



CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

We are pleased to continue to bring you our Care Conversations. In the first series, Dr Stephen Fyson brought us some reflections on *Mere Christian Education*, based on CS Lewis' *Mere Christianity*. In this next set, Stephen brings us some encouragement from the Gospel according to Matthew – often called the *Teachers' Gospel*.

We hope that this service from The Excellence Centre continues to support you in this wonderful ministry of Christian Education. Please remember to contact us with any ideas about how we may be able to assist you more.

Dr Tina Lamont

Director TEC

The Excellence Centre

Series 2:

THE TEACHERS' GOSPEL...

REFLECTION BY
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Number 9:

Am I Taking Myself Too Seriously?



How do we know when we take our work too seriously? This is not the same as asking if we are being sincere. 'Too seriously' means that we are working hard because we believe the work will collapse, or something will not happen, if we do not do what we do.

Jesus said: *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart... 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice'... For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.* (Matthew 11:28 & 12:7,8)

So to put the 'serious' question another way, how do we keep that balance between us being good stewards of the gift of teaching and leadership, while not forgetting to lean on Jesus. I once had a Bible teacher (Dr Bockmeuhl) express it this way, with reference to our understanding of the Sabbath, and Jesus being Lord of it.

Basically he noted that if we cannot stop our (paid) work for 24 hours, then we are taking ourselves too seriously in terms of our work. His further suggestion

was to remind us that *leaning on Jesus* meant developing the spiritual self-disciplines of reading, contemplating and praying over God's Word.

Dedicating a task-free day to do this is a disciplined reminder that we are not in control of the future – God is. Our worry adds nothing to tomorrow. God supplies our needs if we seek His righteousness first.

Perhaps we should pretend how to answer that question – *how do I know if I take my work too seriously* – before someone in our family does, and we do not know how to answer??



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- To be authentically Christian
- Provide excellent products, services and research products
- Practice Christian Community

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And let us not grow weary of doing good,
for in due season we will reap,
if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9

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