



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Your Witness @ Work

Date: August 4, 2024

Scripture Text: Colossians 3:22-4:1

Notes:

As with the rest of Colossians 3, the Apostle Paul addresses some practical issues that Christians face and how a disciple of Jesus would respond in those circumstances. In previous passages issues of pursuing heavenly things, not earthly things, is addressed. Also, last week we looked at what a heavenly home should look like. Paul transitions in today's passage to talk about the appropriate behavior of employees and employers. Christians (the word Christian literally means 'little Christ') are to be reflections of Jesus 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Yet there are those who see their commitment to Christ only applies to Sunday mornings while they are at church. Once Monday rolls around, they talk and act just like the others around them. This is the issue for today's sermon.

I. Application for Christian Workers / Students ([Colossians 3:22-25](#))

Paul literally is addressing slaves and their attitude and actions concerning their work for their masters. For us, this equates to how do we, as employees, perceive our station at work. Are we motivated to do a good job, regardless if we like it or not, or do we just do the minimum that needs to be done. This is what Paul is addressing because as Christians, for us to be salt and light in the world, we need the proper attitude while we are working in the world.

➤ What to Do – [Col. 3:22](#)

Paul instructs his readers that they are to obey all things that their boss tells them to do. The only exception is if asked to do something unethical or immoral. Even if we are asked to do something unpleasant, we are instructed to do it wholeheartedly as unto the Lord ([1 Cor. 10:31](#)).

- What are examples of unpleasant things you have/may be asked to do at work.
- What are ways you've gone above and beyond at work?
- How can the way we respond to unpleasant things at work effect our witness?

➤ When to Do – [Col. 22b](#)

We are not only to obey our bosses in all things, but also at all times. None of this 'the cat's away, the mice will play' mentality. God's eyes are always on us. When we are sincerely doing our best all the time, even when our boss isn't around, we are not just doing it for our boss, but also THE Boss, God.



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- How can our attitude affect how good a job we do?
- What could be the impact if we are compliant in responding to what our boss wants, but are cursing him in our heart?
- How can remembering you are working as unto the Lord help our attitude at work, regardless of what we are asked to do?

➤ How to Obey – Col. 3:23

We are to obey wholeheartedly! Many times, we may settle for mediocrity. Too many Christians are accustomed to mediocre living, just getting by with what is required, the bare minimum. We may also feel our way to get the job done is better than our boss' and pursue our way over their way. God's way is always best, and His way is to wholeheartedly do it your boss' way.

- What are examples of elements that make up mediocre living?
- How can we overcome a mediocre mentality?
- How can wholehearted work habits positively effect your boss? Coworkers?

➤ 2 Reasons to Obey – Col. 3:24-25

- Divine Payment – [Col. 3:24](#)

By recognizing it is ultimately Jesus we are obeying as we obey our boss, we are assured we have a reward waiting, if we obey.

- What is “the reward of the inheritance” ([Col. 3:24](#))?
- How can that be a motivator for you to obey your boss?

- Divine Punishment – [Col. 3:25](#)

Even if your boss doesn't know you're 'goofing off', God does. Others do as well. Don't be the reason lost people scoff at God because they see you professing to be a Christian and then not working when you should.

- Have you worked with someone who goofed off at work? How did that make you feel?
- What impression can you're goofing off give people of Jesus?

II. Application for Christian Employers ([Colossians 4:1](#))

Bosses are to respect their employees and treat them respectfully. Their motive should not be the bottom line, but the welfare of those working for them. For they too are under authority – God.

- How are employers and employees accountable to God in their separate capacities?
- What are ways you can better reflect Jesus at work?