

STUDY GUIDE: Our Great Exchange

Week #2 | COMMISSION

November 3-9

This in-depth video-based study explores why our almighty God entrusts us to be managers of - and collaborators in - his restoration project.

NOTE: Contact Jeannie McCoy @ jeanniem@rbcpcc.org for access to the weekly video segments..

INTRODUCTION

This week's video looks at the topic of *COMMISSION*: an instruction, command, or duty given to a person or group of people. God has given his people a mission, and we are on CO-mission with God to bring about His good Kingdom. But how do we determine what good work God is calling us to do versus just our own human effort?

WATCH VIDEO

CHAT

- What do you have? (Think of your talents and resources)
Now here's a striking thought: God has given you those resources, talents and opportunities as a way to include you in His work. Have you ever thought of yourself as a CO-creator? God has also given you freedom and creativity. And what are his gifts to you if not an invitation to take initiative with them in life to join God's dream for the world? What comes to mind when you think of co-creating God's Kingdom on earth? What would that look like?

READ & DISCUSS

“Faithful Workers in Our Corner of the Vineyard”

God is drawing all things to himself, and he has commissioned us as his partners in this great endeavor. It's an inspiring thought, but it can also be a bit intimidating. And sometimes, it leads us to try to do more than God is actually asking us to do.

We need to remember, however, that we are not called to do *everything* in God's plan.

No *one* of us is called to bring about the salvation of the entire world.

No *one* of us is asked to fix every problem.

We are simply called to be faithful where we are with what we have been given.

By staying close to Christ, we can not only remain faithful, but we guard ourselves against the false notion that everything God is trying to do in the world is on our shoulders alone. Well intended busyness burns out Christians all the time.

But how can we have the discernment to say yes or no to so many good things?

- Read John 15:1-17 (It's a good deep chunk, maybe read it twice)
- Can you think back and see how Christ has pruned dead branches in you?
- Can you think of fruit in your life that has come about because of your unity with Jesus?
- What do you think it means to consistently “remain” in Christ?

Here is a thought from theologian J.I. Packer on this John 15 passage
(Warning: it generally takes a slow reading to get the power of Packer... maybe give a few minutes of silence for everyone to read on their own)

“John 15 and The Inside Story to a Christian’s Good Works”:

Recognizing that without divine help we can do nothing as we should (v.5), we confess to the Lord our inability, and ask that help be given. Then, confident that prayer has been heard and help will be given, we go to work. And, having done what we could, we thank God for the ability to do as much as we did and take the discredit, for whatever was still imperfect and inadequate, asking forgiveness for our shortcomings and begging for power to do better next time.

In this sequence there is room neither for passivity nor self-reliance. On the contrary, we first trust God, and then on that basis work as hard as we can, and repeatedly find ourselves enabled to do what we know we could not have done by ourselves. That happens through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, which is the wellspring and taproot of all holy and Christlike action. Such is the inside story of all the Christian’s authentically good works.

- Discuss what stood out to you, or what you learned from ‘the Packer’.
- How are you honestly doing with *remaining in Christ* during your days? How are you doing at keeping a deep connection with Jesus during the busyness of life?
- What practices could help?

APPLY

Here’s a prayer for your week:

“Lord, help me to experience the freedom and power that only you can impart as I imagine new possibilities for serving you and those you’ve put in my life. Remain in me as I long to remain in you.”

Sincerely ask God each morning to be your eyes throughout the day to see how you may be kind to someone, to help someone, or even to say no to some things so that you are saying yes to the right things in your CO-mission or CO-creating.

BTW... These “apply” sections really aren’t worth the paper they’re written on if we’re not doing anything with them. Try tearing it off and sticking it in your car or on your bathroom mirror. I know I need reminders to keep anything on my mind during the day. Shalom.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

