

Not The Vicar's Letter

Back to School – and daily life

'Most Christians don't really believe that the ordinary things they do every day have anything much to do with God's purposes in time and eternity. But the reality is that God can and does work through His people... among the people they naturally meet, doing the things they normally do.' (Mark Greene).

September is the time when we get back to our normal routines after the summer break. It's a good opportunity to ask how God wants us to make a difference in our workplace, school, family or with friends. Paul writes:

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.' (Colossians 3:17).

As disciples, we are called to do the ordinary things in the name of Jesus, i.e. *act in the way Jesus would in our situation*.

'WHATEVER you do': God is at work in every aspect of our lives. He can use whatever we do to make a difference to those around. Do we believe this? Our lives shouldn't be like an orange, segmented into the sacred and secular, but more like an apple, in which the whole is available to God.

'Whatever YOU do': God wants to use us to make a difference to the people and places where we spend time. We can trust Him for the resources we need hour by hour, day by day, year by year. What do we need from Him?

'Whatever you DO': Our work is for God alone, out of gratitude for God's love for us. How does this perspective make a difference when what we do seems hard, unrewarding, or unappreciated by others?

'Work doesn't take us away from God; it continues the work of God.' (Eugene Peterson).