

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Hark the Herald Angels, Happy Day, Jesus

WELCOME

T.G.I.T. Are you excited about your work?

WORD

COLOSSIANS 3:22–24

²² *Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.* ²³ *Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,* ²⁴ *knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*

We spend majority of our waking hours at work. Sadly, according to statistics, many people do not enjoy their work.

The Bible tells us that work is a blessing not a curse. God Himself is a model of being diligent at work (**John 5:17**). In fact, even before sin entered the world, God had already called man to work in a garden (**Genesis 2:15**). Work is part of God's design for our lives and He made a specific instruction for us to work (**2 Thessalonians 2:10**).

We will never be excited about work if we do not understand the theology of work. Anything we do for the Lord becomes exciting if we are Christ-centered. Being Christ-centered in the workplace entails that we view work as sacred. We have to view it as a calling and as a form of stewardship.

WORK IS SACRED

As Christians, we should not work only when our boss is watching, rather we should work as unto the Lord, not to please men but God. Coming to faith in Christ should not make one lazy, because for His followers, work should be an expression of sacred worship (**Colossians 3:22**).

Some people think that to become first class Christians they have to be missionaries or pastors, because they believe that this allows them to be involved in sacred work. However, when we work to serve the Lord, regardless of our profession, our work becomes sacred and not secular.

Every form of work is an act of worship. Therefore, whenever Christians work, their behavior should be different; Christians are to work better because they work heartily for the Lord (**v.23**).

WORK IS A CALLING

Work is a calling from the Lord. There are no full time or part time workers. Whatever our job may be, we are called full time by God to serve Him.

As we pursue God's calling for us, we should not be choosy. Many times, doing unto the Lord the things that we do not like doing can actually be an opportunity given by God. That is, when we do these things excellently for the Lord, we shall find ourselves growing and being blessed.

Today, the sad truth is, there are employers who do not treat nor pay employees properly. For followers of Jesus, in spite these unjust working conditions, we are still to honor our earthly masters on the job, so as to not put God to shame (**1 Timothy 6:1**).

During the time of the Apostle Paul, slaves had no rights and were not paid. But in his letter to the Colossians, he tells them that they will receive rewards from God for their faithful obedience to work as unto the Lord (**v.24**). Jesus our Lord and Master is our ultimate Boss, and he rewards justly. In His terms and in His time, He shall reward our obedience and our labor. This eternal perspective should transform the way we work.

WORK IS STEWARDSHIP

Work is stewardship of time and other resources entrusted to us. Therefore, we should not steal or pilfer from company resources (**Titus 2:9–10**). By living a Christ-centered life in the workplace, we make the teachings of the Bible more attractive to people because they can see how the Bible is translated in our everyday life through the behavior, attitude and perspective we show in our work.

WORD (cont'd)

When we work unto the Lord, “*pwede na*” is not good enough. We should naturally work with excellence and faithfulness because it makes the difference and it impacts the lives of other people in our workplace.

Those whose bosses are fellow believers are neither entitled to just relax nor take advantage of the time allotted for work to do Bible studies (1 **Timothy 6:2**). On the other hand, superiors who are believers must treat and pay workers fairly (**Colossians 4:1**). One can be firm and nice, but also fair and just. Application of this reminder may include firing workers as necessary for their sake. Not only is it a way for them to learn a lesson, but also because it is a way of considering the welfare of other people and the company as a whole.

Keep in mind that if we are the employer or the boss, we are called to be good stewards of the resources of the company including the people who work for us. We are being blessed by God to be a blessing to others.

No amount of legislation will change the country completely unless Christians will act like Christ. Only when we are transformed and Christ-centered in the workplace can we influence the society to be transformed as well.

Someday we will all give account to our Master in heaven on how we have been stewards of the work He has entrusted to us. Employers and employees alike, we are all to be good and faithful stewards.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Christ-centered Worker.** What are the characteristics of a Christ-centered worker according to **Colossians 3:22**?
2. **Blessed Work.** Why is work a blessing and a privilege? How do you relate this to your own work?
3. **Who's the Boss.** With God as your Master, what kind of boss or employee are you? How will you work differently in view of work as sacred, a calling and a stewardship?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Win people in your workplace to Jesus by allowing them to see in you the qualities of a:

Christ-centered employee:

1. Comes to work on time
2. Files leaves and reports truthfully
3. Does personal things during personal time
4. A team player
5. Does not take someone else's credit
6. Goes the extra mile
7. Does not gripe, complain, backbite, bash, gossip
8. Does not sell stuff at work
9. Minimizes socializing (time in CR, pantry, etc.)
10. Observes proper boundaries

Christ-centered Boss:

1. Respectful
2. Firm
3. Encouraging
4. Caring
5. Good Model
6. Good mentor
7. Assumes responsibility

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends