

## Colossians 3:17, 22-4vs1: Work.

### I. (3:17, 4:22-25) Employees: You serve Christ.

This is another sphere of God's order of authority. Employees have a God-ordained role of obedience and submission to their employers or supervisors. Paul is writing during the age of Christian persecution, one way of suppressing the growth of the church was slavery – approximately six-million all across the Roman Empire.

**1 Peter 2:18** - *Servants, be submissive to your **masters** with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.*

We can work just to please our immediate employer, it's possible to be effective only when the employer is in sight and we can chose to be unreliable.

#### i. Working is service to God.

**Matthew 25:19-27** - *“After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ “His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ “He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ “His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ‘And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ‘So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.*

#### ii. God is working alongside us.

**1 Corinthians 3:9** - *For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.*

iii. God provides for us through work

**2 Thessalonians 3:10-11** - *For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.*

iv. God will reward us for every work.

**1 Corinthians 15:58** - *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding **in** the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is **not in vain in the Lord**.*

*Punctuality, work hard within your description, do more than you are expected, be cooperative, help others to grow, dependable, humility, finish tasks, follow instructions, willingness to learn, be constructive, respectful, thankful, cheerful, courteous...*

## **II. (4:1) Employers: You're also under Christ.**

Employers are responsible for planning, organizing, controlling, supervising and the remuneration of their employees.

*Employers; communicate the job description, offer adequate training, timely and fair wages, safe working conditions, trust, respect, approachable, trustable, appreciative, constructive, supportive, flexible...*

**Exodus 21:2-6** - *"If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. "If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. "If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. "But if the servant plainly says, '**I love my master**, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' "then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.*

**Ephesians 6:9** - *And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.*