



Closing the Gap:

*Where am I?
Where do I want to be?*

“All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone.”

Blaisé Pascal

"One can say that most of an incarcerated man's problems stem from his inability to sit quietly in his cell alone **and** believe he has worth."

Darryl Henley

"A yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our nation."

Gen. 8:22 “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

Psa. 74:16-17 The day is yours, and yours also the night; you established the sun and moon. It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

Is. 46:3-4 “Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all you who remain of the house of Israel, you whom I have upheld since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”

Apart from the gospel...time is only temporary and work is only toil.

“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun? Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course.”

Ecc. 1:2-6

"Now all has been heard, here is the conclusion...Fear God and keep his commands...this is the whole duty of man."

Ecc. 12:13

**It is required that those who have
been given a trust be found faithful.**

1 Cor. 4:2

1. Sin's curse: Life and labor became time and toil

To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Gen. 3:17-19

And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”

Gen. 3:22-24

You exist for the glory of God...God is glorified in you when you are found faithful to him.

**You may or may not enjoy your work,
but you can find joy in your work if
you will see it as part of a life of
faithfulness.**

2. Reverse the curse: Experience labor that is not toil and time that is not wasted

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm.

**Let nothing move you. Always give
yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,
because you know that your labor in the
Lord is not in vain.**

1 Cor. 15:58

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Col. 3:17

3. Reverse the curse: Order your ambition around Christ

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

1 Thess. 4:11-12

**Unless the LORD builds the house, its
builders labor in vain. Unless the
LORD watches over the city, the
watchmen stand guard in vain.**

Ps. 127:1

**The gospel is freedom...wherever it is
experienced.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor
thorns infest the ground**

**He comes to make his blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found.**