1 Preaching and Pastoring for the Workplace Scott B. Rae, Ph.D. Talbot School of Theology **Biola University** 2 Perception of Work in our Churches ▶How do you think that workplace men and women are perceived in your church? ► Sources of funding? ► Administrative Savvy? ► Strategic arena for living out one's faith? \triangleright 3 Perception of Work in our Churches ▶ Front Lines and Supply Line? ► Bi-Vocational Pastorates ► Halftime View of Work and Vocation—from success to significance? ▶ Feeling of "less-than" when compared to pastors, missionaries, etc ► Magnified in particular cultural settings 4 Theological Underpinnings ▶ Bookends of Biblical History ► Work Ordained in Genesis 1-2, not Genesis 3 ▶ Dual Value of Work—Instrumental and Intrinsic ► Colossians 3:23-24 ► Acts 6:1-2 5 Affirming Work as Ministry ► All believers are in full time ministry ► Workplace best opportunity to love your neighbor ► Workplace as primary context for one's spiritual formation 6 Work as Ministry ▶Be sure our language matches our theology ▶ Be careful how we use the terms—full time ministry, secular jobs, higher callings, front lines ministry ► Ministry as service ▶Includes the work itself that men and women do in the workplace ► Vocation not reducible to occupation 7 Affirming Work as Ministry ►What is the ministry of: ► Accounting? ► Marketing? ▶Plumbing? **▶**Construction? ▶How does work in one's occupation contribute to the flourishing of individuals and communities?

▶Be careful of reducing "ministry" too narrowly

8 Preaching for the Workplace

- ► Redefining pastoral visits
- ▶ Ask questions of workplace men and women about the pressures, ethical issues, etc., that they face
- ▶Run your messages by representative samples of workplace men and women
- ▶ Panel of workplace folks to raise questions of application
- ▶Ordain/Commission men and women to their ministries in their workplaces