

Vocation, Work and Profession. Moral Considerations and Recent Scientific Research

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Abstract

Every man has a personal vocation in his life from a moral and spiritual point of view. Not all people have the same calling, but each has his own mission left by God in the world. Some people recognize it quickly, others more slowly, and few intuit it very hard or not at all; not because they could not identify it, but because they are either “captive” in the galloping, scattered and aimless surface of their lives, or they are not interested in this spiritual and intellectual endeavor and do not make efforts in this regard. This kind of people prefer living from one day to the next or a life lived without any purpose, without any higher direction to lead and guide all major steps of personal thinking and accomplishment. They always choose to live well, constantly tasting all the pleasures of life, without asking questions about the purpose of existence or its meaning. Regarding this attitude, Socrates argued that a life that is not analyzed is not worth living. Every man has the duty to discover and know his personal vocation and to choose his work or profession accordingly. In this way, the person can constantly develop his own skills and expand his abilities by constantly improving himself. He thus has the chance to work with an unspoken inner joy. When man works according to his purpose, he can use anytime and anywhere his “capital of experience and knowledge” in his field of activity. It is important that the person always acts in pursuit of goals from the distant future, and not from the present or the near future. The Church Fathers and recent scientific research claim that man has incredible abilities and skills within himself, namely the “talents” received as a gift from God, which if he put to work with much faith seriously and systematically he could do unimaginable things. Thus, he has fully open the horizons of infinite progress, in terms of its perfection, of the work itself and of its mission. According to the Orthodox teaching, man never works alone, but he is constantly helped by the grace of God.