



2 March 2025

# SUBMISSION in the WORKPLACE

1 Peter 2:18-21

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; Colossians 3:22-25

## The Times We Live In

- These are DANGEROUS times. False doctrines fill church, book, and the internet.
- Warnings of deception from Christ, Paul, Peter, and John.
  - Christ: Matthew 24:4-5, 11; 7:15-16
  - Paul: Colossians 2:4, 8; 2 Corinthians 11:13-16; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Tim 3:1-5; 13; 4:1-4
  - John: 1 John 4:1
  - Peter: 2 Peter 2:1-3
- Description of someone who is being deceived.
- The test that shows whether I have been deceived?
- ONLY THE TRUTH SET YOU FREE! (John 8:31-32)

## A Quick Review

- Author and his audience
- God' GREAT SALVATION
- God's GREAT PRICE
- Chosen, Holy Nation, Royal Priests, God's Special People
- Once not a people NOW the people of God
- Once without any mercy, NOW having obtained mercy.
- Sojourners and pilgrims
- At war with the lusts of the flesh - the fight of faith
- Submissions to all human institution

## Today's Culture & Work

- We live in an EVIL world under the influence of Satan. (1 John 5:19)
- We are currently under the judgment of God. (Romans 1:18-32)
- We live in a culture that is obsessed with comfort, pleasure and themselves. (2 Timothy 3:1-5) We murmur and complain when things do not go our way or the way that we think things should go.
- We use inconvenience, busyness and tiredness as excuses to ignore God's

commands.

- When it comes to work, secular or spiritual, we give the same excuses.
- In the middle of last century one *secular* author wrote, "work has increasingly come to be regarded as a distasteful means to the achievement of leisure, instead of leisure as a recuperative measure to refit us for work."

## God and Work

- From the beginning of time God expected men to work. One wonders what this secular writer would say today as we have witness a drastic decline in the western work ethic.
  - (Genesis 2:15) God put the first man, Adam, in His Garden "to tend and keep it."
  - (Exodus 20:9-10) God's fourth command commands us "Six days you shall labor and do all your work."
  - (2 Thessalonians 3:10) "If anyone does not work, neither shall he eat."
- God has always rebuked idleness and laziness:
  - (Proverbs 13:4) "The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich."
  - (Proverbs 14:23) "In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty."
  - (Proverbs 6:6-11) God tells the lazy person to consider the ant.
  - (Proverbs 19:15) "Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger."
  - (Proverbs 20:4) "The lazy man will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing."
  - (Proverbs 21:25) "The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor."
  - (Proverbs 24:30-32) "I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down. When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction."
  - (Matthew 25:14-30) Christ calls the lazy man "wicked and lazy" and unprofitable. That lazy servant was to be cast out into outer darkness.
  - (2 Thess 3:10-15) The Church is not to keep company with lazy people!
  - (Ezekiel 16:49) The sin of the northern kingdom of Israel: pride, fullness of food, abundance of idleness, not caring for the poor.



## Submission in the Workplace (1 Peter 2:18-21)

- (v. 18) "Servants" is *oike,t,hj oiketes* and NOT *doul oj doulous*.

- Peter uses the word "servant" here to "one who comes under the authority of another" – normally living in the same house.
- In Rome, during the first century, an oikethj (servant) was farmers, doctors, lawyers, to household helpers.
- Here God commands us as those under the employment of others:
  - ☆ BE SUBMISSIVE. This is the same term he used in verses 13-17.
    - "to submit to one's control"; "to obey"; "to be subject".
    - "with all fear" – this is the "fear of the Lord" – see v. 13 and 1:17.
      - ★ "fear of the LORD" is taking God seriously at His Word.
      - ★ Some translations: "with all reverence" or "with all respect".
    - Just as government is a human institution established by God, so too, is the servant-master relationship – employee-employer relationship.
      - ★ God expects men to work and therefore has established the proper environment in which that work is to be done.
    - (v. 18) NOT ONLY to the "good and gentle" or "reasonable, kind, upright, beneficial", but ALSO to the "harsh" or "unreasonable" (crooked; perverse; dishonest)!!!!
  - ☆ READ Ephesians 6:5-9 – we work (serve) "in sincerity of heart, as to Christ, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bond servants ( doul oj ) of Christ." READ Colossians 3:22-24.
    - In our workplace, university, or home we are to do all unto the LORD!
  - ★ This kind of submission precludes rebellion, strikes, job slow downs, protests, etc.!!!! MEDITATE ON THIS!
- (1 Timothy 6:1-2) Paul, being moved by the Holy Spirit, calls for servants to give "all honor" to their masters, so that "the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed."
- MEDITATE ON 1 Timothy 6:3-4!!!
- (Titus 2:9-10) Servants are to be obedient, well-pleasing in all things, not answering back, not pilfering (embezzling; stealing), showing truthfulness and faithfulness – that they may "adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things."

## God's Work Ethic

- God has ordained that all men work. Welfare is for those who cannot work.
- Taking welfare when you can work is using money that is not yours.
- Reasons for work:
  - ① To tithe and give offerings to support the work of the Lord. (Matthew 23:23; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 2 Corinthians 9:6; Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:6-10)
  - ② Provide for yourself and not be a burden on others. (1 Thess 2:9; 2 Thess 3:8)
  - ③ Provide for family - even the extended family. (1 Tim 5:4, 16)

- ④ Provide for the needs of others. (Ephesians 4:28)
- God demands that men work honestly and hard. ALL work (“legal”) is to be done unto the LORD. (Colossians 3:23) Employees (students) are to work with all their hearts serving the Lord in their work.
- God commands masters (employers) to treat employees fairly knowing that they have a Master they will have to answer. (Ephesians 6:9)

### An Example: Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

- (Genesis 37) Joseph was trusted by his father to go and check on his brothers.
- (Genesis 39) Joseph found favor in the house of Potiphar and was made overseer of Potiphar’s whole house.
- (Genesis 39) Joseph found favor in the sight of the prison keeper and the prison keeper gave Joseph charge over all the prison.
- (Genesis 41) Pharaoh made Joseph prime minister of all of Egypt.

### WHY? (1 Peter 2:19-21a)

- “this is commendable” – God is pleased when Christians present a good testimony in the world, whether in the workplace, classroom, home, etc.
- God calls His people to “endure grief (physical and/or mentally), suffering wrongly”. They must remember that God is sovereign in every situation. Consider Matthew 5:10; 2 Thess 1:4-6; James 1:12; 5:11)
- Those who suffer when they sin deserve to be disciplined! (Psalm 66:18; Jeremiah 5:25; Daniel 9:8; Hebrews 12:5-11)
- BUT if one suffers for doing good, then God’s people are to called upon to “take it patiently” – and Peter repeat, “this is commendable before God.”
- (v. 21a) BECAUSE “FOR THIS YOU WERE CALLED!”
  - Friendship with the world is enmity toward God. (James 4:4)
  - In being a child of God you become an enemy of the world! (John 15:18-20; John 7:7; 16:33; Matthew 10:22; 1 John 3:13; 2 Timothy 3:12)

### Running to Win

- ① First and foremost, we must remember that we are servants of Christ and each other. We ought to apply these verses to our servant relationship with Christ, our Master. Christ is our OWNER, RULER, and MASTER - He is LORD and we are His servants. (Philippians 2:-58; Matthew 20:26-28; Colossians 3:22-24; John 12:26; 1 Corinthians 7:22; Galatians 1:10; Ephesians 6:6)
- ② Christians ought (have an obligation) to be the very best workers, employees, and students in the world. Christians do what they do, whatever they do, with all their hearts unto the Lord! (Colossians 3:23)
- ③ Test yourself to see if you have been deceived. (Matthew 24:4-5; Colossians 2:4, 8; Acts 20:30)