

4Ws

work
matters

WHO DO YOU REALLY WORK FOR?

APRIL 3, 2022

WORSHIP

Forever, God is Here,
We Praise You, Christ Be
Magnified, Great is Thy
Faithfulness

WELCOME

Describe your idea of a
good boss. If you're a boss,
will your subordinates
describe you as a
"good boss"?

WORD

COLOSSIANS 3:22-25

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. ²⁵ For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

As you and I go about our daily work, let's make it a point to remind or ask ourselves "Who do you really work for?"

There will be days when we get discouraged about our work and there are days when in pride, we forget our need for God. We think that we are all-sufficient based on our experience and past success. Whether pride is welling up in our heart or we feel disillusioned with our work and wonder if we are making a difference, we need to remember the real boss—Jesus!

Our main focus is about Jesus. We want to turn our eyes, heart, soul, and energy to whom we really work for because it is possible that some people do all they do with all their hearts but it's not all for Jesus.

Colossians 3:23 paraphrased to simpler terms is: ALL I DO, ALL MY HEART, ALL FOR JESUS!

ALL I DO

This refers to "whatever you do" in life, even multiple roles. The Bible shows people from different walks of life or socio-economic status who did their work excellently for the Lord:

David was a king who shepherded his people according to the integrity of his heart (character) and guided them with skillful hands (competence) as described in **Psalms 78:72**.

Maybe your job has something to do with manual labor and you think that your work is simple and doesn't really make a difference, or maybe you're being asked to do something that's uncomfortable because it's alien to you. Reflecting on the life of Noah (**Genesis 6:14, 22**), he wasn't a shipbuilder and he certainly did not have the knowledge of building an ark. Despite the alienness of the work and the ridicule of the people around him, he did an excellent job. It pays to do our best for the Lord.

The lady in **Proverbs 31:13-15** is basically a homemaker and she did everything with all of her heart for the Lord.

1 Samuel 17:34-35 describes David as a youth. He was explaining to Saul why he can kill Goliath. He took on a lion and a bear, and when the right time came he took on Goliath. God used David as a king when he has grown up. You'll never know where God will take you someday so live excellently even in your youth.

If you find yourself in your retirement or feeling unproductive and not being able to contribute much in your society or family, remember Joseph when he was in jail (**Genesis 39:22-23**). Even then, God has something for him to do and his work prospered.

In summary, ALL I DO means that in big or small jobs, frontline or background, familiar or unfamiliar, pleasant or unpleasant, exciting or boring, we do it for Jesus!

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WORD

ALL MY HEART

To “do your work heartily” means “with your soul”. There are certain things which we will not find difficult to do with all our heart, that come naturally to us. Imagine eating your favorite food, going on your dream vacation, going on a date with the one you love, or driving your dream car. These are some of the things that we can easily do. However, in reality, doing things with all our hearts means doing things without grumbling or disputing (**Philippians 2:14**) and with a grateful attitude (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**).

ALL FOR JESUS

Consider the characteristics of a great boss: supportive, sincerely cares; knows you and what you need; recognizes effort, contribution; provides feedback; accessible; inspiring, brings out the best in you; and practices discipline, fairness. Jesus is the best boss! He is all these things and countless more. He practices discipline and fairness (**Colossians 3:25**) so we don't mess with Him by doing lousy work.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrews had slaves among them but the rule was that the slave will work for you six years and on the seventh year he is set free. Additionally, the slave had the choice to remain and serve his master for life. A slave can come to the conclusion that he is so much better off working for his master than going out working for himself (**Deuteronomy 15:16-17**). This is basically the same when we choose to be Christ's servants forever.

In **Colossians 3:24**, we see two important words: “reward” and “inheritance”. Reward is recompense for services rendered (e.g. blessing, crowns). Inheritance is a gift of God, a portion or heritage by virtue of birth. Indeed, the Lord is a rewarder. He will bless our obedience and faithfulness. Whatever rewards we collect in this lifetime, we will look at them and say “Lord, it's all about you”. He gave us the ability, time, energy, and opportunity. Ultimately, it's all about Jesus. Inheritance is something we receive because of birth (**1 Peter 1:3-4**). It compels us to have an eternal perspective. The rewards from God on this earth are precious but the most precious reward is purely by grace, something we don't deserve, and that is the inheritance that awaits us in heaven—to be in Jesus' presence forever.

Just who is this Jesus whom we serve? In Him all things hold together (**Colossians 1:16-17**). The Lord holds the universe together and He holds our lives together. Our DNA is the amazing imprint of His love inside us. God created us and made each one of us unique. God has a purpose for us—to live in relationship with Him and give Him glory. One of the most powerful forces in the universe is gravity. It never repels. It will attract everything to its source. The Source of our life and existence is Jesus and what attracts people to Him is His love and compassion.

This amazing God who created everything took the form of a slave and gave us what we needed most—redemption, a release effected by payment of ransom, buying back that which was lost (**Colossians 1:13-14**). And this is Jesus, whom we serve!

DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS

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

1. Self-Check.

What are your top struggles when it comes to your work?

2. Setting It Right.

What difference does it make when you remember it is the Lord Christ you are really working for?

3. Living It Out.

What are the attributes of the Lord Jesus that most inspire and encourage you to do your best for Him?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE
IN ACTION

Pray for people to come to realize and receive the love of the Lord Jesus Christ — our Savior, Redeemer, and Lord. Give your best in whatever you do with a positive attitude, to everyone in your workplace and ultimately, work for the Lord. Encourage or appreciate someone with the work he/she does. Share the good news that Jesus Christ willingly and sacrificially fulfilled His work of saving and redeeming us.

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

- For God's sovereignty to be on display over our upcoming national elections; godly, competent leaders to be voted into government posts at all levels.
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop; peace and order be restored, lives spared. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ; refugees be given safe passage into surrounding nations.

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

MEMORY VERSE

COLOSSIANS 3:24

...knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve..