Let's Start at the Beginning: Genesis 1-11 May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

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	Redeeming Your 9-5 – Part 2 (Genesis 3:17-24)
1.	The problem with work
2.	Our solutions (which don't work)
3.	God's solution (Christ's work)

For Further Thought and Discussion:

**Getting Started:** 

- 1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
- 2. As you think about your job, what are you *least* looking forward to in the week to come? Why?

## **Going Deeper:**

- 3. Compare the judgment God speaks against the serpent (Genesis 3:14) with the judgment God speaks against Adam (Genesis 3:17). How are they similar? Why is this similarity significant?
- 4. How does the author describe work after sin enters the world? Why is the new location of work significant (3:23; compare 2:5, 15, 18)? What does it mean that the ground is "cursed" (v. 17)? What do "thorns and thistles" (v. 18) signify about our work? What does it mean that we will eat in pain (3:17; compare with 3:16), and by the sweat of our noses (3:19)? Why is it significant that we return to the dust (3:19)? As you think about your own work, which of these descriptions resonated with you? Why?
- 5. What's the first work Adam and Eve engage in after they sin (3:7)? Why is this significant? What work does God perform to cover Adam and Eve in their shame (3:21)? Why is this significant?

## **Application:**

- 6. Because of sin, we either tend to *undervalue* work (and despise it), or *overvalue* work (and make it our ultimate purpose). Which of these do you gravitate towards? Why? Why won't either of these approaches ultimately fix our problems related to work?
- 7. How does the gospel free us both from idolizing our work, and from despising it? How does this encourage you? How might it change the way you approach work this week?
- 8. What's one thing from this week's sermon that you can apply to your life?