

“Working for the Lord, not Man”
(Keeping a ‘Vertical’ Perspective on Work)
Ephesians 6:5-9

INSTRUCTIONS TO BONDSERVANTS. v.5-8

- “Slave” = Gk. δούλος = servant, bondservant
- “Master” = Gk. κύριος = usually translated “Lord” in the NT in ref. to Jesus Christ (as in v.4) or to God.

1. Work as you would for Christ. v.5

- Obey them as you would Christ.
- With ‘fear and trembling’. I.e., reverence and respect; recognizing authority. Ref. 1 Cor 2:3; 2 Cor 7:15
- With sincerity. I.e., upright, straightforward, pure intentions

2. Work fairly and honestly. v.6-7

- Not just when your boss is watching. I.e., working hard when he sees you, but not when he is gone.
- Work from the heart—as a bondservant of Christ. v.6
- As a Christian, in your work serve the Lord—not man. v.7

→ v.5: “as you would Christ” v.6: “as servants of Christ” v.7: “as to the Lord and not to man”

3. Your ‘paycheck’ comes from God. v.8

→ Your earthly boss is not your real boss. The Lord is your boss.

- This gives freedom. I don’t work for “the man”—I work for the Lord. “Vertical Work”
- This gives clarity/wisdom. “Vertical Anchor”
- This gives purpose and lasting value to your work.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ‘MASTERS’ (EMPLOYERS, MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS). v.9

1. Do the same to them. (!)

- Treat your employees with respect, fear, and sincerity of heart.
- Don’t work by way of ‘eye-service, as people pleasers’ but serve under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- Knowing whatever good you do, you will receive back from the Lord.

2. Stop threatening. Lit. ‘Let up on, loosen up, relax’ your threats.

- The best catalyst for industrious, creative, loyal, hard-working employees is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. Remember both you and your servant work for the same Master in heaven.

→ You are not the boss—Jesus is.

PLEASE PRAY for the Lord to lead Covenant Life in ways to serve both the church and the community...

- Reaching children and students
- Developing a playground and family gathering area on the north side of the property
- Investigating/exploring Christian schooling options
- Investigating/exploring starting a Christian counseling center
- ESL classes – English as a Second Language
- Addiction recovery ministry

→ How might the Lord be calling you to serve/support in one or more of these areas?