

■ Colossians 3:22-24 "Working for the Lord"

Key Thought/Action: Work done unto the Lord is Worship

Welcome/Prayer:

Review/Preview:

Intro:

From Our Daily Bread: Several years ago in the South African territory of Kwa-Zulu, the government dug irrigation ditches on both sides of a river. This allowed the rich land to be farmed. The Christian Zulus on one side of the river produced lush crops and prospered. The traditional animist worshipers on the other side continued to live in abject poverty, producing almost nothing on the same kind of soil.

Why? The Christians believed they were responsible before God to work hard and live soberly. Their pagan neighbors, on the other hand, viewed work as the women's responsibility, while the men spent their time drinking and fighting.

The Bible tells us that as God's image-bearers we are to "have dominion over . . . every living thing that moves on the earth" (Gen. 1:28). It urges us to work with our hands so that we can provide for ourselves and others (Eph. 4:28; 1 Th. 4:11). Work, when performed with the right attitude, can be pleasurable and rewarding.

Whatever your job, do it diligently and gratefully. Through it you will find pleasure and experience God's blessing.

Scripture

Colossians 3:22-24 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry 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 human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

- Obey
- Not what's in it for me, personal, temporal gain
 - Marketing advice, people naturally selfish
- Honest, for God,
- With all heart, for God
- Eternal reward
- It is for God
- Work unto Him is worship

- Work is worship when it's ...
 - Obedient
 - Attitude of a good soldier: 2 Timothy 2:3-4 (NIV) 3 Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.
 - Uriah didn't even go in to see his wife
 - honest
 - whole-hearted
 - done for Christ
 - Ephesians 6:7-8 (NIV) 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.



- 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV) 58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
- Psalm 127:1-2 (NIV) 1 Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. ...
- Scan of the Bible
 - Creation
 - Work is good (before sin)
 - Genesis 2:15 (NIV) 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
 - Ten Commandments
 - A positive command to work six days
 - Exodus 20:8-9 (NIV) 8 “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
 - Proverbs & Ecclesiastes
 - Work apart from God can be meaningless
 - Ecclesiastes 2:1-11
 - Steady working brings good results
 - Proverbs 13:11 (NIV) 11 Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow.
 - Negative consequence for laziness
 - Proverbs 18:9 (NIV) 9 One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.
 - Godly work results in generosity
 - Proverbs 21:25-26 (NIV) 25 The craving of a sluggard will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. 26 All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.
 - Jesus
 - Follows the example of His Father
 - John 5:17 (NIV) 17 In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”
 - Glorifies thru obedient work
 - John 17:4 (NIV) 4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.
 - Paul
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV) 31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Example/Personal or Others:

■ (see throughout)

Summary: Challenge/Application:

- *Work done unto the Lord is Worship*

■ Photos of People at work

■ Extra prayer focus on our work setting and co-workers

Closing Song

Benediction: