



Brown CG Zoom Session

Work Environment Ephesians 6:5-9

May 17, 2020

I. Starter Discussion:

Are there times at work or with any authority situations, where you simply did not care, felt unappreciated and “cheated out of” what you thought you deserved?

Did those situations lead you to have a poor attitude, not want to work hard and lose all hope?

What type of “hope” did you actually feel in those situation? Why did you feel that way? Were these feelings essentially based on your selfish needs, desires or thoughts that the company should run around you and your ideas?

Today we will be studying God’s commands for Christians in the work or other authority situations. We will begin to see how he commands us to have certain attitudes, spirits, work ethic and commitment as if it was all to Him. This is a very challenging message and one of hope for us all.

We should begin to quickly see that this is actually another area of our lives where Christ is trying to liberate us from the bondage of stress, worry and concern. If we would only listen and follow!!

II. Scripture:

Ephesians 6:5-9

5 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. 9 Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

Colossians 3:22-25

²² 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. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

Key Points:

- Reminds us as workers that these earthly masters/company/bosses are temporary
- Ultimately we as God's children belong to Christ, so therefore our efforts, thoughts and work product are unto the Lord
- Our work should be with the same energy, effort and integrity that we would offer to the Lord.
- Work wholeheartedly and not "pretend" to simply gain favor with your bosses. Contrast that poor work behavior to being servants of Christ who do the will of God from their heart by doing good willing service.
- Rendering service with a good will means with a peaceable spirit. When work is done for the Lord as part of obedience to him it takes on a whole new character.
- The question then will not be what social position one held, but whether he was faithful in his task.
- No matter the position, even a slave in the corrupt conditions of the first century could so live as to receive at last from his Master (Christ) the glad words of "Well done, good and faithful servant".
- Workers are on equal footing with their Masters before God

III. Group Discussion Questions:

1. What specific instruction does Paul give to Christian servants in verse 5? Are there any exceptions to this command?
2. What should the Christian servant's attitude be in offering work to their employers (verse 5-7)?
3. Why specifically should a Christian have a "good Spirit" toward work?
4. What promise and assurance does Paul give to the Christian servant? (Ephesians 6:8, Colossians 3:24)
5. Are the Christian instructions different for Masters and Workers?
6. In reading Colossians 3:22-25, what additional information is included in Ephesians that can help us further understand these verses?

IV. Responding in prayer:

- Spend some time in prayer praying for wisdom for our church as our leaders try to discern the best way forward for when and how to begin having on-site services again.
- Spend some time in prayer for our local and state leaders as they try to discern the best way forward for opening up our state again.