11.250 --> 00:17:20.490

Ray Hammond: And then the slide. After that raises the other question, what does this mean for the pandemic essential workers, right. So you've really brought up both of them, Joanne and and

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00:17:22.410 --> 00:17:27.840

Ray Hammond: As I said before we even get to this issue of the implication for our own work for those of us who are continuing to work.

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00:17:28.170 --> 00:17:33.390

Ray Hammond: And we can work at home. We got to take the time to really think about those who want to work and can't do it.

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00:17:33.990 --> 00:17:40.680

Ray Hammond: And we really, it's very clear again from the Scriptures over and over again. Cut God deeply cares about this.

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00:17:41.190 --> 00:17:58.680

Ray Hammond: And he judges nations on the basis of the way in which they treat people with justice or in justice. Our last great recession 2008 8 million people unemployed 5 million people lost their houses.

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00:18:00.720 --> 00:18:16.740

Ray Hammond: That 8 million number has been greatly exceeded we're praying that those jobs come back quickly, but we're not sure already. I think the figures. I've seen 1520 25% restaurants closed down are not coming back.

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00:18:18.240 --> 00:18:24.750

Ray Hammond: What other essential areas are we going to see that and as a nation, are we going to be as quick

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00:18:25.770 --> 00:18:28.680

Ray Hammond: To care for people who want to work.

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00:18:30.060 --> 00:18:52.620

Ray Hammond: But who can't as we are for people who only have money working for them and want their taxes low that's going to be the essential test for our nation and what the word makes clear is God's going to be looking that over and over again, when he judges whether the nation is just or not.

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00:18:56.280 --> 00:18:57.120

Ray Hammond: You know, pastor

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00:18:57.480 --> 00:19:10.500

Carole Copeland Thomas: There, there are. I just got off a meeting before this one with the hospitality industry here in Boston. And there are hotels that have not opened yet here in Boston. I know one

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00:19:11.520 --> 00:19:17.880

Carole Copeland Thomas: Person can't participate with my program because their hotel has an open yet so there

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00:19:17.940 --> 00:19:20.970

Carole Copeland Thomas: There's that situation there the restaurant tours.

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00:19:21.330 --> 00:19:28.920

Carole Copeland Thomas: What they're going through, and even some businesses that are open that are not at the level where they were a year ago because they

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00:19:29.040 --> 00:19:31.140

Carole Copeland Thomas: They don't have the traffic flow if there are

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00:19:31.890 --> 00:19:43.230

Carole Copeland Thomas: A brick and mortar building a business or they have to have reduce number of people in their stores. So it's impacting folks, even if they are open, they're still hardship and involved.

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00:19:44.370 --> 00:20:03.330

Ray Hammond: Absolutely, absolutely. So the first thing in this context of workers to remember those as a say who are in the midst of

great trial and struggle to remember them with that prayers I pray that we are all advocating in whatever ways we can for those persons for those families.

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00:20:04.860 --> 00:20:10.230

Ray Hammond: Our Congress is looking at this issue right now is a whether they're going to continue to support

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00:20:11.940 --> 00:20:15.000

Ray Hammond: Individuals and support the industries that they're working in

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00:20:16.380 --> 00:20:24.570

Ray Hammond: And certainly the church that both whether we're whether we're reaching out to help friends and family members and sister Carol talked about

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00:20:25.020 --> 00:20:35.490

Ray Hammond: But also the church as a whole we we've already been doing that, we have a reasonably we're going to continue to need to do that to come alongside to help people stay in homes.

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00:20:36.330 --> 00:20:44.910

Ray Hammond: Stay in their apartments, be able to get the food that they need meet some essential needs and so on. This is crucial.

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00:20:45.750 --> 00:20:53.700

Ray Hammond: Particularly in the, in the time of pandemic. And again, it's one of those things that which God pays deep attention when he asks.

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00:20:54.210 --> 00:21:02.070

Ray Hammond: Is my church is this country, which says it's under God actually operating in a way that's Justin Right.

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00:21:02.880 --> 00:21:15.240

Ray Hammond: So we we constantly keep that in in mind as we think about this issue of work and then for those of us who do have jobs we ask ourselves, why am I doing what I'm doing.

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00:21:15.840 --> 00:21:30.930

Ray Hammond: Now, let me start from the presumption. And let me throw this out and then ask you to tell me if what I'm saying is right and and if it's right. Why is it right and if it's wrong. Why is it wrong. I'm going to argue that work is supposed to be a gift from God.

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00:21:33.000 --> 00:21:37.140

Ray Hammond: Is that true, not true. If so, why is it true, if not, why is it not true.

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00:21:46.350 --> 00:21:51.630

Trina Bryant: I don't know. Yeah. Oh, sorry to open up my screen.

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00:21:54.150 --> 00:22:03.510

Trina Bryant: Um, I don't know necessarily about it being a gift, per se, but I do think that work is a type of discipline.

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00:22:04.590 --> 00:22:13.320

Trina Bryant: That is that I think and I haven't really done the reading. So I apologize. I'm not speaking from Scripture, but probably should. But just my experience and

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00:22:14.550 --> 00:22:15.090

Ray Hammond: Full disclosure

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00:22:15.120 --> 00:22:18.120

Ray Hammond: It's actually not in the Scripture that ahead you read for tonight so you

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00:22:18.120 --> 00:22:19.740

Ray Hammond: Don't go somewhere else to find it.

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00:22:19.890 --> 00:22:24.630

Trina Bryant: Okay good, good submitted that I didn't do my homework. Okay. Sorry, but

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00:22:26.640 --> 00:22:29.340

Trina Bryant: I couldn't, I couldn't skated by the students

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00:22:30.390 --> 00:22:30.630

Ray Hammond: That's

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00:22:31.020 --> 00:22:31.770

Ray Hammond: That's okay.

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00:22:31.830 --> 00:22:32.460

Ray Hammond: honesty's

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00:22:32.700 --> 00:22:37.290

Trina Bryant: The best policy, but um but yeah I don't know why, but I just think

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00:22:38.340 --> 00:22:46.710

Trina Bryant: Like I don't. I think that as human being. Sometimes we're always looking for. I'm like this this emotion. This feeling

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00:22:47.700 --> 00:22:58.200

Trina Bryant: With everything. And I think that sometimes I think feelings are good, but I don't think we need, we should base. Everything we do around our emotions because they Evan flow. And so I think about work there elements to my job.

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00:22:58.470 --> 00:23:01.050

Trina Bryant: That I really love passionate about. There's others that I don't

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00:23:01.620 --> 00:23:11.250

Trina Bryant: But I also think that for me, my job is a part of. I believe my purpose as an educator, but it's also, it's also a discipline. It's, um,

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00:23:13.350 --> 00:23:19.860

Trina Bryant: It's and I understand that being a gift to have, you know, less I think someone saying in the chat to have resources, but

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00:23:20.280 --> 00:23:23.280

Trina Bryant: I think that there are things in our lives that we do, because I think

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00:23:23.310 --> 00:23:26.880

Trina Bryant: We need that discipline life to build habits that are

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00:23:27.240 --> 00:23:39.270

Trina Bryant: really necessary. I think for us to live abundantly. I think when people think about abundantly. They just think about, like, oh, I have freedom, the freedom, but I think there is a sense of freedom and joy in disciplined work. So I don't know, but

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00:23:39.600 --> 00:23:40.200

Trina Bryant: That's kind of my

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00:23:40.560 --> 00:23:46.020

Ray Hammond: Absolutely no I completely agree with you. But why am I saying it's a gift from God.

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00:23:46.500 --> 00:23:49.800

Ray Hammond: I agree with you, the discipline is a critical part of it, and so on.

166

00:23:50.310 --> 00:23:52.170

Ray Hammond: Yeah, well, why do I say it's a gift from God.

167

00:23:52.620 --> 00:23:54.150

TANYA MILLER: I think it's a gift because if you

168

00:23:54.150 --> 00:23:55.680

Tracie Ellison: Turn it back to the Scriptures.

169

00:23:56.880 --> 00:24:08.310

Tracie Ellison: Us being able to work allows us to give back to God when he's been what he's allowed us to receive but talks about in the Bible about being able to contribute first fruits, your first trip to go to God.

170

00:24:08.670 --> 00:24:09.780

Tracie Ellison: Because God has provided

171

00:24:09.780 --> 00:24:20.730

Tracie Ellison: For you. Okay, so he's given us provisions that we're allowed to live, you know, and have provisions, because he provides for us. Well, the way he provides for us is to give us a job that we

can earn money.

172

00:24:21.270 --> 00:24:29.490

Tracie Ellison: And earn you know like, you know, buy food and how I mean that's that's basically like at least in today's world, how we live.

173

00:24:30.240 --> 00:24:40.410

Tracie Ellison: You know, like, there aren't as many farmers as they used to be like when used to be a you know a farming society where people would live on the land live off the land and grow their own stuff.

174

00:24:40.800 --> 00:24:44.520

Tracie Ellison: I mean, we still have that, of course, there was none of none of us would eat, but it's not to the

175

00:24:44.520 --> 00:24:57.990

Tracie Ellison: Extent. You know it back in like the earlier biblical days where people would they could grow their own food. And have you know their the way to source there means, but so I think that work, not

176

00:24:58.200 --> 00:25:00.780

Trina Bryant: Give to other people or other people to get that

177

00:25:00.840 --> 00:25:01.620

Ray Hammond: Yeah. All right.

178

00:25:01.950 --> 00:25:02.340

So,

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00:25:05.130 --> 00:25:08.460

Tracie Ellison: I was thinking in the Bible doesn't say something about like

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00:25:09.540 --> 00:25:16.260

Tracie Ellison: I'm loosely translating the beggars don't inherit the kingdom of God or something like that. So wouldn't work in that sense be Augustus.

181

00:25:18.930 --> 00:25:24.900

Ray Hammond: Well it says if you don't work. You shouldn't eat. That's one of the epistles. Absolutely. But

182

00:25:27.120 --> 00:25:36.540

Ray Hammond: Let me, let me agree with you. It is a means that God provides for us to feed ourselves, it is, it means that God provides for us to share with others. And those are all things.

183

00:25:37.890 --> 00:25:39.750

Ray Hammond: That are

184

00:25:42.450 --> 00:25:48.210

Ray Hammond: Important gifts. Let me tell you what I'm saying that I it we need to understand

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00:25:48.210 --> 00:25:50.190

Ray Hammond: That work is a gift from God and and I'm

186

00:25:51.270 --> 00:26:00.000

Ray Hammond: emphasizing that point because people hear the curse that was placed upon Adam

187

00:26:01.320 --> 00:26:09.510

Ray Hammond: And they believe that work in a sense is part of that curse. And that's actually not true.

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00:26:10.710 --> 00:26:13.590

Ray Hammond: All right. So, for example, they read

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00:26:14.760 --> 00:26:17.520

Ray Hammond: In if you go to Genesis chapter three.

190

00:26:19.950 --> 00:26:29.190

Ray Hammond: And you can just turn in your Bibles there that when Adam is put out of the garden, along with it right the first man and the woman. All right.

191

00:26:30.180 --> 00:26:41.040

Ray Hammond: The Lord says to them, because you have listened to the voice of your wife have eaten of the tree, about which I commanded you shall not eat of it. Cursed is the ground because of you in toil.

192

00:26:41.340 --> 00:26:45.360

Ray Hammond: You shall eat him at all the days of your life. And people think of that is really being

193

00:26:46.110 --> 00:26:52.230

Ray Hammond: In work in labor thorns and thistles. It shall bring forth you shall eat the plants of the field and so on and so on.

194

00:26:52.620 --> 00:27:08.040

Ray Hammond: You by the sweat of your face, you shall eat bread into you return to the ground for out of it, you were taking your dust and to dust you shall return. The problem is they don't read the earlier scriptures. For example, in chapter one, right.

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00:27:09.690 --> 00:27:22.410

Ray Hammond: And if you read there. It talks about creating human beings in God's image verse 26 let us make humankind in our image. According to Our likeness, let them have dominion.

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00:27:22.680 --> 00:27:30.060

Ray Hammond: Verse 27. So God created him humankind in his image, in the image of God. He created them male and female he created them right

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00:27:32.070 --> 00:27:32.670

Ray Hammond: And

198

00:27:34.080 --> 00:27:36.330

Ray Hammond: If you go down now to the second

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00:27:38.250 --> 00:27:43.950

Ray Hammond: Chapter where there's a restatement of the creation story. All right.

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00:27:45.990 --> 00:27:47.550

Ray Hammond: You read again.

201

00:27:48.690 --> 00:27:58.020

Ray Hammond: In this instance, God talking to the uncelebrated human being. Adam was called there. And then verse 18 then the Lord

202

00:27:58.500 --> 00:28:03.180

Ray Hammond: Said to him. It's not good. You should be alone. I will make a helper out of the ground. The Lord formed every

203

00:28:04.050 --> 00:28:16.170

Ray Hammond: Name of animal, the field every bird of the air verse 20 the man gave names to the catalog to the birds of the air to every animal that field. But for the man that was not found the helper as his partner.

204

00:28:16.650 --> 00:28:26.790

Ray Hammond: And if you read through this entire section, it becomes clear that work is part of the initial creation. And that makes sense because if we're in the

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00:28:27.210 --> 00:28:49.590

Ray Hammond: With were created in the image of God were created in the image of a God who works the whole creation story lays out the work of God from which he rests on the Sabbath day. So work is not a curse work is part of the original plan.

206

00:28:50.850 --> 00:29:03.660

Ray Hammond: What's the curse is the difficulty that often attends to the work that God has called us to do. That's the curse.

207

00:29:05.340 --> 00:29:06.810

Ray Hammond: Any questions. Is that clear.

208

00:29:13.290 --> 00:29:14.190

Ray Hammond: Yes that's clear.

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00:29:16.560 --> 00:29:18.930

F A: I think I have. I have a question, because I think

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00:29:20.700 --> 00:29:25.500

F A: The use of the word work connotes income.

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00:29:26.670 --> 00:29:31.770

F A: And so anytime you ask people about work. I'm not as I said no, the Jesus work.

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00:29:31.800 --> 00:29:33.420

F A: I mean, he didn't work for money.

213

00:29:34.260 --> 00:29:36.120

F A: But he certainly did a lot of work.

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00:29:38.070 --> 00:29:39.990

F A: So well that's good work for money to

215

00:29:40.650 --> 00:29:41.190

Well,

216

00:29:43.500 --> 00:29:54.660

Ray Hammond: Yeah well axes handyman, it's the word tech town and Greek. We often translated Carpenter, but it's really more like kind of a handyman he follows in his father's footsteps and he's known for that.

217

00:29:55.410 --> 00:29:58.920

F A: Yeah, but until, until he left to to become

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00:30:00.510 --> 00:30:01.350

A preacher. Right.

219

00:30:02.760 --> 00:30:04.650

Ray Hammond: He stopped working. When he worked

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00:30:04.920 --> 00:30:06.210

Ray Hammond: Harder. Right.

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00:30:08.040 --> 00:30:10.290

F A: But that's my point exactly right. But he wasn't earning

222

00:30:10.350 --> 00:30:12.510
F A: Income. Yeah, per se. Right.

223
00:30:14.010 --> 00:30:15.510
F A: After he went on the road.

224
00:30:17.310 --> 00:30:21.390
Ray Hammond: Well he's actually supported at that point by

225
00:30:23.730 --> 00:30:28.980
Ray Hammond: The other. In fact, primarily women of means who support the ministry. Right.

226
00:30:30.120 --> 00:30:32.640
Ray Hammond: But is somebody who is

227
00:30:34.200 --> 00:30:38.010
Ray Hammond: An at home mother or father, are they working

228
00:30:39.780 --> 00:30:40.440
F A: Absolutely.

229
00:30:43.290 --> 00:30:47.580
Ray Hammond: And they're not what it's, there's no income right generally

230
00:30:52.620 --> 00:30:52.980
F A: Right.

231
00:30:53.280 --> 00:30:57.360
Ray Hammond: So I'm sorry right in our you're right in our economy we connect

232
00:30:57.360 --> 00:31:01.290
Ray Hammond: Work with income. But that's not the way God sees it.

233
00:31:02.880 --> 00:31:03.390
F A: And I'm

234

00:31:03.420 --> 00:31:05.850

F A: bringing it up because some of the earlier comments.

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00:31:06.180 --> 00:31:07.320

F A: Related to

236

00:31:08.940 --> 00:31:10.080

F A: earn an income.

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00:31:10.380 --> 00:31:14.070

F A: Providing first fruits given up to others and so on and

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00:31:14.070 --> 00:31:15.120

F A: So forth. So there's

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00:31:16.410 --> 00:31:21.000

F A: A financial economy that kind of gets abused in any conversation around work.

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00:31:23.070 --> 00:31:26.700

Ray Hammond: Absolutely. So what is work for

241

00:31:30.510 --> 00:31:33.870

Ray Hammond: It can produce income. But what is work for

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00:31:35.730 --> 00:31:39.570

Ray Hammond: What's the work of an at home mother and father. What's the work

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00:31:40.050 --> 00:31:41.520

Ray Hammond: I know someone who's

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00:31:41.520 --> 00:31:43.800

Ray Hammond: Retired what is work for

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00:31:46.080 --> 00:31:54.360

Trina Bryant: I haven't also just adjust those, those who stayed home and who are doing work if you equate time with money than it is a type

of financial benefit.

246

00:31:54.870 --> 00:31:56.520

Trina Bryant: You could pay someone to watch

247

00:31:56.520 --> 00:32:13.260

Trina Bryant: Kids, but that's a greater costs. And so being home, you get to build get to bond. But you are saving money. And so that's why I'm you know there's some people who went both minimum and make that choice, instead of paying you know an extra cost like pretty much a college via this point.

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00:32:13.800 --> 00:32:15.720

Trina Bryant: You know, there is this time. So I do think that

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00:32:16.110 --> 00:32:21.300

Trina Bryant: I think sometimes we don't we don't associate economics. But if you or

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00:32:21.390 --> 00:32:23.970

Trina Bryant: Monetary Value. But if you really look at

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00:32:24.000 --> 00:32:26.790

Trina Bryant: Hours time as being valuable.

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00:32:27.000 --> 00:32:31.170

Trina Bryant: in multiple ways. And anyway, I'll stop there. That's just not

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00:32:31.260 --> 00:32:33.660

Ray Hammond: Quite, you know, good, good, good point, yeah.

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00:32:35.970 --> 00:32:41.790

Ray Hammond: And again, I'm not certainly not denying the financial aspects of it, but somebody helped me understand what is work for

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00:32:42.330 --> 00:32:47.010

F A: So I'm just following up on that prior comment right so

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00:32:50.850 --> 00:32:54.450

F A: Someone that volunteers full time, for example.

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00:32:54.930 --> 00:32:55.770

F A: Is working

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00:32:55.860 --> 00:33:01.800

F A: And not receiving directly any beneficial right financial benefits.

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00:33:01.920 --> 00:33:02.550

Trina Bryant: Right, but

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00:33:03.210 --> 00:33:04.740

F A: Certainly working just as hard

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00:33:05.190 --> 00:33:17.550

F A: Now, so, the question that passes asking as the work is doing is still valuable or her she's doing so valuable and therefore, what's the, what's the purpose of that work.

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00:33:17.940 --> 00:33:19.410

F A: Mm hmm is

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00:33:19.950 --> 00:33:24.960

F A: To support the community. I guess the support God's creation.

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00:33:25.470 --> 00:33:26.670

Trina Bryant: Mm hmm. Absolutely.

265

00:33:27.690 --> 00:33:32.760

Joyce Marshall: Isn't work just to get things done. I mean, children have to be taken care of. They have

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00:33:32.790 --> 00:33:35.220

Joyce Marshall: To be reading so

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00:33:35.760 --> 00:33:45.180

Joyce Marshall: There's no you know you're not getting a paycheck for

that. But you someone needs to take care of the children. So someone needs to do everything.

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00:33:47.190 --> 00:33:54.720

Joyce Marshall: I mean, we need we get some will get paid because you have to pay for certain things, but a lot of people barter.

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00:33:56.550 --> 00:34:02.880

Joyce Marshall: So they don't actually use money, but they're, you know, or they do like in kind gifts. Right.

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00:34:04.140 --> 00:34:08.280

Trina Bryant: Or in some organizations rely on volunteers to get work done.

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00:34:11.160 --> 00:34:24.660

Trina Bryant: Or I goes back to, I think one of the things that it's for i like i think it. Part of it is to it. Everything that people said, I mean you need people to do things in the community. But I also think it's part it's it's helpful to build discipline. But that's also

272

00:34:26.190 --> 00:34:30.570

Ray Hammond: Oh no, no doubt about it. And you can't get work done without being disciplined.

273

00:34:30.840 --> 00:34:33.840

F A: Nobody could, you could be you could be a monk can be disciplined.

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00:34:34.740 --> 00:34:37.320

F A: And I would argue, you're probably not getting that much more work done.

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00:34:38.340 --> 00:34:40.410

Ray Hammond: As a monk right now.

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00:34:42.030 --> 00:34:42.540

Trina Bryant: But a month.

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00:34:43.680 --> 00:34:44.250

Trina Bryant: To work.

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00:34:46.470 --> 00:34:49.740

Trina Bryant: Well done, well, first of all, I don't, I don't know, a lot of them only the people that I know.

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00:34:51.270 --> 00:34:53.430

Trina Bryant: So I guess we're kind of we're kind of speaking of things that

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00:34:53.580 --> 00:34:55.920

Trina Bryant: I don't know if you know amongst but like in terms of nuns. I mean,

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00:34:56.250 --> 00:35:02.070

Trina Bryant: They might not necessarily. I don't know. I don't the compensation and must be different mean they obviously have a place to live.

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00:35:02.760 --> 00:35:03.840

Trina Bryant: Food that's

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00:35:04.170 --> 00:35:04.830

Trina Bryant: That's probably

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00:35:05.850 --> 00:35:07.170

F A: Just pray all day. That's

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00:35:07.650 --> 00:35:07.920

F A: That's

286

00:35:08.820 --> 00:35:14.850

Trina Bryant: That's factored in all day. That's factored in, but like they are doing some form of work, I would think.

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00:35:16.230 --> 00:35:17.790

TANYA MILLER: That that

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00:35:18.570 --> 00:35:21.000

Ray Hammond: You're right. They may actually produce

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00:35:22.230 --> 00:35:29.820

Ray Hammond: Jams specialty beers and wines and all kinds of things right, no question about that they may sell

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00:35:30.120 --> 00:35:40.740

Ray Hammond: They may just produce enough to to support themselves, but the likelihood is a large part of their life is given to to prayer.

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00:35:41.190 --> 00:35:51.630

Ray Hammond: In the same way that perhaps a lot of Jesus. Life was given to healing and preaching and teaching. So again, I want to throw out this notion

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00:35:52.440 --> 00:36:04.170

Ray Hammond: Let me throw this out and then ask us to think about it, because it'll come back to the issue. It's why I think Paul talks in the terms of he does and and the challenge I think for all of us.

293

00:36:04.830 --> 00:36:14.910

Ray Hammond: Is to make sure that the financial aspect of what we do, which is not unimportant right the discipline aspect of what we do.

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00:36:15.570 --> 00:36:36.090

Ray Hammond: Doesn't overshadow the fact that there is a sacred component because someone said, we are exchanging the gift of God's time for labor and that labor should be related to whatever it is. God has called us to do and be in God's world.

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00:36:37.440 --> 00:36:42.390

Ray Hammond: And we can never lose sight of that and it is so easy to do.

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00:36:43.590 --> 00:36:54.990

Ray Hammond: So I want to, I want to just throw that out that, in fact, the purpose of work is to advance God's kingdom in some way.

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00:36:56.070 --> 00:36:58.380

Ray Hammond: Through our labor. That's what we do and work.

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00:36:59.940 --> 00:37:00.300

Right.

299

00:37:02.610 --> 00:37:05.430

Ray Hammond: Now, I know it's hard to see that sometimes

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00:37:06.450 --> 00:37:09.030

Ray Hammond: But that's the challenge that I want to put to everybody.

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00:37:09.510 --> 00:37:14.220

Ray Hammond: How through your work. Are you advancing God's kingdom.

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00:37:15.720 --> 00:37:15.990

Ray Hammond: Now,

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00:37:16.500 --> 00:37:17.490

Ray Hammond: Hold on. If you're not

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00:37:17.940 --> 00:37:18.390

Wait.

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00:37:20.670 --> 00:37:24.030

Ray Hammond: Well, it's a very good question. Yeah, let's come back to that in just a

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00:37:24.240 --> 00:37:33.060

Ray Hammond: Second, what is it that you are working for now Paul in this passage, as I said before, talks about work produced by faith.

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00:37:33.540 --> 00:37:48.210

Ray Hammond: Labor prompted by love and endurance inspired by hope not time enough to go with all three of those. But I want to share with you that the word for work here, produced by faith is one Greek word Aragon, from which we get the word energy

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00:37:49.410 --> 00:37:53.640

Ray Hammond: The second word that used here is a different Greek word corpus.

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00:37:54.180 --> 00:38:04.590

Ray Hammond: And it talks about work that is attended by trouble and work that has some measure of toil connected with it right

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00:38:04.920 --> 00:38:17.040

Ray Hammond: So he's using two different terms here, in a way, it's almost like work produced by faith labor or toil, that is prompted by love. And then, of course, insurance, that is inspired by hope.

311

00:38:18.540 --> 00:38:30.330

Ray Hammond: And when you look at the word that he uses here especially that second one labor Paul uses the same word in the second chapter of Thessaloniki and I want to read that to you.

312

00:38:31.080 --> 00:38:41.280

Ray Hammond: My dear friends, you surely haven't forgotten our hard work and hardships. You remember how night and day we struggled to make a living.

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00:38:41.940 --> 00:38:54.510

Ray Hammond: Right, so that we could tell you, God's message without being a burden to anyone. So this is our hard work. That's that same word couples. The second one, hard work labor.

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00:38:57.300 --> 00:38:58.980

Ray Hammond: Produced by love. Right.

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00:39:00.870 --> 00:39:10.290

Ray Hammond: Does anyone know what Paul's referring to here and first less lonely as to what kind of work was he likely to be doing. Anyone know what Paul's trade was

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00:39:14.910 --> 00:39:15.600

Joyce Marshall: Maker. Right.

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00:39:17.280 --> 00:39:18.000

Ray Hammond: That's right. Was it

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00:39:18.810 --> 00:39:19.110

Ray Hammond: Oh,

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00:39:19.200 --> 00:39:28.650

Ray Hammond: Well, he yes he was part of that the religious hierarchy. Yes, he was a pharmacy and so on. But his work was that have a tent maker. Right.

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00:39:31.050 --> 00:39:31.860

Ray Hammond: That sounds familiar.

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00:39:33.900 --> 00:39:34.320

Ray Hammond: Okay.

322

00:39:35.340 --> 00:39:41.940

Ray Hammond: Take my word for it. Now I'll get you a script to the appointment, a little bit later. Why did he say I'm working here.

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00:39:47.220 --> 00:39:52.380

Ray Hammond: He didn't work with every church that he started are everywhere that he went. Why is he working here.

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00:39:59.370 --> 00:40:04.470

Joyce Marshall: Wasn't so he would not be thought of is like mooching off of people

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00:40:05.490 --> 00:40:06.840

Ray Hammond: Yes, absolutely.

326

00:40:07.950 --> 00:40:09.360

Ray Hammond: Is it is everybody clear on that.

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00:40:13.770 --> 00:40:14.460

Aaron Thomas: Yeah. Yes.

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00:40:15.360 --> 00:40:24.000

Ray Hammond: All right, let me put it to another way Paul says on several occasions I have the right to ask for support.

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00:40:25.830 --> 00:40:29.850

Ray Hammond: But so that it will never be a hindrance to the gospel.

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00:40:31.350 --> 00:40:41.670

Ray Hammond: I will work with my own hands so that no one will say that we are trying to be we are trying to profit from preaching

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00:40:44.610 --> 00:40:49.740

Ray Hammond: And in many some places. He didn't have to do that. But in many places he did

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00:40:50.040 --> 00:41:05.070

Ray Hammond: Especially where he was not known, or people weren't sure because there were lots of people. Not just Christians, lots of preachers of all kinds of religious traditions and faiths and mystery religions, who were wandering around, and they would ask people for money.

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00:41:06.150 --> 00:41:10.290

Ray Hammond: They would common set up shop and live the high life.

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00:41:12.030 --> 00:41:14.250

Ray Hammond: Does that sound at all familiar

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00:41:16.560 --> 00:41:17.250

Carole Copeland Thomas: Well,

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00:41:17.550 --> 00:41:18.780

Carole Copeland Thomas: That's another workshop

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00:41:20.460 --> 00:41:27.720

Carole Copeland Thomas: When you talk about airplanes and extravagant living that some ministers haven't and the, what is it the

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00:41:28.800 --> 00:41:32.790

Carole Copeland Thomas: prosperity gospel, the prosperity ministries

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00:41:33.870 --> 00:41:38.250

Ray Hammond: Let me just say, I think the apostle would have been appalled.

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00:41:39.390 --> 00:41:47.580

Ray Hammond: By the notion that people would be asking folks coming to their church on public transportation on foot.

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00:41:48.840 --> 00:41:50.160

Ray Hammond: To buy them a jet plane.

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00:41:51.600 --> 00:41:53.040

Ray Hammond: Be thoroughly appalled by

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00:41:56.130 --> 00:41:57.360

Ray Hammond: His ethic was

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00:41:58.440 --> 00:42:09.240

Ray Hammond: If this can in any way and P people's guys will undermine their sense of the motives for which I'm doing this I will work with my own hands. So why was he working

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00:42:24.690 --> 00:42:25.710

Ray Hammond: Why is he working here.

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00:42:35.130 --> 00:42:38.820

Ray Hammond: Why is he doing this hard work and then doing these hardships.

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00:42:40.800 --> 00:42:42.210

F A: Didn't you just tell us faster.

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00:42:43.110 --> 00:42:43.380

Ray Hammond: That he

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00:42:44.010 --> 00:42:46.830

F A: Across like a teacher like a moocher

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00:42:48.150 --> 00:42:50.580

Ray Hammond: That's exactly right. And why does that matter to him.

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00:42:55.140 --> 00:42:57.720

F A: Oh, cuz it doesn't, you know, he wants to make sure

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00:43:01.530 --> 00:43:06.270

F A: That he's a perceived as a godly person.

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00:43:07.470 --> 00:43:16.290

Ray Hammond: Right. He was he's doing two things he's setting an example for the, the, the church itself you'll as I said he, he's going to say elsewhere.

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00:43:16.770 --> 00:43:25.770

Ray Hammond: Because part of what was happening in some of the churches where people were saying, Jesus is coming back soon. So why work, Paul says no till Jesus shows up. Keep working

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00:43:27.390 --> 00:43:36.660

Ray Hammond: Right. The second thing is, he says, if there's any chance that my receiving support from the church.

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00:43:37.920 --> 00:43:47.460

Ray Hammond: would appear to would be a block to the gospel. I will work with my own hands. So there's no question about my motives and starting this church.

357

00:43:54.270 --> 00:43:54.720

Ray Hammond: Okay.

358

00:43:56.790 --> 00:44:02.370

Ray Hammond: So for him, work is always about advancing God's kingdom.

359

00:44:03.480 --> 00:44:04.230

Always

360

00:44:07.050 --> 00:44:07.470

Ray Hammond: All right.

361

00:44:10.560 --> 00:44:11.670

Ray Hammond: Questions, comments.

362

00:44:18.480 --> 00:44:26.580

F A: So I guess what one comment that comes to mind is just back in the day. Did they value all work equally.

363

00:44:27.720 --> 00:44:29.190

F A: Or was there sort of a

364

00:44:30.570 --> 00:44:36.150

F A: Similar disparity between the different kinds of

365

00:44:37.590 --> 00:44:38.250

F A: Workers.

366

00:44:40.110 --> 00:44:40.860

Ray Hammond: Absolutely.

367

00:44:42.570 --> 00:44:53.880

Ray Hammond: There was, you know, depending on the the education associated with the power associated with it, and so on. There was a very different valuation for different kinds of work. No question about it.

368

00:44:56.580 --> 00:44:58.920

F A: So is that is that godly

369

00:45:00.900 --> 00:45:02.760

Ray Hammond: As far as I can tell, absolutely not.

370

00:45:11.010 --> 00:45:15.420

Ray Hammond: But let me raise this question then, what are the reasons for which people work.

371

00:45:16.410 --> 00:45:32.490

Ray Hammond: Good and bad and we and we've talked about the fact that obviously some of it is to just provide for our needs. Some of it is to bring discipline to our lives. What are some of the other reasons for which people work for which they labor for which they toil.

372

00:45:40.680 --> 00:45:44.790

That's why I work just to help people who need

373

00:45:45.870 --> 00:45:47.100

To support.

374

00:45:48.870 --> 00:45:53.220

Ray Hammond: You Kate folks on something they may not know

375

00:45:57.030 --> 00:46:00.690

Ray Hammond: When you say that educate people on things. They may not know, say a little bit more about that.

376

00:46:01.230 --> 00:46:07.950

Joanne Suarez: Yeah, like, like all my all my existence and work. I've worked in the community, just like

377

00:46:09.030 --> 00:46:16.830

Joanne Suarez: Really educating people on their health and like giving them a lens that they otherwise wouldn't have had

378

00:46:18.750 --> 00:46:24.750

Joanne Suarez: empowering them to be the best version of themselves and whatever capacity that is

379

00:46:26.610 --> 00:46:29.220

Joanne Suarez: And helping them understand like

380

00:46:30.540 --> 00:46:45.900

Joanne Suarez: How they can contribute to society and meeting them where they're at and like pushing them so that they meet their own milestones, not like what I think is best for them. But what they feel they can do.

381

00:46:48.180 --> 00:46:48.690

All right.

382

00:46:49.980 --> 00:46:51.600

Ray Hammond: It's a ministry. Thanks for sharing that.

383

00:46:53.190 --> 00:46:54.240

Ray Hammond: James, GO AHEAD, SAY THAT.

384

00:46:54.840 --> 00:46:57.330

James Williams: Ministry so service default like sometimes

385

00:46:57.720 --> 00:47:08.490

James Williams: You know when you're searching about what you're going to do to make a living. You know, we hear something. You have a passion for something that's a service that somebody. It's a ministry to the rest of the body.

386

00:47:10.680 --> 00:47:11.070

Okay.

387

00:47:12.120 --> 00:47:23.430

Joanne Suarez: It feels good to do it like I i couldn't imagine myself doing anything else but like really working in the community with with my people.

388

00:47:25.290 --> 00:47:47.250

Joanne Suarez: It's hard work. It has a lot of challenges, but it's feel so good to know that like you just made somebody's day even though they, they're not going to tell you that, but you know, you just feel it. Like, that's why I work to get that feeling and to continue like pushing forward.

389

00:47:50.310 --> 00:47:54.750

Ray Hammond: All right, amen. Anyone else, why do people work.

390

00:47:56.370 --> 00:47:57.960

Ray Hammond: Why do they toil or labor.

391

00:47:59.190 --> 00:48:00.720

Trina Bryant: I think sometimes out of fear, too.

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00:48:02.280 --> 00:48:07.830

Trina Bryant: I think sometimes we you know we recognize that resources can

393

00:48:09.660 --> 00:48:16.020

Trina Bryant: Can can can provide you certain comforts can provide you certain abilities can provide you more choices.

394

00:48:17.070 --> 00:48:26.040

Trina Bryant: Well, I think, you know, for me, I am doing what I believe I'm supposed to do. But I'm also i also always have a little bit of a side hustle.

395

00:48:26.310 --> 00:48:39.930

Trina Bryant: Just because I was taught, like, you know, you don't know where things could go. I'm in higher ed and higher ed is some schools are closing. So you always have this other resources that you can pull from so that you can eat so that you can pay your bills so that you

396

00:48:40.620 --> 00:48:51.840

Trina Bryant: Employ certain comforts to. So I think there's also a practicality of it too. And I chose my career, not, not only just because of the purpose and what I believe what I'm here to do. But it also provides me

397

00:48:52.380 --> 00:49:00.120

Trina Bryant: A lot of other opportunities. I've got, I've been able to travel through this job and I, that's what I wanted also to do too. And it provides provides that

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00:49:00.630 --> 00:49:08.400

Trina Bryant: I think part of it is resource, part of it's also and i don't know maybe fear is not the right word, but I think that I

399

00:49:08.970 --> 00:49:16.800

Trina Bryant: Coming from a family that didn't have certain things I want to try as much as I can to to if I do lose if I if I

400

00:49:17.280 --> 00:49:31.020

Trina Bryant: If I no longer have work. I don't want to be because I was lazy or I wasn't really thinking about stinking working smarter not harder. You know I'm saying, so it's like to keep moving. So that's partly why I have like the full time job and I'm always looking for ways to also diversify.

401

00:49:33.300 --> 00:49:44.940

Ray Hammond: Now, sister. Can you put your finger on something really important to take a couple of comments on this and we're going to come back to it because you're absolutely right. It can be a whole mix of things that get into work.

402

00:49:45.960 --> 00:49:49.890

Ray Hammond: And to that I do want to talk about our fear.

403

00:49:50.940 --> 00:50:01.230

Ray Hammond: And the second is money because what the scriptures are clear about is not that that that isn't normal for human beings to think about that.

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00:50:02.520 --> 00:50:05.790

Ray Hammond: But God says, I don't want you to think about that.

405

00:50:06.930 --> 00:50:19.440

Ray Hammond: Those are the two things I want you to keep working on getting out of your work. Now that's not to say that you don't work several jobs. That's not to say that you know you

406

00:50:19.620 --> 00:50:23.280

Ray Hammond: Don't keep developing your skills. So you can do better and

407

00:50:23.280 --> 00:50:38.130

Ray Hammond: Different things that that isn't to say that you don't have several different sources of income and revenue and other thing. No, not that but but you have put your finger on two of the things that the Bible explicitly addresses.

408

00:50:38.730 --> 00:50:49.500

Ray Hammond: Around this issue of what drives us to work and I want to come back to those in a minute in terms of fear and money. Other comments, real quick.

409

00:50:51.510 --> 00:50:59.760

Carole Copeland Thomas: You know, I am struck, particularly in this area because there's so many nonprofit organizations here in the in Massachusetts and in Boston.

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00:51:00.870 --> 00:51:01.650

Carole Copeland Thomas: That

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00:51:04.590 --> 00:51:05.910

Carole Copeland Thomas: People of color.

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00:51:07.470 --> 00:51:10.740

Carole Copeland Thomas: tend to want to as

413

00:51:11.970 --> 00:51:15.450

Carole Copeland Thomas: was mentioned earlier tend to want to

414

00:51:16.650 --> 00:51:25.350

Carole Copeland Thomas: Help the community help our people frequently, you'll find young people graduating from college, even if they're graduating in debt.

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00:51:25.920 --> 00:51:39.840

Carole Copeland Thomas: But they want to find a job, maybe with a nonprofit organization where they can be of assistance or support or help the community. So there is there's purpose that

416

00:51:40.920 --> 00:51:44.580

Carole Copeland Thomas: Lead, some people to find an occupation.

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00:51:45.780 --> 00:52:04.230

Carole Copeland Thomas: Versus their other people where they are transactional human beings and they are laser focused on building wealth from a transactional perspective, devoid of any kind of support or

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00:52:05.670 --> 00:52:07.920

Carole Copeland Thomas: Giving back, let's say, to the community.

419

00:52:10.080 --> 00:52:13.740

Carole Copeland Thomas: I'm sorry, but this is not political. But

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00:52:14.040 --> 00:52:15.690

Carole Copeland Thomas: I'm just thinking about the person

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00:52:15.960 --> 00:52:23.700

Carole Copeland Thomas: In the White House where he is. He's completely transactional there's there's not an empathetic bone in his body.

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00:52:24.300 --> 00:52:35.580

Carole Copeland Thomas: And as we're revealing with all these books that are coming out now bob woodward being the latest one that I mean he doesn't understand why people would fight in the military.

423

00:52:36.120 --> 00:52:53.580

Carole Copeland Thomas: Which is a disrespect for all of us who have people in who have served in the military or who have died it because this point is what, you know what, what did they get out of it. What's the worst because his orientation is strictly on a monetary transactional basis.

424

00:52:55.530 --> 00:53:01.260

Ray Hammond: And the and the reality is you say, we look at the the

425

00:53:02.340 --> 00:53:16.500

Ray Hammond: Significance support for that notion. And it's one that's absolutely addressed directly by the Bible when when the Scriptures, talk about the man who says, look how much I have

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00:53:17.550 --> 00:53:27.930

Ray Hammond: I've got so much that I'm going to tear down the barns that I have and build bigger ones. So I can more effectively hoard my wealth.

427

00:53:29.970 --> 00:53:30.690

Ray Hammond: And

428

00:53:31.830 --> 00:53:34.080

Ray Hammond: As he's thinking it. God says,

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00:53:35.280 --> 00:53:37.470

Ray Hammond: You were being really foolish.

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00:53:38.700 --> 00:53:42.300

Ray Hammond: Because tonight. Your soul is going to be required of you.

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00:53:43.440 --> 00:53:48.510

Ray Hammond: And then who will have everything that you think you're holding on to

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00:53:50.520 --> 00:54:07.170

Ray Hammond: So, so this is this is a very real perspective and it is can be found across every, every age range, you name it. Right. The notion that wealth and work are for me.

433

00:54:09.180 --> 00:54:09.540

Ray Hammond: Now,

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00:54:11.430 --> 00:54:19.410

Ray Hammond: One of the things that can trigger that is is that fear and I'm calling it the fear of loss.

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00:54:21.000 --> 00:54:41.310

Ray Hammond: And that loss can be anything that you have people who are really driven by the fear of being homeless, the people who are driven by the fear of embarrassment for having to explain to other people, why they're not working or why they're not in a higher position they are

436

00:54:42.570 --> 00:54:57.450

Ray Hammond: The people who are afraid of being stuck in a position or on a career ladder are unable to advance the fear of being seen or becoming shiftless or lazy or no count.

437

00:54:58.530 --> 00:55:16.170

Ray Hammond: The fear of being somebody who's considered have no or low status or not living up to your parents dreams and hopes, they're all kinds of fears.

438

00:55:16.860 --> 00:55:34.530

Ray Hammond: That can obsessive Lee drive people even very quietly drive them and the Scriptures are very clear about. In fact, the Bible says is what so every is not a faith is sin.

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00:55:36.690 --> 00:55:45.060

Ray Hammond: Yes. Faith is not the driver and fear is God says, it just doesn't fit in my plan.

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00:55:46.230 --> 00:55:48.840

Ray Hammond: No. Again, that's not to say

441

00:55:50.790 --> 00:56:03.150

Ray Hammond: That I don't have to wrestle with that I grew up and things were always a little bit tenuous and and I don't want to ever live like that. And I have to acknowledge that something in my background that I've got to work through

442

00:56:04.440 --> 00:56:20.670

Ray Hammond: But what I can't let it do is Dr. Me and many people find themselves making choices about work and bringing an approach to work that in one form or another is fear driven

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00:56:21.750 --> 00:56:32.490

Ray Hammond: Matthew, chapter six, Jesus addresses this head on in the Sermon on the Mount. Why do you have such little faith verse 30

444

00:56:33.360 --> 00:56:41.760

Ray Hammond: Verse 31. Don't worry, and ask yourself, well we have anything to eat. We have anything to drink. Will we have any clothes to wear

445

00:56:42.420 --> 00:56:51.990

Ray Hammond: Only people who don't know God are always worrying about such things your Father in Heaven knows that you need all of these

446

00:56:52.680 --> 00:57:09.330

Ray Hammond: But more than anything else put God's work first and do what God wants. Then the other things will be yours as well. So the question is, in my work, am I putting God first

447

00:57:12.630 --> 00:57:16.980

Ray Hammond: And then the motivation for my work, am I putting God first

448

00:57:18.630 --> 00:57:20.490

Ray Hammond: Question started thoughts about that.

449

00:57:28.620 --> 00:57:47.940

Carole Copeland Thomas: Just the one thing that comes to mind are people I have admired in my life who haven't gone to college. Never. They couldn't even think about going to college. It was just out of their financial were with them to get to get there, but they they took such pride in their work.

450

00:57:49.140 --> 00:58:09.480

Carole Copeland Thomas: And they, it was not. It was not a selfish pride. It was just being the best that they could be with what they had and just just doing the best they could, as a worker hairdresser, whatever.

451

00:58:10.620 --> 00:58:30.480

Carole Copeland Thomas: And and I admire people like that because they aren't striving for trying to keep up with the Joneses I think they fully acknowledge their background and their humility, but there was a sense of decency and pride in their work that made them.

452

00:58:32.040 --> 00:58:42.930

Carole Copeland Thomas: righteous people and to be admired and and we all have it in our families and in our society in our community because people of color. We all come from that background.

453

00:58:46.950 --> 00:58:47.340

TANYA MILLER: My

454

00:58:49.020 --> 00:58:49.350

TANYA MILLER: Mind.

455

00:58:50.610 --> 00:58:51.960

TANYA MILLER: The opposite of that.

456

00:58:53.730 --> 00:59:03.810

TANYA MILLER: Is there are so many families and people that don't have access to those examples and situations just seem

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00:59:04.470 --> 00:59:24.450

TANYA MILLER: so overwhelming that even when they feel like they're

putting God first they still don't seem to get their needs met because they're trapped in systems that are not necessarily God's doing but is society that like kind of like cycles of poverty cycles of

458

00:59:27.150 --> 00:59:32.880

TANYA MILLER: Have mental health issues that then make it harder for them to work and then school systems that don't

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00:59:33.690 --> 00:59:44.400

TANYA MILLER: That put the onus on yeah going to college and only that not that, but they don't have the resources to do that. So they kind of get stuck and you grow up the

460

00:59:45.000 --> 00:59:53.820

TANYA MILLER: Work is about providing for yourself. It's about gaining some independence, but if you don't see a way out of that and it's not looking well in your system.

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00:59:54.960 --> 01:00:04.080

TANYA MILLER: Or in your the things that you're seeing it can be very hard to grab an idea of the purpose and the behind work. And so those are the

462

01:00:04.110 --> 01:00:10.290

TANYA MILLER: Those are the people that I see an encounter in my personal work.

463

01:00:11.850 --> 01:00:17.220

TANYA MILLER: And I guess this what we're talking about tonight is really is. This is definitely a

464

01:00:17.880 --> 01:00:32.490

TANYA MILLER: What the world might say is a Christian perspective towards work, but it's just so it could be redeemed it not could be it is redeeming for the world and I just don't know that we do a good example of displaying that I hope I'm your

465

01:00:33.060 --> 01:00:40.470

Ray Hammond: Host on the you you're you're putting your you're putting your finger right on it. The only way the world will see a different perspective.

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01:00:40.710 --> 01:00:50.880

Ray Hammond: Is if those who say they are followers of Christ. Absolutely. They actually exhibit it and we'll come back in a minute to some of the ways in which they could exhibit it

467

01:00:52.350 --> 01:01:01.020

Ray Hammond: But that begins with understanding what I'm doing and understanding that what I'm doing is not first and foremost foremost making money.

468

01:01:01.800 --> 01:01:22.710

Ray Hammond: Not even first and foremost supporting myself that's going to happen. Right. And I do have to be concerned about that. But first and foremost, I'm bringing Glory to God in the way that I use this time and my gifts and my labor. And if I don't have a clear sense of that something's missing.

469

01:01:23.730 --> 01:01:36.330

Ray Hammond: And a powerful opportunities being lost. And you're absolutely right there, completely reasons why for some people. That sounds like pie in the sky, right, given what they've been through, and the experiences that they've had

470

01:01:38.160 --> 01:01:41.460

Ray Hammond: This just sounds crazy. Absolutely.

471

01:01:42.390 --> 01:01:51.270

Trina Bryant: Okay, also could keep people at a place where they don't need to be anymore, but maybe God is trying to move on to your

472

01:01:52.020 --> 01:02:03.690

Trina Bryant: The plans he has for you, but because you are concerned about money and resources. Then the next iPhone and your nice car and your home. You might stay at a place where you're not happy you are

473

01:02:04.050 --> 01:02:07.680

Trina Bryant: Not being fulfilled and you're not doing what God wants you do so, yeah.

474

01:02:08.610 --> 01:02:14.460

Ray Hammond: In fact, maybe you're setting yourself up and that's all

because of the time going to move on to the next one.

475

01:02:14.940 --> 01:02:35.880

Ray Hammond: Maybe you're setting yourself up for the very bondage that most people, not all people, but most people in the United States find themselves. And then he developed countries find themselves right now. Right. The old saying I oh I oh so off to work. I go, right. So, no.

476

01:02:37.080 --> 01:02:37.500

Trina Bryant: Money.

477

01:02:40.170 --> 01:02:41.850

Trina Bryant: I mean, that's

478

01:02:42.960 --> 01:02:43.440

Ray Hammond: Exactly.

479

01:02:45.420 --> 01:02:46.230

Trina Bryant: That's right. No.

480

01:02:46.440 --> 01:02:47.970

Ray Hammond: And I'm saying it's

481

01:02:48.030 --> 01:02:53.580

Ray Hammond: In some cases the the debt is a worthwhile investment in the future. Right.

482

01:02:55.260 --> 01:03:15.690

Ray Hammond: But in, in some cases, the debt is about status, the debt is about meeting the expectations that have been created for us. And it really becomes another way of the world, the system. The enemy keeping us in bondage.

483

01:03:17.850 --> 01:03:30.270

Ray Hammond: Right, so this is one reason why God says you can't be operating out of fear because when you operate out of fear. You can be played and manipulated. That's one problem.

484

01:03:31.440 --> 01:03:39.180

Ray Hammond: Second thing that the Bible talks about in the course is a preacher. I'm making all of these L's. So the loss. You can't be driven

485

01:03:39.180 --> 01:03:41.940

Ray Hammond: By the loss and the fear of loss.

486

01:03:42.960 --> 01:03:50.040

Ray Hammond: And you can't be driven by laker right or the lust for it. Does everybody know what laker

487

01:03:50.040 --> 01:03:50.490

Is

488

01:03:56.460 --> 01:03:57.990

Ray Hammond: Come on. I know. Somebody here knows it.

489

01:03:58.890 --> 01:04:01.200

TANYA MILLER: Lucrative. That's the only thing I'm thinking

490

01:04:01.500 --> 01:04:06.000

Ray Hammond: That's exactly right, that's related to it. It comes from that same word. What does it mean

491

01:04:09.360 --> 01:04:11.730

TANYA MILLER: How do you define lucrative I know

492

01:04:13.980 --> 01:04:17.550

Ray Hammond: Say, money, money, money, money. That's exactly right.

493

01:04:17.610 --> 01:04:17.970

Ray Hammond: That's it.

494

01:04:18.210 --> 01:04:24.180

Ray Hammond: It's an old word for money and it comes from the Latin word which literally means money or material.

495

01:04:24.360 --> 01:04:24.870

Gain

496

01:04:26.040 --> 01:04:26.580

Joyce Marshall: Profit

497

01:04:27.390 --> 01:04:38.220

Ray Hammond: And people often use it to you sometimes hear people talk about the filthy lucre, right, it just means money. That's all it means. And the Bible says you cannot work for money.

498

01:04:39.780 --> 01:04:43.530

Ray Hammond: You may get money as a consequence of your work, but you can't be driven by the money.

499

01:04:44.490 --> 01:04:55.770

Ray Hammond: Luke nine says, If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross each day and follow me. If you want to save your life. You will destroy it. But if you give up your life.

500

01:04:56.910 --> 01:04:59.580

Ray Hammond: For my sake of it. Yeah.

501

01:05:00.690 --> 01:05:08.370

Ray Hammond: You will save it. What will you gain if you own the whole world but destroy yourself or waste your life.

502

01:05:10.110 --> 01:05:10.470

Ray Hammond: Right.

503

01:05:11.730 --> 01:05:19.710

Ray Hammond: And then the one that the first one there that I showed you with the the dollar bills in the shape of a heart.

504

01:05:20.070 --> 01:05:32.970

Ray Hammond: The Scripture right next to it, for the love of money not money, but the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many Greeks.

505

01:05:37.530 --> 01:05:38.550

Ray Hammond: Questions, comments.

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01:05:51.150 --> 01:05:55.680

TANYA MILLER: I'll just say this to be honest seed. Other people love money and get more

507

01:05:56.370 --> 01:05:57.090

TANYA MILLER: It's a little

508

01:05:57.360 --> 01:05:58.170

Hard to bow.

509

01:06:02.070 --> 01:06:03.990

TANYA MILLER: I will I get it, but I get it.

510

01:06:07.500 --> 01:06:17.010

Ray Hammond: But again, it's that easy to say you can't be, you know, it's not as a you don't think about it and you don't plan for it. Right. We just did a whole series on stewardship.

511

01:06:17.520 --> 01:06:23.190

Ray Hammond: It says you ought to be thinking about your debt, and you want to be thinking about saving. The Bible says that right

512

01:06:23.550 --> 01:06:39.120

Ray Hammond: You ought to be thinking about providing for your household. The Bible says that it says the person who doesn't provide for their own house is worse than an unbeliever. You ought to be. It says even investing Bible says that it just says that the motivation for your work cannot be money.

513

01:06:44.340 --> 01:06:46.230

Ray Hammond: The drive can't be money.

514

01:07:08.790 --> 01:07:17.640

Andrea Shellman: One thing, it's good that even when our motivations aren't focused on God, that God still manages to use us and I'm

515

01:07:18.240 --> 01:07:19.110

Ray Hammond: A mess.

516

01:07:21.690 --> 01:07:22.530

Ray Hammond: Day.

517

01:07:24.030 --> 01:07:27.900

Ray Hammond: That all God has to work with are imperfect people is that right

518

01:07:28.410 --> 01:07:29.040

Andrea Shellman: Mm hmm.

519

01:07:35.580 --> 01:07:36.840

Ray Hammond: Other thoughts feedback.

520

01:07:39.120 --> 01:07:43.920

Joanne Suarez: This makes me think about like I used to work in a nonprofit.

521

01:07:45.510 --> 01:07:55.290

Joanne Suarez: That was not so ethical um and I remember being let go because I brought this up.

522

01:07:55.320 --> 01:07:56.820

Joanne Suarez: I brought up. Like, how can we

523

01:07:56.820 --> 01:08:07.230

Joanne Suarez: Monetize people who are traumatized in order to, like, make a profit, you know, and it felt um

524

01:08:08.550 --> 01:08:15.030

Joanne Suarez: It felt like I was drowning, like I was I was making good money, but I wasn't happy I was

525

01:08:15.750 --> 01:08:18.660

Joanne Suarez: I felt guilty for like cashing my checks.

526

01:08:18.660 --> 01:08:26.610

Joanne Suarez: Because I knew how that money was like coming. And when I spoke up about it. It was like

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01:08:28.170 --> 01:08:33.960

Joanne Suarez: It was like we have to let you go because you're disrupting the money flow. And if you speak up louder, you

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01:08:34.470 --> 01:08:38.070

Joanne Suarez: Drop the money flow you go and that was like

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01:08:39.210 --> 01:08:46.980

Joanne Suarez: I rather work for free, than to know that my money is not coming like from an ethical or just around

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01:08:47.040 --> 01:08:53.850

Joanne Suarez: I've refused to exploit people to get ahead and it brings me like to think about

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01:08:55.140 --> 01:08:55.680

Joanne Suarez: What

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01:08:55.710 --> 01:09:15.570

Joanne Suarez: Trina was saying that God puts us in places and takes us out because he's he's using us to do his work like he wants to see what's happening, do what we need to do. And then when it's our time he takes us and shifts us to another place. So I'm wondering if like the people that

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01:09:15.600 --> 01:09:17.730

Joanne Suarez: Are also making money.

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01:09:17.790 --> 01:09:18.210

Joanne Suarez: Like

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01:09:18.240 --> 01:09:19.380

Joanne Suarez: In this dirty.

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01:09:19.470 --> 01:09:22.110

Joanne Suarez: Manner, like how

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01:09:23.130 --> 01:09:36.750

Joanne Suarez: How do I say this in English like como la happy to see on BNA and you're like, how does God like help them like come to the light to see that what they're doing is is wrong, like how

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01:09:37.590 --> 01:09:38.730

Joanne Suarez: Does some people like

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01:09:38.790 --> 01:09:45.120

Joanne Suarez: pass away and never realized this that they've been living in in like deception and deceiving others.

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01:09:51.120 --> 01:09:56.310

Ray Hammond: Well that's, that's a very, that's a tough question people have any thoughts about that, how

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01:09:57.810 --> 01:10:02.280

Ray Hammond: Given that we can be addicted to fear.

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01:10:03.720 --> 01:10:07.260

Ray Hammond: And given that we can be addicted to

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01:10:08.430 --> 01:10:09.420

Ray Hammond: The love of money.

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01:10:10.560 --> 01:10:23.490

Ray Hammond: How do we break that addiction in ourselves and how do we help others breaking and that's it. That's a long question right, how do I recognize it. How do I see it. How do I prevent it from

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01:10:24.660 --> 01:10:28.470

Ray Hammond: From being a driver in my life.

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01:10:29.460 --> 01:10:39.390

Ray Hammond: And that's not easy. I mean it is it as you say there's a matter, I love your, your statement earlier you were saying you weren't sure how to say it in English, but I think that the state for translation, the

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01:10:39.690 --> 01:10:48.720

Ray Hammond: The Joe so it seemed like loading the deals me through

about Syria impossible without the glory of God. My work with the impossible.

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01:10:53.160 --> 01:11:04.380

Ray Hammond: So that work that doesn't have that presence of God work that doesn't reflect that glory and that that can be true and anything we do we, it's not

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01:11:05.550 --> 01:11:09.870

Ray Hammond: Go back to Brother Festus this point, this is not just something that happens.

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01:11:10.410 --> 01:11:12.540

Andrea Shellman: In the pulpit. In fact,

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01:11:13.170 --> 01:11:21.180

Ray Hammond: The pumpkins. One of the places where it may not be happening at all, people have been possible talks about the song he says there are all kinds of people were preaching the gospel.

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01:11:21.660 --> 01:11:40.650

Ray Hammond: For things that have nothing to do with the glory of God. It's about entertainment. It's about getting the \$500 healing line. It's about this and that. It's about all kinds of stuff. It's about people's ego needs. It's, it's about perhaps everything but the glory of God.

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01:11:42.060 --> 01:11:47.850

Ray Hammond: And what can happen there can happen anywhere. And likewise,

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01:11:48.900 --> 01:11:59.670

Ray Hammond: If people understood love God and are asking God constantly. How do I represent you in my work, how

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01:11:59.700 --> 01:12:01.080

F A: Do I show the world.

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01:12:01.110 --> 01:12:05.190

Ray Hammond: A different way of coming to work and seeing work.

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01:12:06.780 --> 01:12:16.380

Ray Hammond: In fact, the glory of God can show up in all kinds of interesting places I want to close this, because we're getting close to our time because I want to give us some time just to think about this.

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01:12:18.420 --> 01:12:18.750

Ray Hammond: I

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01:12:18.990 --> 01:12:21.090

Ray Hammond: When I think of the labor.

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01:12:21.120 --> 01:12:28.410

Ray Hammond: Of love that Paul is talking about here. We can go to that last slide there. This is what I think about

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01:12:31.320 --> 01:12:33.210

Ray Hammond: You talk about a labor of love.

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01:12:34.290 --> 01:12:36.330

Ray Hammond: The giving of birth.

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01:12:38.490 --> 01:12:40.830

Ray Hammond: Is a real labor of love.

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01:12:42.030 --> 01:12:43.470

Ray Hammond: And why do I say that

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01:12:49.470 --> 01:12:57.090

Carole Copeland Thomas: Because it's sacrificial i mean it's it's hard work. It's toil. It's dangerous. It's all of the above.

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01:12:57.600 --> 01:13:00.660

Carole Copeland Thomas: And there's no guarantee. What's going to happen with the outcome.

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01:13:01.170 --> 01:13:03.630

Carole Copeland Thomas: It's, it's, it's, in many ways, it's a faith walk

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01:13:05.130 --> 01:13:05.940

Carole Copeland Thomas: But it's work.

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01:13:08.580 --> 01:13:16.380

Ray Hammond: Can I, can I hear from the mothers of the suit or the would be mothers, whatever, is it. This is hard work.

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01:13:17.640 --> 01:13:18.060

Ray Hammond: Right.

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01:13:19.140 --> 01:13:27.000

Ray Hammond: What else about this is like this labor of love that Paul is talking about, what are you doing it for

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01:13:38.220 --> 01:14:03.570

Carole Copeland Thomas: Well, it's a gift it to have a child is a gift from God to give it to him to birth a child is a gift to the society, obviously, your family, but it's to society and to humanity. So it's, it's the, the woman giving but the family receiving a gift.

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01:14:05.640 --> 01:14:08.790

Carole Copeland Thomas: The birth is a it is a gift from God.

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01:14:09.060 --> 01:14:12.840

Ray Hammond: Okay, and you know that it's going to be accompanied by pain.

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01:14:14.100 --> 01:14:17.880

Ray Hammond: And you know there's going to be comfort company by

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01:14:20.160 --> 01:14:26.250

Ray Hammond: Now let me say this. You're not gonna make any income. You're gonna lose a whole bunch

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01:14:26.520 --> 01:14:28.740

Ray Hammond: Yes. Can I, can I get a witness

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01:14:28.890 --> 01:14:29.370

Well,

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01:14:31.320 --> 01:14:32.010

F A: Because capital.

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01:14:34.050 --> 01:14:37.500

F A: Something like 250 \$6,000 right

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01:14:37.770 --> 01:14:39.090

Ray Hammond: That's exactly right, which you

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01:14:39.090 --> 01:14:41.610

Ray Hammond: Could you could keep that for yourself.

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01:14:45.150 --> 01:14:45.570

Ray Hammond: Right.

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01:14:46.440 --> 01:14:49.230

Ray Hammond: Instead, you're gonna have to invest this in a life of unless

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01:14:49.440 --> 01:14:51.660

Ray Hammond: And does it stop with a 21 year old.

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01:14:51.960 --> 01:14:52.560

Carole Copeland Thomas: No, sir.

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01:14:55.560 --> 01:15:05.460

Ray Hammond: Right now, and and this is true, as I say, whether you're a biological mom with a euro step mom, whether you're that on T, who is always there.

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01:15:06.000 --> 01:15:13.350

Ray Hammond: Who stands in for the moms who may not be or when when you fall out with your mother and you got to go talk to somebody. I mean,

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01:15:13.800 --> 01:15:31.380

Ray Hammond: It's, it's, in some cases, yes, it's it's biological but

it's even it's even longer than that, it's really that commitment to nurturing. It's that commitment to seeing a life through and really helping that life realize its potential

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01:15:32.460 --> 01:15:35.400

Ray Hammond: So this is what Paul says, he says, look,

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01:15:36.540 --> 01:15:55.110

Ray Hammond: In many respects, what I admire about you Thessaloniki is is that I see in you a willingness to sacrifice a willingness to be generous a willingness to give without any guarantee at all that you're going to get back anything comparable to what you've given

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01:15:56.190 --> 01:16:02.610

Ray Hammond: But with an eye on the fact that God has called you to do this and you're willing to say yes.

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01:16:03.060 --> 01:16:08.730

Ray Hammond: And you're willing to be disciplined in it and you're willing to bring your best to it and to be excellent about it.

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01:16:09.210 --> 01:16:18.990

Ray Hammond: And you're you're you're seeing the ways in which may be through it. God's providing for you and taking care of your needs.

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01:16:19.530 --> 01:16:36.030

Ray Hammond: But you're not there primarily to make money, you're not there, because you're afraid you're not there to amass you know for yourself. It's because this is what God has called you to do and you're there to make a difference for God's kingdom.

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01:16:39.630 --> 01:16:44.790

Ray Hammond: That's a labor of love and that's work that's really driven in a godly way.

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01:16:45.960 --> 01:16:57.420

Ray Hammond: And that the challenged. This is, as I say, this isn't just the challenge for the, the plumber or the physician or the lawyer. It's the challenge for the pastor because

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01:16:58.920 --> 01:17:12.450

Ray Hammond: Being a pastor being a preacher. Anything else can become just a job. It's something that you do you know what you're supposed to say, you know what people are expecting and you do your job.

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01:17:13.830 --> 01:17:21.720

Ray Hammond: It can be as devoid of commitment and God centeredness as anything else.

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01:17:24.180 --> 01:17:32.400

Ray Hammond: And the only question for all of us is how am I keeping God at the center of my work.

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01:17:35.130 --> 01:17:36.210

Ray Hammond: That's our challenge.

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01:17:37.140 --> 01:17:38.430

Ray Hammond: Because when we do that.

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01:17:39.240 --> 01:17:40.830

Ray Hammond: That can do amazing things.

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01:17:41.940 --> 01:17:48.510

Ray Hammond: A couple of quick things I'll say, and then I'm going to close out, I think we're, we're pretty close to the end of our time as

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01:17:48.540 --> 01:17:51.000

Ray Hammond: I think about. I'm sorry. Yes, go ahead.

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01:17:51.420 --> 01:18:03.870

TANYA MILLER: This, this is Tanya I want. I want to thank you for this message and for your teachings on stewardship and careers and all that stuff. I want to. I'm

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01:18:05.100 --> 01:18:08.490

TANYA MILLER: Just projected thought and and and ask a question.

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01:18:09.210 --> 01:18:10.800

Ray Hammond: Sure, sure. Absolutely.

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01:18:11.280 --> 01:18:20.340

TANYA MILLER: Um, I don't know if I misinterpreted. When I was growing up, but I I'm realizing now that in in

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01:18:20.760 --> 01:18:22.980

TANYA MILLER: Christian community. I learned

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01:18:23.040 --> 01:18:31.950

TANYA MILLER: A false idea of the suffering servants were a sacrifice was more important than

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01:18:34.440 --> 01:18:41.940

TANYA MILLER: Than anything. So when when when you think about all the birds. You know that Scripture that you referenced earlier about

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01:18:41.970 --> 01:18:46.650

TANYA MILLER: How God clothes the birds of the field was used as a reference to

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01:18:48.690 --> 01:19:04.020

TANYA MILLER: To also promote like if you sacrifice, then God will take care of you up to the point where it to be completely honest, like I thought like even choosing a career doing stuff has to come out of this idea of sacrifice. Right.

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01:19:05.340 --> 01:19:08.460

TANYA MILLER: And I put that forward just to say that like that.

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01:19:09.540 --> 01:19:18.930

TANYA MILLER: This teaching that you're doing tonight is like contradictory and it also is contradictory to everything in the world right now that's saying pay me what I what I'm worth

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01:19:19.230 --> 01:19:28.980

TANYA MILLER: I don't know if other people are saying that. But when you think about black laborers. There's always a lot about pay me what I'm worth, you know. And when you think as a woman about

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01:19:30.150 --> 01:19:32.040

TANYA MILLER: Equitable pay and stuff like

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01:19:32.040 --> 01:19:36.090

TANYA MILLER: That I just put that out there to say like, there's

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01:19:36.330 --> 01:19:49.950

TANYA MILLER: I like where you're going and it's been helpful for me, but it also is like directly against some of that. And then it's also making me question about this whole idea that people talk about pay me what I'm worth

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01:19:51.750 --> 01:19:53.700

Ray Hammond: Well here's, here's what I would say. I know.

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01:19:54.300 --> 01:19:55.530

Ray Hammond: You raise a great point.

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01:19:56.700 --> 01:19:57.090

Ray Hammond: No, no.

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01:19:57.240 --> 01:19:58.260

F A: Well, not let me

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01:19:58.260 --> 01:20:02.970

Ray Hammond: Raise this I would, the, the, the, the challenge. I would place there is

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01:20:03.870 --> 01:20:14.670

Ray Hammond: Is the issue of justice. Alright. So, for example, in the scriptures that we looked at in the beginning about paying the labor of fair wage. We know, for example, in Boston, what it costs.

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01:20:15.180 --> 01:20:24.720

Ray Hammond: To live. I mean, at all reasonably and it is not the minimum wage, you cannot live in Boston on the minimum wage.

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01:20:25.830 --> 01:20:30.150

Ray Hammond: We know that. So, so I would say

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01:20:31.350 --> 01:20:36.000

Ray Hammond: The challenges for any society, are we paying people

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01:20:37.200 --> 01:20:44.940

Ray Hammond: And equitable and just wage as determined by a God who says make it possible

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01:20:45.960 --> 01:20:47.310

Ray Hammond: For people to live.

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01:20:48.990 --> 01:21:02.220

Ray Hammond: And and that goes way back to the book of Deuteronomy and so on. So, so I would agree. I would agree that that we don't we don't say that from the vantage point of proving our worth by what we earn

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01:21:02.880 --> 01:21:18.450

Ray Hammond: This is really a justice question. It says, are we going to be the kind of people that God can be proud of where in fact we make it possible for people to live and to raise their families and so on as a justice issue, not as a worst issue.

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01:21:19.680 --> 01:21:20.790

Ray Hammond: That does that make sense.

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01:21:21.690 --> 01:21:21.930

Yeah.

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01:21:27.000 --> 01:21:32.460

F A: I have to cut two comments. I suppose one related to what you just said. Tanya, but

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01:21:34.080 --> 01:21:40.830

F A: As you know, as with anything else. The Bible can be used to justify just about anything you want.

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01:21:41.340 --> 01:21:42.060

F A: Right, so there's

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01:21:42.270 --> 01:21:46.920

F A: The vagrants the laws and slavery and all that stuff found

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01:21:48.240 --> 01:21:59.640

F A: Plenty of support with biblical scripture. So now that's on the one hand, but the other point I think I want to make is regarding work.

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01:22:01.530 --> 01:22:02.670

F A: Itself.

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01:22:02.760 --> 01:22:05.070

F A: In other words, and in backup.

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01:22:07.080 --> 01:22:10.200

F A: If you're a carpenter, for example.

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01:22:11.640 --> 01:22:20.670

F A: It may not be the actual work that you're doing. That is the purpose that God has for you, but the opportunity for you to interact with

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01:22:20.730 --> 01:22:21.570

Ray Hammond: Other people

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01:22:22.290 --> 01:22:23.760

F A: So that's it. So the advancement.

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01:22:23.790 --> 01:22:38.220

F A: Of the kingdom may not come from Chuck than the word per se, but in ministering to others and checking in on people and so on and so forth. So I have often have conversations with people that are trying to figure out

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01:22:39.270 --> 01:22:41.700

F A: You know what their mission is in life and

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01:22:41.700 --> 01:22:42.450

Why

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01:22:44.190 --> 01:22:51.390

F A: You know why they're doing what they do because they don't see a direct connection to, you know, they're not

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01:22:52.170 --> 01:22:55.350

F A: Preach preaching or or helping

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01:22:56.610 --> 01:23:12.780

F A: heal people, whereas just being there sometimes is actually, you know what call what your call is to support people in other ways that you may not appreciate in the moment, or the time. But later on in hindsight, you will

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01:23:12.810 --> 01:23:14.100

F A: Come to find out that

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01:23:14.340 --> 01:23:21.930

F A: Your purpose was in being there for that time because x y AMP z. And then afterwards, the Lord move to somewhere.

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01:23:21.930 --> 01:23:22.290

Else.

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01:23:24.780 --> 01:23:38.490

TANYA MILLER: So the Ephesus and agree. I think that there's, I just, I guess I bring that up to say thank you for this discussion, because there's two issues like what you're saying is this is God can utilize you

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01:23:38.640 --> 01:23:39.810

Ray Hammond: In your work for the

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01:23:39.810 --> 01:23:42.420

TANYA MILLER: Kingdom but then people have x

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01:23:43.620 --> 01:23:51.240

TANYA MILLER: I think that at times. The church has taught that over equitable work and people finding

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01:23:51.240 --> 01:23:51.630

Ray Hammond: Purpose.

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01:23:51.750 --> 01:23:56.190

TANYA MILLER: Oh, absolutely. So, so I'm just saying, like, this is good because

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01:23:56.490 --> 01:23:59.640

TANYA MILLER: It's helping me to make sense of the two of how

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01:24:01.140 --> 01:24:01.860

TANYA MILLER: In those places.

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01:24:01.980 --> 01:24:02.670

TANYA MILLER: And also,

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01:24:03.150 --> 01:24:04.920

TANYA MILLER: You get equitable work, you should be in

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01:24:07.530 --> 01:24:08.340

Ray Hammond: A matter of just

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01:24:08.640 --> 01:24:11.430

F A: What they think you're worth. Right. Yes. Thank you. Thank you.

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01:24:14.550 --> 01:24:25.050

Ray Hammond: And of course, as I say, you know, reasonably so to celebrate Labor Day was that we went through a very, I mean as as difficult as labor and someone is now.

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01:24:26.400 --> 01:24:32.100

Ray Hammond: You know 5060 years ago seven day work weeks, child labor.

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01:24:34.560 --> 01:24:48.420

Ray Hammond: Literally strikers being killed. I mean by the police and US military. I mean, huge sacrifices were made to begin to get justice, even in the workplace.

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01:24:49.860 --> 01:24:54.150

Ray Hammond: So the end, there are still many justice issues to be worked out there as well.

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01:24:55.980 --> 01:25:03.930

Ray Hammond: I just want to share a final thing is when I think about the people who have showed me the most about living

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01:25:05.490 --> 01:25:14.550

Ray Hammond: Living out your godly purpose in your work. It isn't preachers and that's not to say that I don't know preachers have been sacrifices and

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01:25:14.880 --> 01:25:29.700

Ray Hammond: Sacrificial what they've done. And something absolutely not. But, but the people who really stand out from me, in many ways, there are lots of the two of them. I just think of tonight. One is a brother by the name of what's called pop hurling how's that

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01:25:30.810 --> 01:25:31.110

Ray Hammond: At

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01:25:33.300 --> 01:25:44.610

Ray Hammond: St. Paul in the church phenomenal brother in the community deeply respected for the lives that he had an impact on wonderful husband great father

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01:25:45.810 --> 01:26:05.100

Ray Hammond: To his daughters stewarded Paul, who was the first in first man of color really to be an engineer in a particular part of what used to be called the New York Central Railroad became part of the Penn Central Railroad 10 Pennsylvania Railroad Penn Central Railroad, and now Amtrak right

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01:26:06.690 --> 01:26:07.170

Ray Hammond: And

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01:26:09.090 --> 01:26:28.650

Ray Hammond: Studied hard had the opportunity to do the the pass the exam and to go into a place where he was absolutely not wanted larger because he was not only black. He was Afro Caribbean. So first of all, they consider them black and then he was a foreigner, as far as I'm concerned.

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01:26:30.360 --> 01:26:40.650

Ray Hammond: And so he came there. And he said, I know God has put me here for a purpose, and I'm not leaving until that purpose is fulfilled.

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01:26:41.550 --> 01:26:53.160

Ray Hammond: And he's to tell us these stories is young, young men and young people about the kind of issues that he faced literally people trying to sabotage them. So then we get fire.

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01:26:53.640 --> 01:27:06.360

Ray Hammond: And having to bring a level of excellence to the work that he did, but also incredible faith and to the point where he said he would pray every day, God, I just need you to show me.

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01:27:06.870 --> 01:27:09.990

Ray Hammond: What I got to face him to. And he said, literally. There will be times when

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01:27:10.350 --> 01:27:18.000

Ray Hammond: He would just be sitting in his office doing his work spirit would tell them, go check this or that boiler, go check this or that circuit.

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01:27:18.240 --> 01:27:25.650

Ray Hammond: He would go do it. He find somebody would mess with it. He would fix it and go back to his office and this happened so many times.

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01:27:26.100 --> 01:27:32.490

Ray Hammond: They became kind of afraid of him. They thought he was working routes or something like that. And he would just say that I'm not, it's not routes.

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01:27:33.120 --> 01:27:44.100

Ray Hammond: God has put me here and your opposition isn't going to determine. And I'll never forget and talking about the way that because

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01:27:44.610 --> 01:27:53.160

Ray Hammond: He took that position used his gifts operated in the spirit of excellence and refused to be run out of the place.

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01:27:53.730 --> 01:28:11.610

Ray Hammond: The people who gave him the biggest problem became the folks who came to him because they saw the quality of his life, and we're in many ways transformed by that. So, over and above all the stuff that he was doing in the lives of young people like myself.

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01:28:12.720 --> 01:28:30.150

Ray Hammond: And and his own family and his own community in his workplace by the excellence of the work that he did by the spirit with which he carried himself. He was having a kingdom impact second person I think of all the time.

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01:28:31.560 --> 01:28:39.510

Ray Hammond: Kind of on the other end of the spectrum, if you will, classically, and I am so impressed by her. I think she ought to be put up the safer.

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01:28:39.840 --> 01:28:53.190

Ray Hammond: And I have to be careful. Don't talk too much but I keep going back to a woman by the name of Osceola McCarthy. This was a woman who ever made anything close to the minimum wage, who, for whatever reason,

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01:28:54.000 --> 01:29:12.630

Ray Hammond: Took the fact that she had to drop out of school to take care of her family as the basis for a mission in life. And she combined that in a couple of powerful ways one she did such a quality of work that people

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01:29:14.310 --> 01:29:16.200

Ray Hammond: deeply respected her

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01:29:17.460 --> 01:29:30.210

Ray Hammond: Loved her and wanted to help her too. She saved everything that she could because she had a vision that what I didn't get I'm going to make possible for the next generation.

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01:29:31.080 --> 01:29:46.440

Ray Hammond: And so three when she had finally saved as a washer woman in the Deep South. I think 15 \$20,000 over almost a lifetime of work, maybe more, maybe 30 or 40

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01:29:47.700 --> 01:30:01.830

Ray Hammond: And then she came to people who said this is my vision to provide a scholarship for the next generation at the place that wouldn't let them wash the floors, University of Mississippi

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01:30:02.910 --> 01:30:04.740

Ray Hammond: People contributed to it.

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01:30:06.120 --> 01:30:18.480

Ray Hammond: People tripled what she had helped her invested then started adding to it. And before you knew it. This woman had been the spark for

700

01:30:19.530 --> 01:30:30.060

Ray Hammond: You know, dozens of young people to be able to accomplish what was not possible in her lifetime. That's the difference it makes when people work with vision.

701

01:30:30.960 --> 01:30:39.840

Ray Hammond: When the center of their work is what difference can I make to the kingdom of God and how can I make a kingdom difference in the lives of others.

702

01:30:40.830 --> 01:31:01.680

Ray Hammond: And that can happen anywhere, anywhere, in any line of work, but it can only happen if I'm asking myself what am I working for what is God placed me here for, and how do I accomplish God's purpose in my work.

703

01:31:03.870 --> 01:31:10.050

Carole Copeland Thomas: Pastor that just reminds me of the movie I saw, I think three times. And that's Hidden Figures

704

01:31:10.560 --> 01:31:11.730

Ray Hammond: And here against

705

01:31:12.240 --> 01:31:21.060

Carole Copeland Thomas: All Odds these great courageous women, they just reminded me of my one of the Katherine Johnson just reminded me of my mother.

706

01:31:22.200 --> 01:31:27.060

Carole Copeland Thomas: Just with dignity and elegance going to work every day doing their job.

707

01:31:27.540 --> 01:31:37.680

Carole Copeland Thomas: And literally contributing to the whole space community and the society probably being paid underpaid disrespected, I mean just

708

01:31:37.710 --> 01:31:40.440

Carole Copeland Thomas: All the things that they faced, but their work.

709

01:31:40.500 --> 01:31:45.420

Carole Copeland Thomas: That was their mission in life and they did it with excellence.

710

01:31:49.740 --> 01:31:52.830

Ray Hammond: So my my challenge to all of us, including me. Right.

711

01:31:52.890 --> 01:31:55.260

Ray Hammond: Is in the course of this

712

01:31:55.260 --> 01:32:04.080

Ray Hammond: Labor day week. Can we rethink can we pray a little bit more. Can we go back and say, God help me remember what I got in this for

713

01:32:05.010 --> 01:32:18.300

Ray Hammond: Help me remember the ways in which you've already shown up and helped me to see the ways in which you want to use me bless others through me and advance your kingdom through my work.

714

01:32:21.390 --> 01:32:21.840

Ray Hammond: Amen.

715

01:32:28.110 --> 01:32:28.500

Aaron: Amen.

716

01:32:28.950 --> 01:32:31.140
Carole Copeland Thomas: Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

717
01:32:32.760 --> 01:32:38.130
Ray Hammond: Sister cow, would you take us out with a song and then we're gonna close out with a word of prayer.

718
01:32:38.910 --> 01:32:39.120
Oh,

719
01:32:41.070 --> 01:32:46.320
Ray Hammond: And everybody else get on mute. Amen. You can sing along, but only on mute.

720
01:32:48.960 --> 01:32:55.200
Carole Copeland Thomas: Well, we didn't time this but I had already the Spirit told me to to sing blessed assurance.

721
01:32:55.740 --> 01:33:00.270
Carole Copeland Thomas: And I think that goes apropos with our whole discussion about work.

722
01:33:01.560 --> 01:33:07.710
Carole Copeland Thomas: So I'd like to sing that song. I'll sing the just two verses and you can have a longer sing along on mute.

723
01:33:09.750 --> 01:33:10.920
Carole Copeland Thomas: Bless it a shoe.

724
01:33:13.140 --> 01:33:15.060
Carole Copeland Thomas: Jesus says, ma

725
01:33:19.980 --> 01:33:21.810
Carole Copeland Thomas: Stop glory diva.

726
01:33:24.810 --> 01:33:25.500
Carole Copeland Thomas: upsell

727
01:33:28.440 --> 01:33:30.180

Carole Copeland Thomas: Purchase of God.

728

01:33:32.100 --> 01:33:37.980

Carole Copeland Thomas: Born of his speech he read washed him his
blog.

729

01:33:40.110 --> 01:33:40.620

Carole Copeland Thomas: This

730

01:33:57.060 --> 01:33:57.840

Carole Copeland Thomas: This is

731

01:34:00.330 --> 01:34:03.390

Carole Copeland Thomas: He. This is my song.

732

01:34:05.430 --> 01:34:13.800

Carole Copeland Thomas: Praising my say you have your all day long.

733

01:34:14.940 --> 01:34:17.310

Carole Copeland Thomas: Perfect sub me

734

01:34:23.070 --> 01:34:23.910

Carole Copeland Thomas: I am

735

01:34:27.540 --> 01:34:28.740

Carole Copeland Thomas: Not happy.

736

01:34:32.070 --> 01:34:32.940

Carole Copeland Thomas: Watching

737

01:34:35.070 --> 01:34:37.140

Carole Copeland Thomas: Teen lucky.

738

01:34:40.890 --> 01:34:48.030

Carole Copeland Thomas: With his guru is lost in here is the law of

739

01:34:49.140 --> 01:34:49.830

Carole Copeland Thomas: This is

740

01:34:55.200 --> 01:34:56.070

Carole Copeland Thomas: This is

741

01:35:08.310 --> 01:35:09.090

Carole Copeland Thomas: This is

742

01:35:12.060 --> 01:35:15.510

Carole Copeland Thomas: He. This is my song.

743

01:35:18.030 --> 01:35:28.920

Carole Copeland Thomas: Praising my say hey, you're all day long.

744

01:35:31.080 --> 01:35:47.550

Ray Hammond: Praise the Lord. Thank you so much. Sister cow. Let's just joined together as brothers and sisters sisters. We thank you God for the opportunity to join together in the season of Bible study. Thank you for the break time that we had the month of August.

745

01:35:48.600 --> 01:36:01.980

Ray Hammond: Chance, just to step back rest restore prepare ourselves for the coming season of work and school we especially needed a God in this time is we still deal with the uncertainty of

746

01:36:02.670 --> 01:36:12.210

Ray Hammond: Covert viruses, we still work through the difficulties of the economic dislocation and upheaval that we're wrestling through

747

01:36:12.900 --> 01:36:22.830

Ray Hammond: And God as we continue to work with these issues of justice and equity and dismantling Lord the forces of racism and

748

01:36:23.670 --> 01:36:37.800

Ray Hammond: White supremacy and all of the things God that have sometimes been very much under the surface and sometimes nakedly clear in the history, not just about our country, but of this world in which we live all God deeply a reflection.

749

01:36:39.180 --> 01:36:46.050

Ray Hammond: Of the principalities and powers who come to kill and

steal and destroy justice and truth and love.

750

01:36:47.160 --> 01:36:50.580

Ray Hammond: Come God to deny and to

751

01:36:51.690 --> 01:36:57.000

Ray Hammond: Diminish that stamp of God upon each and every human life.

752

01:36:58.290 --> 01:37:07.440

Ray Hammond: Limits the ball of the sky. We want to let you know how grateful we are that we have learned and come to believe who we are in you.

753

01:37:08.130 --> 01:37:25.560

Ray Hammond: That we are fearfully and wonderfully made that there is nothing material that adds anything to our worth our worth. God is very much rooted in our relationship to you and our connection with one another.

754

01:37:27.360 --> 01:37:35.820

Ray Hammond: And so God we pray that you would help us as we take to heart that incredible invitation from your sermon on the mount

755

01:37:36.930 --> 01:37:46.290

Ray Hammond: To focus first and foremost on the kingdom of God, the love of God, the truth of God's the justice of God, the peace of God.

756

01:37:47.700 --> 01:37:54.060

Ray Hammond: To work on that God within ourselves and between ourselves to seek that with all of our hearts.

757

01:37:55.080 --> 01:37:58.710

Ray Hammond: And to trust that as we do that, that God

758

01:37:59.970 --> 01:38:02.160

Ray Hammond: Will provide for all of our needs.

759

01:38:03.840 --> 01:38:18.090

Ray Hammond: We pray God that our first consideration in our work

would be bored, what is it that you want to do in me with me and for others through me in this work situation.

760

01:38:19.140 --> 01:38:33.330

Ray Hammond: So that in this place your kingdom comes and your will gets done. Even if it's only in my desk in my cubicle got in my little corner of this place God wherever I am. I want to represent you and let your light shine.

761

01:38:34.920 --> 01:38:38.640

Ray Hammond: And I believe God that if I will do that day in and day out.

762

01:38:39.840 --> 01:38:45.810

Ray Hammond: You will take care of my needs. Thank you God that we don't have to work out of fear.

763

01:38:46.920 --> 01:38:52.950

Ray Hammond: And we don't have to work out of pursuit of material things or money.

764

01:38:54.750 --> 01:39:01.410

Ray Hammond: But that as we seek your kingdom. We indeed see that you will provide for us.

765

01:39:02.970 --> 01:39:15.420

Ray Hammond: Purposes, your people to shine that light and make sure that example to a world strung out on so many things that are ultimately causing death and destruction.

766

01:39:16.650 --> 01:39:18.450

Ray Hammond: Help us to be beacons of light.

767

01:39:19.620 --> 01:39:23.970

Ray Hammond: And love in our labor in Jesus name.

768

01:39:27.030 --> 01:39:29.190

Carole Copeland Thomas: God bless you, saying, man. Alright.

769

01:39:29.550 --> 01:39:30.450

Ray Hammond: See you next week.

770

01:39:30.540 --> 01:39:31.770

Carole Copeland Thomas: All right. God bless.

771

01:39:34.140 --> 01:39:35.220

Aaron: Thank you, Pastor, Ray.

772

01:39:36.000 --> 01:39:36.540

Ray Hammond: Bless you.

773

01:39:36.810 --> 01:39:40.590

Joyce Marshall: Amen, Pastor, can I ask you a question about Friday.

774

01:39:42.270 --> 01:39:58.410

Ray Hammond: Absolutely. Oh, yes. Thank you for reminding me to remind everybody, we got our first drive in service. I think we got a few slots left for either drive ins or walk ins. We're hoping to do two or three more of them. So please register quickly. It's, it's, there's a

775

01:40:00.270 --> 01:40:02.190

Ray Hammond: On the listserv and also on

776

01:40:03.210 --> 01:40:03.750

Ray Hammond: The

777

01:40:05.760 --> 01:40:14.910

Joyce Marshall: Wallet. What is it, what is how does it, how is it going to work. Like, you're going to have a microphone or something. And we're all in our cars in the parking lot.

778

01:40:15.330 --> 01:40:20.070

Ray Hammond: And we're going to be here. Yeah, it'll be there will be a sound system, but you can also hear it on your

779

01:40:20.070 --> 01:40:23.040

Ray Hammond: FM radio, we'll have a little power transmitter

780

01:40:23.700 --> 01:40:24.630

Joyce Marshall: Oh, okay.

781

01:40:25.290 --> 01:40:29.130

Ray Hammond: So you turn your radio one and you can hear, hear the services as well.

782

01:40:29.250 --> 01:40:32.970

Joyce Marshall: Oh, OK. I was wondering about that because

783

01:40:33.780 --> 01:40:38.070

Ray Hammond: We'd like to we'd like the neighbors to still like us. When the services over

784

01:40:40.260 --> 01:40:42.300

Joyce Marshall: All right. Thank you.

785

01:40:43.710 --> 01:40:51.960

Ray Hammond: Yeah, so it'll be a quiet kind of outdoor sneaker system, but most of it, you'll be hearing from your radio yes and radio

786

01:40:52.500 --> 01:40:54.810

Joyce Marshall: Okay. All right. Thank you.

787

01:40:56.010 --> 01:40:56.550

Ray Hammond: All right.

788

01:40:56.880 --> 01:40:57.240

Amen.