

THE ULTIMATE WHY

Living Our Lives
For God's Glory

COLOSSIANS 3:17



THE WHY OF WORK

What we can learn from the 1st Century Bondservant

Colossians 3:22-4:1

A. BONDSERVANTS (22-25)

1. **The Calling (3:22a):** Obey your masters
2. **The Struggle (3:22b):** Call to Integrity
 - a. Don't give eye-service [ophthalmoudoulia]
 - b. Don't be people-pleasers [anthrōpareskoi]
 - c. Be sincere - heart check [haploteti - Eph 6:6a]
 - d. Fear the Lord [phoboumenoi ton Kyriou]
3. **The Expectation (3:23-24):**
 - a. Energy/Perspective (3:23) [Eph. 6:5b]
 - b. Motivation (3:24a): Inheritance [1 Cor. 6:20]
 - c. Focus (3:24b): Glorifying God [6:5c]
4. **The Promise (3:25) : Justice**

B. MASTERS (4:1)

1. **The Expectation (4:1a):**
 - a. Justice [dikaios - righteously]
 - b. Fairness [isotés: equality in treatment]
2. **The Motivation (4:1b):** Glorifying God

Discussion Questions

1. Read Romans 1:1 and 6:6-7. Paul tells us who we are and what we are in these verses - servants of Christ and free from sin! How do these two parts of your identity in Christ affect your daily life?
2. Read Colossians 3:10-11. The lifestyle of a believer is patterned after the attitudes and actions of Christ who is at work within them. Where do you or do you not see these Christ-like patterns in your life?
3. Read Colossians 3:23-24. After reading these verses are there any behaviors, attitudes, or thoughts you need to align with God's call to glorify Him in your work?
4. Pray for God to use you as a reflection of His glory when and where you work and serve.

THEY ULTIMATE WHY?

TAKING A DEEPER LOOK AT WHO WE ARE,
WHAT WE DO, AND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

ROMANS 1:1 Paul, a servant [doulos] of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, . . .

ROMANS 6:6-7 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved [douleuó: to be a slave, to serve] to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. [TRUE FREEDOM]

COLOSSIANS 3:10-11: . . . having put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

COLOSSIANS 3:22-25: Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

COLOSSIANS 4:1: Masters, treat your Bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

1 CORINTHIANS 7:21-24: Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) ²² For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. ²³ You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. ²⁴ So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

PHILEMON 8-16 Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you— I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. ¹⁵ For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.