



# BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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**W**hy am I not happy? I'm a good person. So why am I having a bad day? Have you ever had a bad day and found yourself engaging in such thoughts? When we have bad days, typically they are created by disappointments, things simply not going as expected, and people who are just rotten! Sometimes life feels like one big, never-ending, bad day. We've all had them; and if not yet, we will not escape this life without having at least one or two!

Peter, the apostle, was having such a day. He was one of the guys who fell asleep when he was asked by a Friend to join him in prayer (Matthew 26:40–41). In a moment of excitement, he injured a man (Matthew 26:51); and when the chips were down, he deserted his Friend (Matthew 26:69–70). This had all the makings of a bad day! (You may be tempted to say, "That's my life!")

We are told in Matthew 26:75 that Peter wept bitterly after coming to grips with his failure. How are you responding to your failures? Our minds have a bad habit of reminding us what we should have done or said. Often regret sets in, and if not contained and stopped, like a ferocious beast it starts to eat away at us. Even though the failure only spoiled one brief day, the aftershock emotions can run rampant for days, weeks, and months. We may have had thousands of successes, but that one failure still dominates our thoughts.

Here's what I've learned: Failure can wreak havoc on the ego. It reminds us that we are not as tough as we thought. We discover we are not as spiritual as we believed. (And no matter what we say, we do care what people think about us. Our concern

for what others think is probably the most damaging effect of failure!)

This is not a pretty picture. No need to say more — we've all been there. Maybe this is where you are as you read this article. So what do we do? Let's see what Peter did. He started like many of us with a good, old-fashioned pity party! Sometimes it is okay to have a short pity party! Get it out of your system! If you'd like, find a set of train tracks; while keeping a safe distance away, give out a good, bone-crunching scream as the train passes.

But don't stay too long at the pity party, and don't hang around too many trains: choose to move on. When Peter decided to move on, he discovered the greatness of God's love.

Think your failure is too big? The moment of failure may be devastating, but very few failures are fatal. If you are struggling with failure and it has beaten you down, get up and dust yourself off. Don't let your failure define you. Learn from the experience and keep going! Put your trust in God, who will not only help you through the experience, but also provide encouragement if you allow Him. He may do this through a friend, mate, relative, or even an article like this. Most important of all, help and encouragement comes from God's Recovery Manual, the Bible!

- Dr. L.W. Edwards

**SUCCESS**  
is not final  
**FAILURE**

is not fatal

IT IS THE COURAGE TO  
CONTINUE THAT  
COUNTS

Winston Churchill

## “The Place Where Worship & Work Meet”

### The Caged Lion

Worship is what we do on Sunday, right? It’s dressing up, plastering on a wide smile, showing up at our local church, shaking a few hands, singing some songs, forcing ourselves to stay awake when the guy gets up in front of the congregation and speaks, and then racing to the car for dinner and a show.

Okay, maybe not exactly, but you get the idea: worship, at least the way we have traditionally defined it, is all about a place. Worship is what we do when we’re at church.

That’s why we view work as what we do Monday through Friday. It’s putting in time at the office, sorting through tickets, answering phone calls, responding to emails, filing paperwork, resolving the world’s computer problems, bantering with co-workers at the water cooler, fighting fires, satisfying angry customers, marketing to new ones, and strategizing for the company’s future.

If worship is only what we do at church, and work is only what we do at our offices, then these are mutually exclusive concepts. There is never a point where these two lines cross.

What a pity.

### Letting the Cat out of the Bag

Revelation 4:11 jumpstarts our idea of worship: “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

Did you notice the last part of that verse? It says, “. . . For thy pleasure they are and were created.” That. Changes. Everything. It means everything, including you and me, exists for God’s pleasure. We were created to please Him, period.

This revolutionary idea creates some problems for those of us who confine worship and work to a place. God says worship is all about a Person — Him. It’s living, working, attending church, interacting with others, and doing life so as to demonstrate His praiseworthiness.

Snap! Suddenly the neat, solid, distinct lines of worship and work have been radically, completely, and irreversibly altered so they are indistinguishable. No longer can worship be caged within church doors. Like a lion released into the wild, worship bounds over hill and valley, prairie and plain until it touches the four corners of the earth and de-

clares with a mighty roar, “The world is mine!”

### What to Do about the Cat on the Loose

What does this new understanding of worship and work have to do with us? First, it should transform our view of the little things in life. Every action and interaction, every word and thought potentially declares to others our view of God’s worth. (Wow, that’s convicting. It means I ought to think about how jumping to conclusions affects the way others see my God.) Colossians 3:23 advises, “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

Second, this should transform our relationships. Colossians 3 showcases three relationships which are impacted by a proper view of worship: husband-wife, parent-child, and boss-employee. The phrases, “do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (v.17), “as it is fit in the Lord” (v.18), “this is well pleasing . . . >>> [Keep Reading](#)



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