

I'm Just a Bus Driver - Work & Ministry **Colossian 3:1-17 (NLT)**

1 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. 6 Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. 7 You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. 8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. 10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. 11 In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. 17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.



I'm Just a Bus Driver



Your Work Matters to God

A lot of times we struggle to connect our work with our faith.

Indeed, some of our places of work may make it difficult, uncomfortable or even against policy to speak about our faith.

Sometimes it isn't about policy at all but the culture we live in here in Vancouver.

And so we don't know how to communicate faith.

Or we are afraid to.

The tragedy and death of the church is based on the compartmentalization of our life of faith from the rest of our lives.

In particular - our work lives.

We will spend that majority of our days in a particular occupation.

If we shut God out from our lives in our occupations, we are effectively not Christian.

We are effectively not witnesses and not disciples.

We are living without integrity.

Your life matters to God.

Not just your spiritual life, but your whole life.

This includes your occupation whatever it might be.

In other words, Your Work Matters to God.

Group Question: What jobs have you had or do you currently hold?

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. (Col 3:16)

It's not just about your occupation but how much you have let the message of the Kingdom of Christ and his love and forgiveness transform your life.

Unless you have truly accepted the gospel

volitionally, - making a conscious choice due to desire - I want to be a Christian.

affectively, - You feel this in your emotional life - The Love of Christ moves you.

sacramentally, - You join in the 2 rites of belonging in public witness - accountable

communally, - you join in real relationships with those who are on the same journey

intellectually and - beliefs, understanding, growing in knowing who Christ is

spiritually - a growing engagement and attentiveness to the Holy Spirit

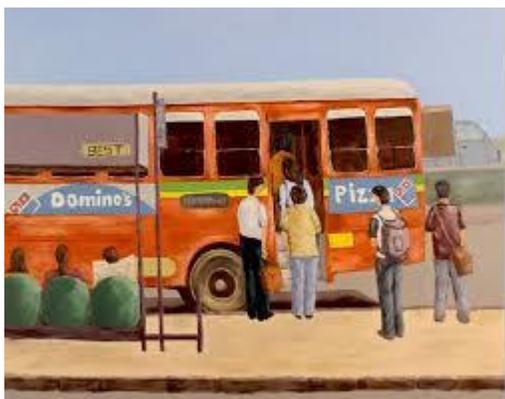
you will have nothing to share.

As Charles Spurgeon preached about this, "The gospel is one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread."

You cannot share what you have not experienced.

In this we are all on a journey.

So today, I want to make an example of just one particular occupation.



The Bus Driver.

Nobody pays too much attention.

How missional can a bus driver be?

Who even cares?

This song is about a bus driver who wonders if his life even makes a difference.



05 Bus Driver.mp3

2017-11-09 12:22 PM, 2.3 MB

Bus Driver (Caedmon's Call, Words by Derek. W. Webb)

I am a bus driver and it's four in the morning
And I'm pressing out my clothes beside my bed
Fourteen years been on the job
And with many miles behind
Still I'm up at 3:30 to make sure I'm there on time
My car gets me along just fine
To and from the station
But my castle is this Houston metro bus
My first stop is Ashbury
And the sign's been gone for years
All the same the people wait
Cause they know that I'll be there

What would you say
If I told you that I won't be by today
Would you say that
I'm just a bus driver
And what do I know
Just a bus driver
And what do I know
Just a bus driver
And what do I know

I'm always there by 5:15
And lately I've been early
Cause Judith likes to be in early to the bank
And she gives me conversation
And a token good for riding
And she's happy all alone
And then there's Charles in retail sales
And I hope they pay him well
For the work that young man does
Cause I've never seen the inside of a custom refrigerator
But I know that he's the first and last one there

What would you say
If I told you that I won't be by today
Would you say that
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And what do I know
Just a bus driver

And what do I know
And what do I know

And I wonder what they do all day
At their respective works
I suppose they give money and take money away
Still I'm just orbiting this town
With the post office my sun
And I'm circling again
And I wonder how this world would be
If I was never here
To drive this bus around from Ashbury to Main
I suppose this town would be the same
With one bus' less exhaust
But that bank and retail store
They just wouldn't be the same

But what can I see
From the limited confines of my bus driving seat
Only me
And I'm just a bus driver
And what do I know
I'm just a bus driver
And what do I know
Just a bus driver
And what do I know
Just a bus driver
And what do I know
I'm just a bus driver
So don't believe that
Just a bus driver
Well don't believe that
Just a bus driver
Well don't believe that
We're all just bus drivers
And it's time to go home

Awakening to Making a Difference

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAmp3eQ4gQQ> - Ron Ruiz, New York

You too can awaken to the possibility of the good you can do.

Even a little thing like helping someone.

We all have that ability.

All of us.

The missional life or the missional church is not something you develop overnight.

It takes a bit of time. It takes a bit of energy.

Two things we may be stingy on these days.

"The journey of a thousand leagues begins with a single step." - Chinese proverb

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. (Col. 3:17)

But you know, You really can make a difference.

The word that matters is not that of saying or as we talk about - proclamation.
The key is action.
As the Epistle of James tells us: "I will show you my faith by what I do."
Is there a time to speak about your faith? Absolutely.
But your words mean nothing if you don't live them.
This is what integrity means.
Missional Integrity.

A Pattern of Sowing the Seeds of Love & Peace

Galatians 6

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

*8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction;
whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

*9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up.*

*10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,
especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

Here is a bus driver who take this verse to heart.

We each have the ability to make the lives of those around us better or worse.

What you choose from day to day or moment to moment is your responsibility.

This is not about perfection but simply developing a way of life from moment to moment, day to day,
year to year for a lifetime.

Looking for ways to be missional - to be like Jesus - not just talk about him.

So here is a story about Darrell Johnson, not the pastor - the bus driver.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dC0UzBpuqgs> - Darrell Johnson, Bloomfield Hills

This Pattern Becomes a Way of Life

Our greatest act of resistance to the dark powers of this world is to simply live an authentic Christian life.

This is what the devil and all the dark power fear the most. The power of the Holy Spirit living in each
true disciple of Christ.

We are all at different stages but are traveling together.

Let us simply encourage one another!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XKCHNIIfIU> - Stan McNeil, Rutgers, New Jersey

Conversation:

Share how you can represent Christ in one simple act in your present occupation.

Pray for a Christ filled life.

Pray for that one simple act.

Pray for a missional life to take root.

The next time you see a bus, think about your missional life!

2 Corinthians 5

*16 So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ
merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! 17 This means that anyone who
belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"