

14. THE LOST

—Fellow Workers with God

“For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.” I Corinthians 3:9

Two fundamental longings of the human heart are *love* and *skill*. We all want to love and to be loved, and we all want to be good at something. We may lean more to one than the other - some of us are more relationship/people oriented and some of us are more productivity/task oriented. We see both fully in the character of God. **Love** begins with God, because Father, Son and Holy Spirit dwell in eternal intimacy, in perfect love. But we also see the **skill** of God at work, beginning with Genesis. If we reflect for a moment on the amazing design and beauty of creation, we see God as the master worker.

We also see God at work in rescuing, redeeming, and restoring his human creation. The effects of sin have rippled destructively throughout human history. We don’t have to look too far to see the brokenness of the world, beginning with ourselves. But we also see the creative hand of God who devises means so that banished people do not remain banished from him. (2 Samuel 14:14). The work of the kingdom is to see the gospel advance so that lost and broken people would return to the Father.

The aim of this study is for each of us to reflect on the kingdom work God has for us to do.

What do we learn about the works of God, or about Jesus’ view of his work in relation to the Father?

Deuteronomy 3:24

Psalms 111:1-10

John 4:34, 17:4

John 5:17

John 6:29

John 14:12

What do we observe about the need for workers to join God in His work?

Nehemiah 2:17-18, 4:6, 6:15-16

Ezekiel 22:30

John 4:35-38

Matthew 9:35-10:1

I Corinthians 3:5-15

2 Corinthians 6:1-10

2 Timothy 4:5-8

APPLICATION: It is important to have a high sense of vocation and to pursue excellence in the doing of it. Whatever our career may be, we can take pride and enjoyment in our work - to do so is to receive the gift of God. (Ecclesiastes 5:19). But it may be a rarer thing for us to view the work of the kingdom of God as OUR work. We might refer to ourselves as nurses, or engineers, or school teachers, or mechanics, but do we refer to ourselves as *fellow-workers with God* to advance His kingdom? Do we view ourselves as evangelists, or apostles or disciplinarians who work to spread the gospel among all people? *In light of this study, as you consider yourself co-laboring with God, what is the work He calls you to do? How do you hope to see His kingdom advance among all people in your context?*