

"Serving Jesus Full Time"

Colossians 3.22 - 4.1

No word more unpopular "WORK" - even more "HARD WORK"

Part of Creation - "Fill the earth and subdue it, Rule over every living creature"  
Gen 1.27

Fall/Curse - Pain, Sweat, Drudgery, Lack of Purpose// NO GOD

Redemption / Salvation - Work NEW PURPOSE, NEW DIGNITY

Interview w/ three men working in rock quarry "What you do?"

- 1) Can't you see I'm breaking stones!
- 2) I'm supporting my wife and family
- 3) I'm helping to build a cathedral

Jesus to disciples "As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent me"  
John 9.4

Paul told Thessalonians "If a man will not work, he shall not eat" 2 Thess 3.10

SERVE Jesus - IN and THROUGH our Daily Work

### 1. Accountability in our Work

a. "Full time" Christian worker CALLING OF EVERY CHRISTIAN

22a "slaves" - lost all rights / FULL TIME OBEDIENCE

MOST ROMAN CITIES - MORE SLAVES THAN FREE PEOPLE

Est - 60 MILLION THROUGHOUT ROMAN EMPIRE – Captured in War

"Ancient society was as dependent on slavery,  
as modern society is dependent on machinery"

PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS - SEES NO LASTING BASIS TO SLAVERY

MARRIAGE BASED ON CHRIST / FAMILY BASED ON CREATION

SLAVERY ACCEPTED AS REALITY - many slaves coming into church

CHRISTIANS POLITICALLY / ECONOMICALLY / SOCIALLY INSIGNIFICANT

FAITH ITSELF WAS ILLEGAL

REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF THE WORLD AND ITS CONFLICT

CHURCHES FILLING WITH SLAVES - FINDING FREEDOM IN HIM

SLAVES HELD ALL KINDS OF JOBS - ALL LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE

from Manual Labor to Doctors and Teachers and Administrators

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

MOST COMMON SELF-DESCRIPTION APOSTLES / TITLE OF HONOR

"obey in everything" / MENIAL TASKS, ROUTINE

v. 17 "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."

PAUL talks More ABOUT RESPONSIBILITIES THAN RIGHTS

Seminary prof to future pastors "if you are not in the full time ministry before you go into the full time ministry, then when you go into the full time ministry you will not be in the full time ministry"

Possible to be a Pastor and not be in Full Time Ministry

Different Kinds of Jobs - ZOO - monkey suit – falls into Lion Cage - "Help"

Lion "shut up, or we'll all be out of a job"

## b. Lord of slaves and masters / God is the BIG BOSS

3.24b "it is the Lord Christ you are serving"

4.1 "you know that you have a Master in heaven" RIGHT AND FAIR

3.25 "ANYONE WHO DOES WRONG will be repaid for his wrong"

Employers See - HONESTY, DEDICATION, CONSISTENCY "Christian?"

Move Employer - PHARAOH / CHILDREN OF ISRAEL "go to worship"

"For where you treasure is, there your heart will be also" Matt 6.21

## c. Impartial Judgment

3.22b "not only when their eye is on you to win their favor"

25 "THERE IS NO FAVORITISM" No excuse for Christian sloppiness

"Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them because they are brothers. Instead, they are to serve them even better, because those who benefit from their service are believers, and dear to them." 1 Timothy 6.2

World is in "In Search of Excellence" WE SHOULD MODEL IT

"Folks who never do any more than they get paid for, never get paid for any more than they do"

## 2. Access through our Work: THE GECKO

Illus - Method of Ministry for Christians / NOT PASTORS

Difference between EATING HABITS - Frog and Gecko

Frog - Sits there - Flies come to it // Pastor's Office

Gecko - Learns to hunt, search, UNDERSTANDS THEIR ENVIRONMENT

"THERE ARE GECKOS IN EVERY HOME IN HAWAII"

## a. "Witnessing" in the Workplace BY YOUR HIGH STANDARDS

### 3.23 "WORKING FOR THE LORD, NOT MEN" not mean we cut corners

Bible Study / Tracts - on your own time

"Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, AND TO WORK WITH YOUR HANDS..so that your daily life may WIN THE RESPECT OF OUTSIDERS" 1 Thessalonians 4.11

Proverbs on LAZINESS - Despised by the world

"He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment" 12.11

"All hard work brings profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty" 14.23

"Laziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless man goes hungry." 19.15

Church member in Scotland - Field full of stones - Cleared it

Presby. Pastor "Fine job, you and the Lord did, removing all those stones"

"Thank you, Pastor, I wish you could have seen it when the Lord had it all to Himself"

## b. By Words and Actions

4.3-6 "open door" "proclaim message CLEARLY"

"wise actions before outsiders" "make most of every chance"

"conversation full of grace"

CRISIS occurs "who are they going to call?" Church? You?

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have"

1 Peter 3.15

## c. Right Where We Are

### 4.9 "Onesimus our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you"

Carried Letter to Philemon / Owner / Runaway slave

FUTURE GLORY MADE DIFFERENCE IN THE PRESENT

EX, PAUL'S PERSONAL LETTER TO SLAVE OWNER - PHILEMON

ABOUT HIS RUN AWAY SLAVE - ONESIMUS - MET PROVIDENTIALLY

IN BUSY CITY OF ROME - SENT HIM BACK TO HIS MASTER

Philemon 1:12,16 I am sending him--who is my very heart--back to you...no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

NOTHING IN ALL GREEK / ROMAN LITERATURE EVER SUGGESTS

A SLAVE IS BROTHER OF HIS OWNER / MASTER - SHOCKING IDEA!

ONLY MATTER OF TIME UNTIL SLAVERY COLLAPSED FROM WITHIN

Master - Received as a "brother" / Person not Property

BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED

"FAITHFUL with little, MORE WILL BE GIVEN"

Pastor GORDON MAC DONALD - NYC - Rode BUS to WORK

GOT TO KNOW DRIVER - CHRISTIAN MAN - SHARED THEIR LIVES

ONE DAY PASTOR "how you doing?" TO DRIVER

DRIVER "not good, tired of this boring job, yours is exciting"

PASTOR "come in the bus early and pray, see it as sanctuary"

WEEKS LATER PASTOR SAW DRIVER "How's it been going"

DRIVER "Great, it is wonderful driving the sanctuary of God"

### 3. Advancement beyond our Work

#### a. Joy in our Inheritance

3.24a "you will receive an INHERITANCE as a REWARD"

JOY OF WORK IS NEVER IN ANY JOB / NO JOY IN ANY JOB

EX 1) ANY job becomes MONOTONOUS,ROUTINE -EX. MAF pilot in Africa

2) Retirement Resorts / GRUMBLING too hot, cold, rainy, dry

3) Decade of 1980's greed, materialism / 90's Simplicity

1.10-13 "JOYFULLY giving thanks to the Father who has qualified •  
you to share in the INHERITANCE of the saints"

THE JOY OF LIFE IS IN KNOWING CHRIST

#### b. Global Benefits Now

Mark 10.28-30 will receive a hundred times as much in this age

Illus - Global family of God / American Express, VISA GOLD

THE NAME OF JESUS OPENS MORE DOORS

EX - hospitality in Uganda, Asia, Europe "for Jesus sake"

#### c. Eternal Dividends "you WILL receive an inheritance"

"Work as tho you would live forever, but live as though you would die today."

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU "For you brought nothing in to the •  
world, and we can take nothing out of it" 1 Tim 6.7

3.4 "when Christ, who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

Colossians 3.22 Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. 25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

4:1 Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.