

## PLEASING GOD AT WORK

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### Text: Colossians 3:22-4:1 AMP

<sup>22</sup>*Servants, in everything obey those who are your masters on earth, not only with external service, as those who merely please people, but with sincerity of heart because of your fear of the Lord.*

<sup>23</sup>*Whatever you do [whatever your task may be], work from the soul [that is, put in your very best effort], as [something done] for the Lord and not for men,*

<sup>24</sup>*knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [greatest] reward. It is the Lord Christ whom you [actually] serve.*

<sup>25</sup>*For he who does wrong will be punished for his wrongdoing, and [with God] there is no partiality [no special treatment based on a person's position in life].*

<sup>1</sup>*Masters, [on your part] deal with your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.*

### Introduction

While I'm trying to please God at work, **God is at work in me.**

Testimony: Job offer, court case, God's intervention.

God loves us, more than we understand our think. He's always knocking on the door of our hearts. He's after our heart the whole time!

The practicality of implementing Christ can be a challenge. It sounds so easy, but in the bustle of work is difficult.

### Recap

Some relevant highlights from the series on Colossians so far:

- The gospel is transformational. It is a gospel of engagement with our world and culture, not withdrawal.
- Onesimus wronged Philemon. He had to go back and make right. It was a difficult thing to do. In our workplaces God uses us to touch those around us. (What does it mean to call Jesus Lord?)
- Even when Paul was in prison, he didn't change the gospel. He stayed true to the message. We can get tempted to compromise in the workplace. All creation is groaning waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. We need to step out, go in faith, share the gospel, tell your testimony.
- Follow Jesus closely as His disciple. Be with Jesus, become like Jesus and do what He did. Abide in Him. Sit at the feet of Jesus, like Mary. "Find the love of Jesus and love Him back" – Michael Koulianos. Be hungry and thirsty for God.
- The all-sufficient Christ. If God is God, follow Him.

- Putting on Christ & putting off old man
- The Christian family is one of the most powerful witnesses of the gospel on earth. It becomes a clear display of an allegiance to the one true God.

## **Biblical worldview vs secular worldview**

### **What is a world view?**

- It's how you view the world. (Lens) Can be a help or hindrance.
- World view includes a fundamental orientation of the heart.
- It includes our assumption about the basic constitution of reality on which we live, we move & we have our being

There are 3 kinds/categories of major beliefs

- i) Believe in one God, (Theistic)
- ii) Believe there is no God, (Atheism)
- iii) Believe all things are gods. (Pantheism)

### **Why is understanding worldview important?**

- Helps us understand ourselves, self-awareness, aware of our own assumptions, values & beliefs.
- Helps us understand that reading the Bible is a cross-cultural interaction. (Bible was written from a Hebrew, Jewish & Aramaic background)
- Helps us be better representatives of King Jesus. (Grow in our compassion & empathy to people who are not like us)
- Helps us communicate the Gospel/ good news in a way that resonates with other cultures, effectively.
- Helps us understand what worldview does or how it impacts others. Its answers life's most important question. Questions like; Who are we? What is real? What is truth? etc

### **Scriptures:**

#### **Colossians 3:22-25 AMP**

<sup>22</sup>*Servants, in everything obey those who are your masters on earth, not only with external service, as those who merely please people, but with sincerity of heart because of your fear of the Lord.*

<sup>23</sup>*Whatever you do [whatever your task may be], work from the soul [that is, put in your very best effort], as [something done] for the Lord and not for men,*

<sup>24</sup>*knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [greatest] reward. It is the Lord Christ whom you [actually] serve.*

<sup>25</sup>*For he who does wrong will be punished for his wrongdoing, and [with God] there is no partiality [no special treatment based on a person's position in life].*

#### **Colossians 4:1 NLT Masters (Employers/owners/managers)**

*Masters, be just and fair to your slaves. Remember that you also have a Master—in heaven.*

## **Ephesians 6:5-8 NLT Slaves (Employees)**

<sup>5</sup>*Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ.*

<sup>6</sup>*Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart.*

<sup>7</sup>*Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.*

<sup>8</sup>*Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free.*

## **Ephesians 6:9 NLT Masters**

<sup>9</sup>*Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Don't threaten them; remember, you both have the same Master in heaven, and he has no favorites.*

**Colossians 3:23** *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men*

**Proverbs 14:23** *In all toil there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty*

**Ephesians 4:28** *Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.*

**John 6:27** *Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.*

**Psalms 90:17** *May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.*

**Proverbs 12:11** *Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense.*

**Proverbs 13:4** *A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.*

**Philippians 4:13** *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

**Proverbs 12:24** *Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor.*

**Proverbs 14:23** *All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.*

**Proverbs 22:29** *Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men. 29 Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.*

**1 Timothy 2:1-4** *Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so **that we can live peaceful and quiet lives** marked by godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth*

### Testimony:

- New job. Rejected every day. Manager didn't want him. God was teaching him Scriptures, e.g. "A soft answer turns away wrath." We walk by faith and are led by Him.
- They were under pressure. Prayed for managers and the organisation. We must be the light and the salt.

- Started prayers, others were added. Challenges, but cloud lifted. Prayed at lunchtime. People were slain in the Spirit at work. Investments in millions came to the organisation.
- God began to heal past hurts. Because they were willing to stand in the gap and pray.

### Encouragement:

Many have pulled back the shoulder from the Plow for various reasons.

You don't have to be afraid of witchcraft, Christ has pre-eminence.

Types of Masters in the Bible (bad ones):

- Pharoah, enslaved Gods people & didn't want to let them go, (Ex7). Even though Pharoah increases work, God will say "let me people go"
- Laban, cheated Jacob, (Gen30:40). God will give you wisdom.
- Nabal, harsh & evil, (1Sam25:4)
- The evil servant who owed the master & was forgiven but could not forgive, (Mat18:23)

### **Forgiveness**

#### Matthew 18:21-35

You may need to forgive a few people who have done you wrong and done you in, including Managers, subordinates, clients and business partners.