Turn Your Work Into an Act of Worship July 1, 2018

*Colossians 3:22-4:1 Series: Let God Transform Your Career*

*If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like*

*Michelangelo painted pictures ... - Martin Luther King Jr.*

Intro: Terrorist bomb scare is a warning on work.

1. Show devotion even to those unworthy of it.
2. Show your employer devotion through your sincerity.

v. 22 *obey in everything those who are your earthly masters*

v. 22 *not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart*

1 Timothy 6:1 *Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.*

1 Peter 2:18-19 *Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.*

1. Show your employer devotion through your diligence.

v. 23 *Whatever you do, work heartily…*

* What makes it hard for you to show devotion to your employer?
* How is God’s name “reviled” when we don’t honour our employers?
* How can you show “respect” to an “unjust” employer or client?
* How do you know if you’re working heartily for the Lord or working addictively for yourself?

1. Show fairness even in an unfair system.
2. Show your employees fairness through your justice.

v. 1 *Masters, treat your bondservants justly*

David Garland: Paul’s instruction contrasts with ancient contemporary parallels that advise masters only on how best to handle slaves. Slaves were regarded as equivalent to animate tools. To give them moral duties, as Paul does, treats them as human beings and affirms that being in Christ bestows on them a new status (v. 11).

1. Show your employees fairness through your generosity.

v. 1 *Masters, treat your bondservants … fairly*

C. E. Arnold: Paul now appeals to the slave owners not only to respond to their slaves with a sense of justice, but also to treat them with “equality” (isotēs). Paul clearly sows the seeds for the eventual dismantling of this unjust social structure.

* What are some ways that managers show their employees that they really don’t respect or appreciate them?
* How can a manager act justly to those he or she oversees?
* What are some of the changes Roman slave-owners would have had to make in order to treat their slaves with equality?
* What does relating to employees with equality mean today?

1. Work for the Lord not for people.
2. Work should ultimately be done in service of God.

v. 22 *obey in everything … fearing the Lord*

v. 23 *work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.*

v. 24 *You are serving the Lord Christ.*

v. 1 *you also have a Master in heaven.*

Colossians 3:17 *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

1 Corinthians 10:31 *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

Titus 2:9-10 *Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.*

1. God will reward your work.

v. 24 *from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward*

1. God will judge your work.

v. 25 *For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.*

2 Cor. 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

* What does it mean to do your work “in the name of Jesus?”
* When have you felt that you were doing your work “for the Lord” instead of for people?
* How can work “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior?”
* What can we do to allow the knowledge of our future inheritance and the fact that Jesus will judge our work to motivate us more fully?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll look at Judges 6:1-24.

Notes