

Midweek Study

Notes

GOD'S
Dream Church

Through 1 Timothy

Wednesday, September 4, 2019

When Christians Go To Work

1 Timothy 6:1-2

Dr. Josh Franklin, Senior Pastor

Colossians 3:22-24 (NKJV)

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

1 Peter 2:18 (NKJV)

Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

BACKGROUND ON SLAVERY: There were between 50-60 million slaves in the Roman Empire, and that as many as one third of the populations of large cities were slaves.

Work is a natural part of this life and a natural part of eternal life. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." (Genesis 2:15) "No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him." (Revelation 22:3)

Work is a requirement. "For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat.'" (2 Thessalonians 3:10)

Work that is worth doing should be worth doing well. "Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men." (Proverbs 22:29)

People were meant to enjoy their work. "A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God." (Eccl2:24)

I. Your Humility [Submission] is a Witness ("under the yoke")

Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke

II. Your Honor is a Witness ("worthy of all honor")

count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.

III. Your Happiness is a Witness (“not despise them”)

2 And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren,

IV. Your Hard Work is a Witness (“serve them”)

but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved.

The Joys of a Job:

- 1) A Paycheck
- 2) Development of Skills
- 3) Work develops character
- 4) builds your sense of self-worth
- 5) You can develop meaningful relationships with people you come into contact with every day at work.
- 6) Sense of accomplishment [*very little you do on earth rivals the wonderful feeling of a job well done.*]
- 7) Your job gives you the sense that you have made a contribution to society.

Teacher of preachers Fred Craddock often prays this prayer: “Thank you God for giving me a work that is more important than how I happen to feel about it at any given moment.”

What should we do?

- 1) We head to work thanking God for a new day.
- 2) We acknowledge His great gifts of time and energy and skill and offer them back to Him as an act of worship.
- 3) We recognize that work done for Him has significance and work done well bears testimony to our faith.
- 4) We sense what a privilege it is to earn a wage in order to support our dependents, have something to give to those in need, and to offer gifts to the Lord in worship.
- 5) We make sure that we teach our children that work is good and that God loves to see us active on the job.

Genesis 39:20-23 (NKJV)

20 Then Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king’s prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.

21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.

23 The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph’s authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

*As a prisoner and slave, Joseph could have seen his situation as hopeless. Instead, he did his best with each small task given him. His diligence and positive attitude were soon noticed by the chief jailer, who promoted him to prison administrator. No matter what you do for a living, follow Joseph’s example by doing your best with each small task given you. **Remember that your top priority should be to honor God in your work, not to please your boss.***

My work is my worship

“A man’s business is not chiefly his way of making a living but his altar where he serves the King.” - Henry P. Crowell