

February 8, 2017
“Relationship Building with Co-workers”
Colossians 3:22-4:1

David Self

I. Employees “as to the Lord and not to men”

A. Endurance “Slaves, obey your human masters in everything. Don’t work only while being watched, in order to please men, but work wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord.” (22). Paul’s instructions to slaves provide sound advice to workers today: (Eph. 6:5-6)

- 1) Work hard, not just when the boss is watching (Heb. 6:10)
- 2) Be sincere, not cynical; have a positive attitude about your work.
- 3) Fear God, who always watches and judges our heart. (I Cor. 10:31)

B. Enthusiasm “Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men” (23) **Believer’s Study Bible**, p. 1700: **3:23** ‘Heartily’ *ek psuches* (Gk., ‘out of the soul’). All Christians endeavor ought to be characterized by an enthusiasm, confidence, and diligence not found in the attitude of others.”

C. Expectancy

- 1) **Reward “knowing that you will receive the reward of the inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ”** (24) For the Christian, retirement benefits are “out of this world.” If we work **for the Lord**, then our paycheck only reflects partially the reward we can expect from God. (Rom. 8:16-17; I Cor. 15:58; Rev. 22:3; I Pet. 1:3-5)
- 2) **Recompense “For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong he has done, and there is no favoritism.”** (25)

II. Supervisors “Masters, supply your slaves with what is right and fair, since you know that you too have a Master in heaven” (4:1) Just as a slave works “**for the Lord**,” so a master must understand that he ultimately reports to God as well.

Our Heavenly Father doesn't look at us as slave or free, employer or employee, or male or female; He judges with complete impartiality on the basis of His will for our lives. Therefore, employers should feel accountability, knowing that God is watching. He desires that supervisors give their workers "***what is right and fair.***"

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