

Your work place: A platform for extending God's Kingdom
Colossians 3.22 - 4.1

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

Creation Duty: "Fill the earth and subdue it, Rule over every living creature" Gen 1.27

Fall/Curse – Work = Pain, Sweat, Drudgery, VEER toward Lack of Purpose

If you have NO GOD > WORK is ONLY PAIN, TOIL, MEANINGLESSNESS

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. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
John 9.4,5

STRUCK by TWO Realities 1) WE are INVITED to WORK WITH Jesus

Amazing PRIVILEGE – We can CO-LABOR with the CREATOR GOD

2) TIME of Work is LIMITED > Better HURRY > DARKNESS is COMING

SERVE Jesus - IN and THROUGH our Daily Work

1. Kingdom Growing Slowly in Society

Acts 1.6 “Lord are you going to RESTORE the Kingdom NOW?!”

The Kingdom of God is Gradual in its Expansion

HOW CAN PAUL CONDONE THE EVIL OF SLAVERY

SAME VERSES QUOTED BY WHITE SOUTHERN SLAVE OWNERS

Does Paul support Slavery? – MORE Slaves TODAY than Ever Before: INDIA

a. Accepted not approved PAUL SEE SLAVERY DEEP & COMPLEX Reality

Many ROMAN CITIES THERE WERE MORE SLAVES THAN FREE PEOPLE
ESTIMATED - 60 MILLION THROUGHOUT ROMAN EMPIRE

"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 were Coming into Church

XTIANS: POLITICALLY / ECONOMICALLY / SOCIALLY INSIGNIFICANT

FAITH ITSELF WAS ILLEGAL – No LEGAL Right to WORSHIP Jesus Christ

REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF THE WORLD AND ITS CONFLICT

JESUS PRAYED FOR HIS FOLLOWERS: They are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. John 17:14,15

LIFE-LONG TENSION - We are In the World, but Not Of the World

CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD - HERE in the Kingdoms of Men

WE ARE LIVING IN A SINFUL HOSTILE WORLD

JESUS & PAUL KNEW GOD GOING TO CHANGE THINGS - EVERYTHING

NEVER THINK THAT CHURCH COULD CHANGE WORLD BY POLITICS

b. Temporary Opportunity BEING A SLAVE = PLACE OF Xtian SERVICE

IF FREED - WHERE WOULD THEY GO? WHAT WOULD THEY DO?

Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you--although if you can gain your freedom, do so. For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to...What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short....For this world in its present form is passing away. 1 Corinthians 7:20-24,29,31

WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN -

**WE MAY BE POWERLESS - HE HOLDS ALL POWER - HE IS OUR DAD
ORDAINED EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE FOR HIS GLORY AND OUR GOOD
BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED - THIS IS THE MISSION FIELD**

All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered. 1 Timothy 6:1,2

EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE IS TO BE ANALYZED

FOR WHAT IT DOES TO FURTHER THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21

Methods of Ministry for Christians:

Difference between EATING HABITS - Frog and Lizards both EAT FLIES

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

LIZARD - Learns to hunt, search, UNDERSTANDS THEIR ENVIRONMENT

A lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings' palaces. Proverbs 30.28

"THERE ARE LIZARDS IN EVERY HOME IN UGANDA"

ISLAMIC Nations > No Missionaries Allowed > FOREIGN WORKERS / Slaves
 Filipinos – Indians – S.E. Asians > CHRISTIANS Shining Light of Faith in Homes

c. Kingdom Brotherhood GOD IN CHRIST WAS MAKING A NEW SOCIETY
 CHURCHES WERE 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

"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

"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" Charles 'Tremendous' Jones

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"

PERHAPS 1st C. WORLD NOT READY to HEAR of LIBERATION for SLAVES
 - ROMAN EMPIRE MUST BE BROUGHT DOWN FIRST

FUTURE GLORY MADE DIFFERENCE IN THE PRESENT

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

RUN AWAY SLAVE - ONESIMUS - Met PROVIDENTIALLY in BUSY ROME
SENT HIM BACK TO HIS MASTER!!

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. Philemon 1:12,16

NOTHING IN ALL GREEK / ROMAN LITERATURE EVER SUGGESTS
 A SLAVE IS THE BROTHER OF HIS OWNER / MASTER - SHOCKING IDEA!
 ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL SLAVERY COLLAPSED FROM WITHIN
 d. Messenger of Change WORD OF GOD IS THE CHANGE AGENT

CHANGE NOT FROM BALLOT BOX OR BULLET - BLESSING OF GOD
 HIS SPIRIT CREATED NEW SERVANTS / NEW SOCIETY THRU HIS WORD
 The LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."
Jeremiah 1:9,10

2. Kingdom Seen through Structures of Society

BOTH Ephesians and Colossians > Same PATTERN

Great TRUTHS of SALVATION Declared – FIRST Part of Letter

SOCIAL Structures – Marriage, Children, Workplace > Show Forth Salvation

Some looking for ANGELS, MIRACLES, SHOCKING, SURPRISING Things

God wants us SHOW HIM to World by Being GOOD HUSBAND, WIFE, CHILD

And EMPLOYEES and EMPLOYERS

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST HAS IMPACT ON ALL OUR RELATIONSHIPS

MARRIAGE - CHILDREN - JOB / ALL ARE PLACES OF XTIAN SERVICE

Show TRANSFORMING POWER & INFLUENCE OF HOLY SPIRIT in LIFE

a. Masters and Slaves: Christ's Servants - FOCUS ON THE LORD JESUS

3.22 reverence for the Lord.

3.23 working for the Lord, not for men

3.24 It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

3.25 there is no favoritism.

4.1 you also have a Master in heaven.

MESSAGE - BEST WAY TO LIVE YOUR LIFE IS TO FOCUS ON JESUS
 ROMAN ARISTOCRACY THOUGHT THEY OWNED THESE PEOPLE
 BUT THEY WERE BLOOD BOUGHT CHILDREN OF KING JESUS
 Paul URGES Slaves & Masters - LOOK BEYOND THEIR SITUATION
 TO SEE THE GLORY OF THE LORD JESUS

"Exactly the same principle can be applied by contemporary Christians to their work and employment. Our great need is the clear-sightedness to see Jesus Christ and to set Him before us. It is possible for the housewife to cook a meal as if Jesus Christ were going to eat it, or to clean the house as if Jesus Christ were going to be the honored guest. It is possible for teachers to educate children, for doctors to treat patients and nurses to care for them, for lawyers to help their clients, shop workers to serve their customers, accountants to audit books and secretaries to type letters as if in each case they were serving Jesus Christ. Can the same be said in relation to the masses of industrial workers with tedious machine-minding to do and the miners who have to work underground? Surely yes." John Stott

b. Masters and Servants: Christ our Strength

4:1 Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

MASTER NEEDS TO LOOK TO JESUS -
 NOT HIS OWN POWER AND SUPPOSED IMPORTANCE

EMPLOYER & EMPLOYEE BOTH CAN ONLY BE FULFILLED IN CHRIST
 POOR SLAVE goes to FRIG - LOOKS HUNGRILY Inside - NOTHING THERE
 RICH MASTER FRIG FULL OF FOOD - LOOK AT IT - NOTHING IS GOOD
 WE HAVE SO MANY THINGS - WE ARE STILL EMPTY / UNFULFILLED
 GOD SHAPED VACUUM IN OUR HEARTS WHICH ONLY HE CAN FILL

This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.
 Jeremiah 9:23,24

Pastor GORDON MAC DONALD, MANHATTAN - RODE A BUS TO WORK
 AS HE GOT TO KNOW DRIVER - Xtian 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. Kingdom Seen through Shadows in Society

Ever WONDERED Why RISEN Jesus did NOT Stand in Middle of Jerusalem

"Here I am!" You KILLED Me but I am ALIVE FOREVER! God! Lord! Savior!

INSTEAD Limited Number of ONLY BELIEVERS see RISEN JESUS

Then Jesus told him (Thomas), "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
 John 20.29

MORE EXCITING to have LIGHTNING Bolts STRIKE Unbelievers to REPENT
 1000's of HEALINGS and MIRACLES every Day in CITIES around the WORLD
 God CHOSEN to Advance KINGDOM thru MORE ORDINARY Channels
 YOU & I have PRIVILEGE & RESPONSIBILITY – Talk the Talk, Walk the Walk

WORLD will NEVER See PERFECT Husband, Wife, EMPLOYEE or BOSS
 QUESTION is Whether they will be HONEST > NOT About US!

STRIVE to be Good > But we are SINNERS at BEST > It is ABOUT JESUS
 Concern in Church of Uganda > FORGIVE Me, Mean NO DISRESPECT
 For HONOR of Jesus Christ I ask > Why are MEN so IMPORTANT?

Why so many Titles? Canons / Revs. / Drs./ Professors / His Graces
 Maybe FRUSTRATED American in Society IMPRINTED by ENGLAND

BIBLE: Paul, a SLAVE of Jesus Christ / John, Brother & Companion in Suffering

WORLD wants HONESTY & INTEGRITY > Wants to SEE it in CHURCH
 TRUTH > I will NEVER be RIGHT Rev. > FOREVER WRONG Rev.

Stupid, Stubborn, Proud, Lustful, Lying, Manipulating, Broken SINNER

Who is LOVED by a Mighty, Eternal, Righteous, Gracious, Forgiving GOD

a. Obedience v. 22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything

BASIC CHRISTIAN DUTY - DO WHAT YOU ARE TOLD AT WORK

A king delights in a wise servant, but a shameful servant incurs his wrath.

Proverbs 14:35

PAUL TELLS EMPLOYEE AND EMPLOYER TO BE MORE CONCERNED
 ABOUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES THAN THEIR RIGHTS

b. Respect v. 22 Slaves, obey...with reverence for the Lord.

EMPLOYEE NEEDS TO SEE EMPLOYER AS IN THE PLACE OF CHRIST
PLACED THERE BY HIM FOR HIS PURPOSE - WILLING SUBMISSION

Give everyone what you owe him:...if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.
Romans 13.7

THIS IS NOT TO BE PHONY OR ONLY FOR SELF ADVANTAGE - KISS UP

All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full
respect...Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them
1 Timothy 6:1,2

DON'T TALK STINK about JOB - WORKERS - SHAMEFUL FOR BELIEVERS

c. Wholehearted HEART IN THE RIGHT PLACE - Love GOD & NEIGHBOR

vs. 22,23 Slaves, obey...with sincerity of heart. Whatever you do, work at it with all
your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

LATIN WORD "SINCERE" = LIT. without wax

DISHONEST POTTERS > COVERED CRACKS & FLAWS W/ WAX

POT WAS OFTEN HELD TO THE SUN i.e. YOU CANNOT SEE THROUGH IT

"The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward
appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" 1Samuel 16.7

IN CHRIST > NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN SACRED AND SECULAR

ANY WORK: Home, JOB, SCHOOL, CHURCH - SEEN by HIM, DONE for HIM

d. Trustworthy CAN YOUR BOSS COUNT ON YOU?

v. 22 Slaves, obey...not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor

EMPLOYEE CAN BE TRUSTED - DOES the JOB - NOT LAZY OR CORRUPT

SHOULD NOT NEED TO EMPLOY VIDEO CAMERAS IN YOUR OFFICE
 REALIZE THAT GOD'S VIDEO CAMERA IS ALWAYS RUNNING
 HIS EYE IS ALWAYS ON US - SEES IN THE DARK

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

BEST WAY TO BE A GOOD WITNESS FOR JESUS ON THE JOB?

Xtian T-shirts? carry Bible to work? give out tracts?

BE A GOOD WORKER!! - ACT LIKE YOUR EMPLOYER REALLY IS GOD
 then the T-shirts, Bible, and tracts will gain a hearing

THIS IS THE SECRET FOR PROMOTION - NOT PRIMARILY EDUCATION
 YOUR TRACK RECORD is WEIGHED MORE than your ACADEMIC RECORD

3 Sons – 2 Not Yet Graduated from University – 1 Holds 2 Degrees

2 without DEGREES > BETTER JOBS, MORE PAY, MORE RESPONSIBILITY

Eventually Son with Univ. Degrees will LIKELY EARN MORE, INFLUENCE

2 w/out DEGREES – Early 20's – OPPORTUNITIES, RESPONSIBILITIES

Way BEYOND their YEARS > Why? 1) WORK HARD 2) TRUSTWORTHY

Get a UCU Degree > Do NOT 1) Work Hard, NOT 2) Trustworthy GOOD LUCK!

e. Accountable – SLAVES & MASTERS / EMPLOYEES & EMPLOYERS

vs. 25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

PAUL THOUGHT ONLY OF HEAVENLY REWARDS - Slaves Rarely Rewarded

TODAY - REWARDS DO MATTER - COMPENSATION IS BIBLICAL

SYSTEM that PAYS EMPLOYEES FOR WORK IS CLOSER TO GOD'S WAY

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5.10

4. Kingdom will One Day be Seen in Blazing Glory

a. Joy in our Inheritance v. 24 "you will receive an inheritance as a reward"

JOY of WORK is NEVER in ANY JOB / NO JOY IN ANY JOB > Pastor?!

EX 1) ANY job becomes MONOTONOUS,ROUTINE

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

"joyfully giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints"

Colossians 1.11,12

JOY OF LIFE IS IN KNOWING CHRIST > That JOY is our STRENGTH

b. Global Benefits Now

Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields--and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. Mark 10.28-30

Peter SAW even RICH YOUNG RULER Could NOT ENTER KINGDOM!

HOW about POOR Follower > POOR in THIS LIFE – AND the NEXT LIFE!?

THE NAME OF JESUS OPENS MORE DOORS – AND ADVERSITY

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

Mukono > Sister NEVER MET Opened LOVELY HOME to WIFE AND I

c. Eternal Dividends "you WILL receive an inheritance"

"Work as though 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 Timothy 6.7

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

d. Don't Forget Your Master > NO Matter How BIG You Are- GOD is BIGGER

Colossians 4:1 Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

BILL GATES - owns Microsoft - many related companies - BILLIONS

TIME "Master of the Universe" - News for TIME & Bill Gates

God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen. 1 Timothy 6:15,16

EMPLOYER WHO HONORED THE LORD: Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The LORD be with you!" "The LORD bless you!" they called back. Ruth 2:1

BOAZ WAS SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF HIS WORKERS

AND GENEROUS TO THE STRANGER - RUTH - KINSMAN REDEEMER

PICTURE of our KINSMAN REDEEMER - CARES for US - OUR LORD JESUS

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God. Job 19:25,26

HE Will STAND as Ultimate MASTER – Every KNEE Bow, TONGUE Confess

Colossians 3.22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24. since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. 25. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism. 1. Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.