

WORKING FOR GOD

I. THE SLAVE IS THE WORKER, AND IS TO WORK FOR GOD - Ephesians 6:5

A. The slave in Jesus' and Paul's time was owned by his master, a 24/7 slave. For the most part, slaves were treated badly, and paid poorly, if at all. Slaves in Jesus' day relate to workers today, ones who are working 9-5 jobs.

B. Slaves are to obey their masters, are to do exactly what their masters want them to do. This means you are to obey your employer whether you like the job or not, whether the work is easy or hard, or good or bad. Working at a job is a great place to learn full and complete obedience, to man and to God.

C. You are to obey your employer, even if he isn't a good boss, or is an unbeliever, or is mean, or even if you don't like him or her. 1 Peter 2:18-20

D. God is talking to Christian slaves and workers who are working for their masters.

E. You need to be filled with the Holy Spirit to rightly and fully obey your employer.

F. You are to obey your master according to the flesh. On earth we have earthly masters, knowing that God is our heavenly master, a spiritual master.

G. Christians are to work for Christ, who is our Master, and we are His slaves. Work is not just working for an earthly master for 8-10 hours a day. Your old self was crucified, and you are to be working full time for Christ, whether that's at your 9-5 job or any other time of the week. Luke 17:7-10, Colossians 3:5, Romans 14:7-9

J. Obey your master with fear and trembling. It is a most serious thing to obey your earthly master with fear and respect, for then you are showing fear and respect to your heavenly Master. Remember, God gave you your job. Philippians 2:12, Colossians 3:22

II. WORKING TO PLEASE GOD – Ephesians 6:6

You are not to be a man pleaser. Your main goal is to please God, not your earthly employer. Know that God sees you all the time, and that ultimately, you are working for Christ. Doing your earthly job is a way to carry out God's will and be pleasing to Him.

III. WORKING TO RENDER GOOD WILL – Ephesians 6:7

The work you do is not to be bad, but good, a benefit to people, to society, and to your community. God wants you to have a heart of good will when you work. Ephesians 2:10

IV. RECEIVING HEAVENLY PAY FOR EARTHLY WORK – Ephesians 6:8

When you are working at a job, working for your employer you are, at the same time, working for God. You are getting paid by your employer, and you are getting paid by God, that is, you are being doubly paid. What you receive from God is heavenly pay, pay that is literally out of this world. Colossians 3:22-24

V. THE MASTER IS A WORKER, AND IS TO BE WORKING FOR GOD – Ephesians 6:9

A. Masters need to realize they are serving God, and that they are working for Christ. More than seeing themselves as masters, they need to see that God is their Master.

B. Masters are not to threaten, be mean, or take advantage of their employees. They are not to be partial, and treat one employee different, or better or worse than other employees. They are to be honest, have integrity, and do what is right.

WHATEVER YOU DO, DO YOUR WORK HEARTILY,
AS FOR THE LORD RATHER THAN FOR MEN,
KNOWING THAT FROM THE LORD YOU WILL RECEIVE
THE REWARD OF THE INHERITANCE.
IT IS THE LORD CHRIST WHOM YOU SERVE.
Colossians 3:23-24

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. Do you see yourself as a slave of Jesus Christ? Why or why not?
3. How should being a slave of Jesus Christ affect your work on earth?
4. With respect to working for Christ, how do you feel your own work is going?
5. How do you use your free time? How would you improve your work in your free time?
6. How are you rendering good will by your work, whether it is a job, or otherwise?
7. How does this study affect your thinking with regard to present and past employers?