

Work in Progress Series
Week 2 outline
9/17/23
Col 3:23-24

A New Way To Work

Col 3:23-24

23 *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, **24** since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

I. What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?

When Who We Are is Defined by What We Do...

1. Our work will become our main source for VALIDATION
2. Our performance will derive from a place of OBLIGATION
3. Our sense of worth will be dominated by other people's PERCEPTION

II. A New Way

A. Hidden in Christ (Col 3:1-4)

- what a beautiful way of proclaiming where our identity lies.
- we are new creations, the old is gone and the new is here. And with that means a whole new way of living

B. As His People (Col 3:12-17)

1. As a Chosen People (vs 12)
 - Holy (set apart)
 - Dearly Loved (before you loved him, he loved you)
2. As Members of One Body (vs 15)
 - the body of Christ called the Church
 - where each part has value, purpose, and belonging

III. So How Now Shall We Work... (Col 3: 23-24)

A. With an Inheritance From The Lord (vs 24)

- Gal 3:10-18
- the promise of our inheritance as sons and daughters is received by grace through faith
- Literally worded: straight out of the original text it reads this way:
 1. "Knowing that"
 2. "From the Lord you will receive"
 3. "The reward of your inheritance"

IT ISN'T OUR WORK ON THIS EARTH THAT RECTIFIES US WITH GOD
IT'S JESUS' WORK ON THE CROSS THAT RECONCILES US TO GOD

B. "Since Knowing that"

-*"Because now you know"*

-means: remembering; having grasped the spiritual truth of this...

C. With all our Hearts (Vs 23)

1. *"Whatever you do"*

-because the Gospel brings dignity to all work, even tedious or seemingly mundane work

2. *"Work at it will all your heart"*

-because excellence, not perfection, honors God and inspires others
-with all your heart, we get to... not we have to

3. *"As working for the Lord, not human masters"*

-because there is such freedom there

IV. So How do We Participate In this New Identity from Jesus? (Col 3:12-17)

4 P's that will help us remember where our identity rests:

1. Put on Love (vs 12-14)

-it's the stitching that holds all your clothes together

2. Practice Gratitude (vs 15)

-being thankful is a choice not a feeling

3. Preach the Gospel (vs 16a)

-may the message of Jesus Abide among us richly
-teach, admonish with wisdom

4. Praise God (vs 16b)

-sing psalms, hymns, songs from the Spirit
-with gratitude in your hearts

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

-Colossians 3:17