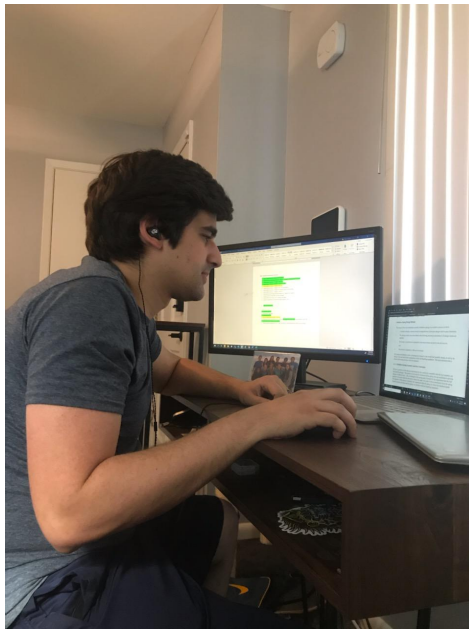


## **“WORK: Redeeming Our Labor” - Blog #1**

*Joey, Mechanical Engineer*



*This blog series is a part of our sermon series “WORK: Redeeming Our Labor”. We hope this set of interview style blogs is encouraging to our church family as we strive to be faithful in our labors and put our vocation into the story of God, for His glory, our good, and the benefit of the world around us.*

*\*Answers have been lightly edited for grammar and spelling.*

### **1. Tell us what you do and how long you've been doing it.**

I am a mechanical engineer as of 3 months ago but have been a drafter (3D modeling) for 10 years before that. The last 5 years have been at Westinghouse Electric Company, specifically the nuclear fuel fabrication facility in Columbia. I still work there, just remote.

### **2. What are some of the highlights or things you enjoy about your job?**

I enjoy the problem solving aspect. I like to figure out a better way to do something. With drafting, this was modeling in a more efficient or accurate way. In mechanical engineering now, it's streamlining the difficult and confusing processes we have to follow, or more practically, testing the products to figure out design flaws and improve them.

### **3. What are some of the more frustrating parts of your job?**

There are a lot of extremely boring parts. My company makes nuclear fuel, so there is a lot of documentation and legal aspects that make a single project take a long time and feel monotonous. There are so many signatures required for everything you do that it's hard to get anything done, and it seems to take a ridiculous amount of time to do so.

#### **4. How do you see your work as "joining God in cultivating the world?"**

I'm a contributor to a company that makes nuclear fuel for power plants. I take pride in the fact that we can provide energy for people across the world, as well as advance nuclear technology in general. People rely on electricity, and I imagine a world without it would make growing God's kingdom that much harder.

#### **5. How does the gospel of Jesus impact your work?**

I'm in a spot where I feel unqualified (and kind of AM unqualified) to do my job, so I feel "less than" to everyone else in my group and a bit annoying since I have to bother them so much with questions to which they might assume I know the answers. Jesus frees me up to be unqualified, to be humble and ask for help without feeling less than. Jesus humbled himself even when he was the only one qualified to not deserve death. I get to do the best I can at my job without the anxiety of performing to others' standards or even my own.

#### **6. What are some current prayer requests you have with your job?**

Working remotely is a big shift. I used to be able to turn around and talk to my coworkers from my desk, but now I need a phone call or message instead. In the year-plus that I've been working from home, only once have I gotten a phone call from someone just to talk, and I haven't done it myself at all. My prayer request is for me and my coworkers to put some effort into maintaining a relationship beyond seeing them in meetings every couple of days. I also am tempted with the mindset that since I live in Charlotte and they live in Columbia, it's not worth building with them anymore. So another request is just for me to not give up on them and move on since it might be easier.