

Faith @ Work (Part 2)

At Faith we talk about “work” as “the main thing you do each week whether you get paid for it or not.” You might work as a teacher, mechanic, farmer, nurse, soldier, administrator, small business owner, or artist, etc. If you’re a student, your work is your school. Whatever your work is, it matters, AND it matters how you do it. Last week, Steve taught out of 1 Timothy 4:16 and talked about the importance of paying attention to yourself and to your work. This past Sunday, the sermon focused on Col. 3:22-4:1, which gets to the heart of what should be the core motivation in our work.

Opening Question: How would you summarize the main work that you are called to do at this time of your life? And what is the hardest part of the work that you do?

Read Colossians 3:22-4:1

A Note about the context of Colossians 3:22-4:1 from Steve’s sermon: The context of Colossians 3:22-4:1 is very significant and should inform the way we hear Paul’s teaching on work. Paul is addressing “bondservants” (or slaves) and masters who lived in the Roman Empire in the first century. Generally speaking, slavery in the first century wasn’t as oppressive and brutal as slavery was in this country. But it was slavery nonetheless; bondservants were at the mercy of their earthy masters. Paul did not endorse or condone slavery; in another passage Paul urged slaves to secure their freedom when possible (1 Corinthians 7:21). But as long as someone was a bondservant, he urged them to see even their work as an opportunity to serve Christ. [The broader teaching of the New Testament laid the foundation for the abolition of slavery in places like England and the United States many centuries later.]

1. What sticks out to you in this passage?

2. How does Paul instruct bondservants to do their work in verse 22? What attitudes and actions did he encourage?

3. Apply these instructions to your work. What might it mean for you to do these things in your work context?

4. In verse 23, Paul says that bondservants are to do their work, “heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.” What does this mean?

5. What would it look like for you to do your work as an expression of devotion to Jesus (i.e., “as for the Lord”)?

6. Do you ever ask yourself this question, “Is my Lord, Jesus Christ, pleased with the work I’m doing and how I’m doing it?” If so, how does it help? If not, how might it help you?

7. How does what Paul teaches here change the way you should go about your work? Interact with your co-workers? Those in authority over you? Those you have authority over?

8. What is the main takeaway for you from this study? Where do you need to grow and change to more consistently live out this Christ-centered perspective in your work?

Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted this Week

Daily Devotion | Prayer | Repentance | Sacrificial Generosity | Serve the Community | Share Your Story | Worship



Daily Devotion: Return to this passage several times this week and continue to meditate on it.



Prayer: In the mornings, ask God to help you to do your work that day, in a way that pleases Him. In the evenings, invite Jesus to help you review your work that day. Praise Him for those times when you were serving in a way that pleased Him. Confess those times when you didn't.