Christians in the Workplace
Christians in the Workplace

*Pre-class Thought Questions*

1. Think of the workplace where it was the easiest for you to live and practice what the Bible teaches. Think of the one where it was the hardest.

2. As you reflect on those jobs, what were the key differences in the two circumstances?
   a. In regard to the work environment (co-workers, bosses, nature of the work, etc.)
   b. In regard to you (age, spiritual maturity, etc.)
Christians in the Workplace

**Goals of Our Study (that we will . . .)**

1. Work for God’s glory rather than our own
2. Identify and endeavor to overcome the spiritual challenges of our main vocation
3. Be a more Christ-like example to our co-workers
4. Make more godly decisions while in the workplace
A False Picture of a Person’s Life
1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.  

2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.  

3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. 1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.
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Categories of Jobs

- Blue collar or white collar
- Indoor or outdoor
- Independent or team oriented
- Emphasis on physical labor or intellectual labor
- Retail or Manufacturing or Service or Medical
- Supervisor or supervised
- Dealing with the public or “back of the house”

Temptations will vary, but will exist in every category of work
Christians in the Workplace

Factors that affect the challenge of our workplace

- Our level of spiritual maturity
- The nature of the work
- Spiritual character of management/owners
- Spiritual character of co-workers
- Stability of the job

Over which ones do we have a degree of control?
Christians in the Workplace
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Two Questions to be Answered During the Class

1. What are the goals God has for us in our jobs (i.e. what does He want us to accomplish)?
2. What is to be our spirit or attitude in regard to our work?

Please take notes during class. We will review at the end of class.
Christians in the Workplace
A False Picture of a Person’s Life

- Church
- Work
- Family
- Recreation
- Sleep
A Truer Picture of a Person’s Life

- Church
- Work
- Family
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Christ
If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

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**Issues with the Pursuit and Achievement of Success**

**Issues with Workplace Adversity and Failure**

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**Biblical Foundation**
Christians in the Workplace

Work in the Old Testament

- Abraham and Lot
- Joseph
- Moses
- David
- Daniel
- Craftsmen (Exodus 31:1-10, 35:10, 35:30 - 36:2)

10 *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might* . . .
*Eccl. 9:10*

2 *You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.*  
*Ps. 128:2*
Christians in the Workplace

Work in the New Testament

- Lydia (Acts 16:4)
- Erastus (Romans 16:23)
- Luke (Colossians 4:14)
- Manaen (Acts 13:1)
- Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2-3)
- Paul
I Thessalonians 2:9

9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

II Thessalonians 3:8

8 nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.
Acts 20:33-35

33 I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. 34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. 35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
II Thessalonians 3:6-12

6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.
28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
Christians in the Workplace

God’s goals

• That we would burden no one
• That we would provide for our family
• That we could share with others
• That we would not be idle

Proper Spirit and Attitude

• Sacrificial spirit
• Full effort
• Quiteness
• Concern for others
17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. 1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.
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Over which ones do we have a degree of control?
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Christians in the Workplace

Two Questions from the Previous Class

1. What are the goals God has for us in our jobs (i.e. what does He want us to accomplish)?

2. What is to be our spirit or attitude in regard to our work?

Be ready to answer at the beginning of class. Feel free to look at the previous lesson.
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God’s goals

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• That we could share with others
• That we would not be idle

Proper Spirit and Attitude

• Sacrificial spirit
• Full effort
• Quietness
• Concern for others
• Honesty
5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.
Colossians 3:22-25

22 Slaves, 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, 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.
Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-25
Nature of Our Work

- Obey with fear and trembling (Ephesians)
- Obey in everything (Colossians)
- With a sincere heart (Eph, Col)
- Not by way of eye-service (Eph, Col)
- Not as people-pleasers (Eph, Col)
- Service with a good will (Ephesians)
- Work heartily (Colossians)

Why is this so hard in many jobs?
For whom are we working?

- Obey . . . as you would Christ (Eph 6:5)
- As servants of Christ (Eph 6:6)
- Obey . . . fearing the Lord (Col 3:22)
- Doing the will of God (Eph 6:6)
- As to (for) the Lord and not to (for) men (Eph, Col)
- You are serving the Lord Christ (Col 3:24)

Reward? Ephesians 6:8, Colossians 3:24
Ephesians 6:9

9Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.
Ephesians 6:5-8

5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.
Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.
Christians in the Workplace
A False Picture of a Person’s Life
A Truer Picture of a Person’s Life

- Church
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Colossians 3:1-3, 17

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 

2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 

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Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
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Christians in the Workplace

**Class Goals:**

- Work for God’s glory rather than our own
- Identify and endeavor to overcome the spiritual challenges of our main vocation
- Be a more Christ-like example to our co-workers
- Make more godly decisions while in the workplace
13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.
A False Picture of a Person’s Life
Christ
Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
How do we know we need a plan for the time we are here?

- Commanded to work (II Thessalonians 3:6-12)
- Example give of how to work (I Thessalonians 2:9)
- Responsibilities Dependant on work (I Timothy 5:8)
- Instructed how to live among the unbelievers of this world

1 Corinthians 5:9 I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. 10 Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.
How do we know we need a plan for the time we are here?

- Commanded to work (II Thessalonians 3:6-12)
- Example give of how to work (I Thessalonians 2:9)
- Responsibilities Dependant on work (I Timothy 5:8)
- Instructed how to live among the unbelievers of this world (I Corinthians 5:9-10)

- Christ example (Mark 6:2-3)
- Christ teachings and parables
Christians in the Workplace

How bad is the world?

Philippians 2:14-15

14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

I Peter 2:11-12

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.
Christians in the Workplace

How do we work?

Philippians 2:14-15

• 14 *Do all things without grumbling or questioning*, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

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Why do we work this way?

Philippians 2:14-15

• 14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

John 9:4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”
Christians in the Workplace

Why do we work this way?

Philippians 2:14-15

- 14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

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Christians in the Workplace

Proper Spirit and Attitude

• Sacrificial spirit
• Full effort
• Quietness
• Concern for others
• Honesty
• Without grumbling or questioning
• With Honorable conduct
How powerful is our example?

1 Peter 3

1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.
Christians in the Workplace

People Influenced in their work:

• Philippian Jailer

Act 16: 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. 28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.” 29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
People Influenced by the work of others:

- **Paul**

1 Corinthians 4:10 We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! 11 To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. 12 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; 13 being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. 14 I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. 15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me.
Christians in the Workplace

How powerful is our example?

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.
Leveraging your example:

- Positional Power / Authority
- Social / Personal
- Competency

1 Corinthians 9: 22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 23 Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

32 Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.
Christians in the Workplace

The Beatitudes:

- Blessed are the poor in spirit,
- Blessed are those who mourn,
- Blessed are the meek,
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
- Blessed are the merciful,
- Blessed are the pure in heart,
- Blessed are the peacemakers,
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
- Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

- 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
Christians in the Workplace

Pride and Competition

Lesson 5
Christians in the Workplace

Class Goals:

• Work for God’s glory rather than our own
• Identify and endeavor to overcome the spiritual challenges of our main vocation
• Be a more Christ-like example to our co-workers
• Make more godly decisions while in the workplace
Christians in the Workplace

Proper Spirit and Attitude

• Sacrificial spirit
• Full effort
• Quietness
• Concern for others
• Honesty
• Without grumbling or questioning
• With Honorable conduct

Success
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Your own eyes

What you hear

Superiority Perception

Money

Certifications

Awards

Publications

Titles
1. *a high or inordinate opinion of one's own dignity, importance, merit, or superiority, whether as cherished in the mind or as displayed in bearing, conduct, etc.*

2. *the state or feeling of being proud.*

3. *a becoming or dignified sense of what is due to oneself or one's position or character*
Proverbs 1:2 When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.

Proverbs 29:23 A man’s pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.

James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” (Proverbs 3:34)

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”
Proverbs 6: 16 These six things the LORD hates,  
Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:  
17 A proud look,  A lying tongue,  
Hands that shed innocent blood,  
18 A heart that devises wicked plans,  
Feet that are swift in running to evil,  
19 A false witness who speaks lies,  
And one who sows discord among brethren.
Glorify God

Your own eyes

What you hear

Superiority Perception

Money

Awards

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Publications

Titles

• Work for God’s glory rather than our own
7 And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down to eat’? 8 But will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink’? 9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. 10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’”
Just do it

- Do it... because you are suppose to - Luke 17:10
- Do it... for God’s glory - I Cor 10:31

31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
Just do it

- Do it... because you are suppose to -Luke 17:10
- Do it...for God’s glory -I Cor 10:31
- Do it...because God gave you the gift I Cor 4:7

7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?
II Timothy 3: 1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!
Remedies for Pride:

Matthew 5:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.
5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.
8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.
9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.
Ultimate remedy for Pride:

Christ’ example:

John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.
Proper Spirit and Attitude

- Sacrificial spirit
- Full effort
- Quietness
- Concern for others
- Honesty
- Without grumbling or questioning
- With Honorable conduct

Matt 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
James 3: 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.
Problems of Sinful Ambition:

- Perceived as having worldly goals as primary focus
- Viewed as not caring about others
- Viewed as a lover of self
- Motives in everything may be questioned
- Integrity may be questioned
Positive Ambition:

Colossians 3:

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And **whatever you do, do it heartily**, as to the Lord and not to men,
Positive Ambition:

Matthew 25:

24 “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’

26 “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

29 ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’
Benefits of Godly Ambition:

- Service to God / Glory to God
- May lead some to Christ
- Might help meet your responsibilities
- Might help you help others
- May increase your influence in the Business
- May free up time for more service to God / others
- Can remove idle time that will lead to sin
- Returns to our ‘Masters’ their due
Christians in the Workplace

Materialism-Lesson 6

- Work for God’s glory rather than our own
- Identify and endeavor to overcome the spiritual challenges of our main vocation
- Be a more Christ-like example to our co-workers
- Make more godly decisions while in the workplace
Proper Spirit and Attitude

- Sacrificial spirit
- Full effort
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Ambition  Success
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Christians in the Workplace

Materialism:
-preoccupation with or emphasis on material objects, comforts, and considerations, with a disinterest in or rejection of spiritual, intellectual, or cultural values.

Who does this temptation of Materialism apply to?
- Those who have a lot
- Those who have enough
- Those who have a little
- Those who have nothing

I Tim 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.
Bible’s view of Materialism:

1 John 2: 15 *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.
Usefulness of Money / Material things:

Time

Birth- Adult- Maturity- Death-

$$$
Usefulness of Money / Material things:

Birth - Adult - Maturity - Death

$\infty$

Time

$\infty$
Bible’s view of Materialism:

1 John 2: 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world— the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
Bible’s view of Materialism:

2 Peter 3: 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
**Bible’s view of Materialistic People:**

Philippians 3: 17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

Where our focus should be:

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.
Where our focus should be:

1 John 3: 1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Matthew 6: 19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
Who does this temptation of Materialism apply to?

- Those who have a lot
- Those who have enough
- Those who have a little
- Those who have nothing

Matthew 6: 25“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?
Who does this temptation of Materialism apply to?

- Those who have a lot
- Those who have enough
- Those who have a little
- Those who have nothing

I Tim 6: 6 *Now godliness with contentment is great gain.* 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.
Who does this temptation of Materialism apply to?

- Those who have a lot
- Those who have enough
- Those who have a little
- Those who have nothing

I Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
Common Temptations when focused solely on Money:

- Only do the things tied directly to compensation
- Help only yourself
- Hold back others around you
- Cut corners
- Cheat / Falsify Information
- Personal Moral Compromises
- Engage in illegal activities
  - Regulatory Requirements
  - Tax Laws
  - Environmental Laws
  - Patent Infringement
  - Permitting
  - Bribery
  - Labor Laws
  - Espionage
- Work to the detriment of your Business
- Work to the detriment of your Family
- Work to the detriment of your Health
- Work to the detriment of your Soul
Benefits of the proper focus:

- Service to God / Glory to God
- May lead some to Christ
- Might be able to help others
- Might lead to more success and effectiveness
- Can prepare us for Lean Times
- Bring peace to our lives

Matthew 5:

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

For they shall be filled.

1 John 3

17 But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

1 Tim 6: 18-19

“18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”
Christians in the Workplace
Goals of Our Study (that we will . . .)

1. Work for God’s glory rather than our own
2. Identify and endeavor to overcome the spiritual challenges of our main vocation
3. Be a more Christ-like example to our co-workers
4. Make more godly decisions while in the workplace
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Christians in the Workplace

Christ – Our First Priority

- **Colossians 3:3** ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- **Colossians 3:17** ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus
- **Galatians 2:20** It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.
Matthew 10:37-39

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."
Christians in the Workplace
Self-examination – where do we stand?

- God’s View of Work
- Our Viewpoint – Work unto the Lord
- Viewpoint of Others
Case Study

John Goodman is 32, married with two children ages 4 and 6. John has been a Christian since he was 14, and he and his wife and children are members of the Fifth Street Church of Christ. John is an attorney in the corporate division of a law firm. John has had a successful career by any measure: excellent performance reviews, regular raises, and a number of clients who have asked specifically for John to be assigned to their account. John has enjoyed his position. The work has been interesting, the partners of the firm are morally minded, and he has never been asked by a client to do something that would violate his conscience.
Nevertheless, John has an uneasy feeling about the effect of his job on his family and he is beginning to worry if it is affecting his relationship with Christ. Two years ago, a favorite client went through a series of business transactions that required John to work 65 to 75 hours a week for a number of months. He remembered going days in a row without any meaningful interaction with his children. He missed the Wednesday services on a regular basis, and during the Fall gospel meeting, he was only able to attend the Sunday morning service. Yesterday, he heard that this client was preparing to go through an even more intense period of transactions. One of the partners has come to John with “good news”. This client has stated John’s work will be a critical factor in their success and a primary reason why they have continued to use John’s firm. The partner points out if all goes well, this opportunity will almost certainly assure John’s chance of making partner at the firm.
Instead of being excited, John is worried about his soul. He also worries that another period of intense work will reduce the spiritual influence he feels he should have in the lives of his wife and children. John has calculated that if he were unemployed he has savings sufficient for six months. The job market for corporate attorneys is really not good at the moment, and he wonders how he would ever explain his decision to leave. He can’t imagine getting a recommendation from anyone at his firm if he left at such a critical moment. He has come to you for advice.
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Christians in the Workplace

God’s goals

- That we would burden no one
- That we would provide for our family
- That we could share with others
- That we would not be idle

Proper Spirit and Attitude

- Sacrificial spirit
- Full effort
- Quietness
- Concern for others
- Honesty
22 Slaves, 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, 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.
Christians in the Workplace

Two Questions from the Previous Class

1. What are the goals God has for us in our jobs (i.e. what does He want us to accomplish)?
2. What is to be our spirit or attitude in regard to our work?

Be ready to answer at the beginning of class. Feel free to look at the previous lesson.
Nature of Our Work

- Obey with fear and trembling (Ephesians)
- Obey in everything (Colossians)
- With a sincere heart (Eph, Col)
- Not by way of eye-service (Eph, Col)
- Not as people-pleasers (Eph, Col)
- Service with a good will (Ephesians)
- Work heartily (Colossians)

Why is this so hard in many jobs?
Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-25

For whom are we working?

- Obey . . . as you would Christ (Eph 6:5)
- As servants of Christ (Eph 6:6)
- Obey . . . fearing the Lord (Col 3:22)
- Doing the will of God (Eph 6:6)
- As to (for) the Lord and not to (for) men (Eph, Col)
- You are serving the Lord Christ (Col 3:24)

Reward? Ephesians 6:8, Colossians 3:24
9Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.
5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.
Colossians 4:1

\[1\text{Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.}\]
Christians in the Workplace
A False Picture of a Person’s Life
A Truer Picture of a Person’s Life
Colossians 3:1-3, 17

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
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Christians in the Workplace

Work in the Old Testament

- Abraham and Lot
- Joseph
- Moses
- David
- Daniel
- Craftsmen (Exodus 31:1-10, 35:10, 35:30 - 36:2)

10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might . . .
Eccl. 9:10

2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Ps. 128:2
Christians in the Workplace

Work in the New Testament

- Lydia (Acts 16:4)
- Erastus (Romans 16:23)
- Luke (Colossians 4:14)
- Manaen (Acts 13:1)
- Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2-3)
- Paul
I Thessalonians 2:9

9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

II Thessalonians 3:8

8 nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.
Acts 20:33-35

33 I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. 34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. 35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
II Thessalonians 3:6-12

6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.
Ephesians 4:28

28Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
Philippians 3:17-4:1

17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.  
18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.  
20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.  
1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.
Christians in the Workplace

Categories of Jobs

- Blue collar or white collar
- Indoor or outdoor
- Independent or team oriented
- Emphasis on physical labor or intellectual labor
- Retail or Manufacturing or Service or Medical
- Supervisor or supervised
- Dealing with the public or “back of the house”

Temptations will vary, but will exist in every category of work
Christians in the Workplace
Factors that affect the challenge of our workplace

- Our level of spiritual maturity
- The nature of the work
- Spiritual character of management/owners
- Spiritual character of co-workers
- Stability of the job

Over which ones do we have a degree of control?
Christians in the Workplace
Christians in the Workplace
Christians in the Workplace

Goals of Our Study (that we will . . .)

1. Work for God’s glory rather than our own
2. Identify and endeavor to overcome the spiritual challenges of our main vocation
3. Be a more Christ-like example to our co-workers
4. Make more godly decisions while in the workplace
# Christians in the Workplace

| Issues with Workplace Adversity and Failure |  
|---|---|
| 8 | Bitterness and Resentment | Sunday, November 20, 2011 |
| 9 | Discouragement | Sunday, November 27, 2011 |
Christians in the Workplace

Types of Failure or Adversity

• General circumstances
  – Loss of a job
  – Demotion
  – Pay cut
  – Inability to find a job
  – Denied promised benefits

• Related to co-workers
  – Falsehoods
  – Ridicule
  – Bad language
  – Immoral stories

• Related to company conditions
  – Office relocation
  – Financial instability
  – Social policies
  – Poor working conditions

• Related to supervisors
  – Unrealistic expectations
  – Poor performance evaluation (deserved or not)
  – Lack of appreciation
  – Taking credit due us
  – Harassment
Christians in the Workplace

Temptations Normally Associated with Success

• Pride (James 4:6, I Peter 5:5)
• Materialism (Luke 12:15)
• Misplaced Priorities (Matt. 10:37-39)

Why are they also difficult in a time of adversity?
Ephesians 4:28-31

28Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;
Philippians 2:14-15

14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning, (disputing – NASB & NKJV, arguing – NIV) 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
Christians in the Workplace

Self-examination – where do we stand in a time of difficulty?

- God’s View of Work
- Our Viewpoint – Work unto the Lord
- Viewpoint of Others
Matthew 10:37-39

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 

38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 

39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 16:24-25

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”
Case Study

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Christians in the Workplace

Christ – Our First Priority

- **Colossians 3:3**  
  "For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

- **Colossians 3:17**  
  "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus"

- **Galatians 2:20**  
  "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."
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Christians in the Workplace

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• Sacrificial spirit
• Full effort
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Be ready to answer at the beginning of class. Feel free to look at the previous lesson.
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- Obey in everything (Colossians)
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Reward?  Ephesians 6:8, Colossians 3:24
Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.
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**Issues with the Pursuit and Achievement of Success**

- **Lesson 5**: Pride and Competition
- **Lesson 6**: Materialism
- **Lesson 7**: Misplaced Priorities

**Workplace Temptations and Challenges**

- **Lesson 10**: Corporate and Peer Pressure
- **Lesson 11**: Lying and Integrity
- **Lesson 12**: Alcohol
- **Lesson 13**: Stress and Anxiety
Christians in the Workplace

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But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. 1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.
Christians in the Workplace

Categories of Jobs

- Blue collar or white collar
- Indoor or outdoor
- Independent or team oriented
- Emphasis on physical labor or intellectual labor
- Retail or Manufacturing or Service or Medical
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Factors that affect the challenge of our workplace

- Our level of spiritual maturity
- The nature of the work
- Spiritual character of management/owners
- Spiritual character of co-workers
- Stability of the job

Over which ones do we have a degree of control?
Christians in the Workplace
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Goals of Our Study (that we will . . .)

1. Work for God’s glory rather than our own
2. Identify and endeavor to overcome the spiritual challenges of our main vocation
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Constant Concern of God

Passages to Read

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2. Psalms 55:22
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Christians in the Workplace

Self-examination – where do we stand in a time of difficulty?

- God’s View of Work
- Our Viewpoint – Work unto the Lord
- Viewpoint of Others
Matthew 10:37-39

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.  
38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.  
39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 16:24-25

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." 59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."
Case Study

John Goodman is 32, married with two children ages 4 and 6. John has been a Christian since he was 14, and he and his wife and children are members of the Fifth Street Church of Christ. John is an attorney in the corporate division of a law firm. John has had a successful career by any measure: excellent performance reviews, regular raises, and a number of clients who have asked specifically for John to be assigned to their account. John has enjoyed his position. The work has been interesting, the partners of the firm are morally minded, and he has never been asked by a client to do something that would violate his conscience.
Nevertheless, John has an uneasy feeling about the effect of his job on his family and he is beginning to worry if it is affecting his relationship with Christ. Two years ago, a favorite client went through a series of business transactions that required John to work 65 to 75 hours a week for a number of months. He remembered going days in a row without any meaningful interaction with his children. He missed the Wednesday services on a regular basis, and during the Fall gospel meeting, he was only able to attend the Sunday morning service. Yesterday, he heard that this client was preparing to go through an even more intense period of transactions. One of the partners has come to John with “good news”. This client has stated John’s work will be a critical factor in their success and a primary reason why they have continued to use John’s firm. The partner points out if all goes well, this opportunity will almost certainly assure John’s chance of making partner at the firm.
Instead of being excited, John is worried about his soul. He also worries that another period of intense work will reduce the spiritual influence he feels he should have in the lives of his wife and children. John has calculated that if he were unemployed he has savings sufficient for six months. The job market for corporate attorneys is really not good at the moment, and he wonders how he would ever explain his decision to leave. He can’t imagine getting a recommendation from anyone at his firm if he left at such a critical moment. He has come to you for advice.
Christians in the Workplace

Temptations Normally Associated with Success

- Pride (James 4:6, I Peter 5:5)
- Materialism (Luke 12:15)
- Misplaced Priorities (Matt. 10:37-39)

Why are they also difficult in a time of adversity?
Christians in the Workplace

Christ – Our First Priority

- **Colossians 3:3**  
  ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- **Colossians 3:17**  
  ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus

- **Galatians 2:20**  
  It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.
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Ephesians 6:5-8

5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 
7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.
28Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
Christians in the Workplace

God’s goals
- That we would burden no one
- That we would provide for our family
- That we could share with others
- That we would not be idle

Proper Spirit and Attitude
- Sacrificial spirit
- Full effort
- Quietness
- Concern for others
- Honesty
22 Slaves, 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, 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.
Christians in the Workplace

Two Questions from the Previous Class

1. What are the goals God has for us in our jobs (i.e. what does He want us to accomplish)?

2. What is to be our spirit or attitude in regard to our work?

Be ready to answer at the beginning of class. Feel free to look at the previous lesson.
Nature of Our Work

- Obey with fear and trembling (Ephesians)
- Obey in everything (Colossians)
- With a sincere heart (Eph, Col)
- Not by way of eye-service (Eph, Col)
- Not as people-pleasers (Eph, Col)
- Service with a good will (Ephesians)
- Work heartily (Colossians)

Why is this so hard in many jobs?
Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-25

For whom are we working?

- Obey . . . as you would Christ (Eph 6:5)
- As servants of Christ (Eph 6:6)
- Obey . . . fearing the Lord (Col 3:22)
- Doing the will of God (Eph 6:6)
- As to (for) the Lord and not to (for) men (Eph, Col)
- You are serving the Lord Christ (Col 3:24)

Reward? Ephesians 6:8, Colossians 3:24
Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.
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7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.
1Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.
Christians in the Workplace
A False Picture of a Person’s Life

- Church
- Work
- Family
- Recreation
- Sleep

False Picture of a Person’s Life
A Truer Picture of a Person’s Life
If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
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**Biblical Foundation**

**Issues with the Pursuit and Achievement of Success**

**Workplace Temptations and Challenges**
Christians in the Workplace

Work in the Old Testament

- Abraham and Lot
- Joseph
- Moses
- David
- Daniel
- Craftsmen (Exodus 31:1-10, 35:10, 35:30 - 36:2)

10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might . . .
Eccl. 9:10

2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Ps. 128:2
Christians in the Workplace

Work in the New Testament

- Lydia (Acts 16:4)
- Erastus (Romans 16:23)
- Luke (Colossians 4:14)
- Manaen (Acts 13:1)
- Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2-3)
- Paul
I Thessalonians 2:9

9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

II Thessalonians 3:8

8 nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.
Acts 20:33-35

33 I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. 34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. 35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
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Romans 5:3-5

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- Viewpoint of Others
Matthew 10:37-39

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.  
38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.  
39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 16:24-25

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." 59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."
Case Study

John Goodman is 32, married with two children ages 4 and 6. John has been a Christian since he was 14, and he and his wife and children are members of the Fifth Street Church of Christ. John is an attorney in the corporate division of a law firm. John has had a successful career by any measure: excellent performance reviews, regular raises, and a number of clients who have asked specifically for John to be assigned to their account. John has enjoyed his position. The work has been interesting, the partners of the firm are morally minded, and he has never been asked by a client to do something that would violate his conscience.
Nevertheless, John has an uneasy feeling about the effect of his job on his family and he is beginning to worry if it is affecting his relationship with Christ. Two years ago, a favorite client went through a series of business transactions that required John to work 65 to 75 hours a week for a number of months. He remembered going days in a row without any meaningful interaction with his children. He missed the Wednesday services on a regular basis, and during the Fall gospel meeting, he was only able to attend the Sunday morning service. Yesterday, he heard that this client was preparing to go through an even more intense period of transactions. One of the partners has come to John with “good news”. This client has stated John’s work will be a critical factor in their success and a primary reason why they have continued to use John’s firm. The partner points out if all goes well, this opportunity will almost certainly assure John’s chance of making partner at the firm.
Instead of being excited, John is worried about his soul. He also worries that another period of intense work will reduce the spiritual influence he feels he should have in the lives of his wife and children. John has calculated that if he were unemployed he has savings sufficient for six months. The job market for corporate attorneys is really not good at the moment, and he wonders how he would ever explain his decision to leave. He can’t imagine getting a recommendation from anyone at his firm if he left at such a critical moment. He has come to you for advice.
Christians in the Workplace

Temptations Normally Associated with Success

• Pride (James 4:6, I Peter 5:5)
• Materialism (Luke 12:15)
• Misplaced Priorities (Matt. 10:37-39)

Why are they also difficult in a time of adversity?
Christians in the Workplace

Christ – Our First Priority

- **Colossians 3:3**  
  3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- **Colossians 3:17**  
  17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus

- **Galatians 2:20**  
  It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.
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### Issues with the Pursuit and Achievement of Success

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Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.
28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
Christians in the Workplace

God’s goals

- That we would burden no one
- That we would provide for our family
- That we could share with others
- That we would not be idle

Proper Spirit and Attitude

- Sacrificial spirit
- Full effort
- Quietness
- Concern for others
- Honesty
Colossians 3:22-25

22 Slaves, 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.
Christians in the Workplace

Two Questions from the Previous Class

1. What are the goals God has for us in our jobs (i.e. what does He want us to accomplish)?
2. What is to be our spirit or attitude in regard to our work?

Be ready to answer at the beginning of class. Feel free to look at the previous lesson.
Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-25

Nature of Our Work

- Obey with fear and trembling (Ephesians)
- Obey in everything (Colossians)
- With a sincere heart (Eph, Col)
- Not by way of eye-service (Eph, Col)
- Not as people-pleasers (Eph, Col)
- Service with a good will (Ephesians)
- Work heartily (Colossians)

Why is this so hard in many jobs?
**Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-25**

**For whom are we working?**

- Obey . . . as you would Christ (Eph 6:5)
- As servants of Christ (Eph 6:6)
- Obey . . . fearing the Lord (Col 3:22)
- Doing the will of God (Eph 6:6)
- As to (for) the Lord and not to (for) men (Eph, Col)
- You are serving the Lord Christ (Col 3:24)

**Reward? Ephesians 6:8, Colossians 3:24**
Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.
Ephesians 6:5-8

5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.
1Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.
Christians in the Workplace
A False Picture of a Person’s Life

- Church
- Work
- Family
- Recreation
- Sleep
A Truer Picture of a Person’s Life

Christ

Church

Work

Family

Recreation

Sleep
If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
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Christians in the Workplace

Work in the Old Testament

- Abraham and Lot
- Joseph
- Moses
- David
- Daniel
- Craftsmen (Exodus 31:1-10, 35:10, 35:30 - 36:2)

10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might . . .
Eccl. 9:10

2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Ps. 128:2
Christians in the Workplace
Work in the New Testament

- Lydia (Acts 16:4)
- Erastus (Romans 16:23)
- Luke (Colossians 4:14)
- Manaen (Acts 13:1)
- Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2-3)
- Paul
I Thessalonians 2:9

9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

II Thessalonians 3:8

8 nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.
Acts 20:33-35

33 I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. 34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. 35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
II Thessalonians 3:6-12

6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.
28Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
8But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
Philippians 3:17-4:1

17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. 1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.
Christians in the Workplace

Categories of Jobs

- Blue collar or white collar
- Indoor or outdoor
- Independent or team oriented
- Emphasis on physical labor or intellectual labor
- Retail or Manufacturing or Service or Medical
- Supervisor or supervised
- Dealing with the public or “back of the house”

*Temptations will vary, but will exist in every category of work*
Christians in the Workplace

Factors that affect the challenge of our workplace

- Our level of spiritual maturity
- The nature of the work
- Spiritual character of management/owners
- Spiritual character of co-workers
- Stability of the job

Over which ones do we have a degree of control?
Christians in the Workplace
Christians in the Workplace

*Pre-class Thought Question*

Why do individuals lie? What is their motivation? What do they hope to gain?
Christians in the Workplace
Christians in the Workplace

Goals of Our Study (that we will . . .)

1. Work for God’s glory rather than our own
2. Identify and endeavor to overcome the spiritual challenges of our main vocation
3. Be a more Christ-like example to our co-workers
4. Make more godly decisions while in the workplace
# Christians in the Workplace

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Ephesians 4:22-25

22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.
8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”
9 understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers,

10 the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine.
Clear Dishonesty

- Lying to gain the next promotion
- Making a promise to a sales prospect or to a job candidate that you know will not be honored
- Divulging company secrets or competitive advantages to a competitor
- Putting blatantly false information on your resume
- Breaking confidentiality about something entrusted to you
- Engaging in insider trading
- Offering or taking a bribe
Dilemmas of Integrity

- Do I explain to a client everything that could go wrong in my company’s effort to serve them?
- Do I mention that a key employee is leaving and we don’t know what impact that will have?
- When do I tell the boss about a problem, and when do I just try to fix it?
- As a supervisor how do I handle sensitive company information that my staff are not privy to?
- When has a line been crossed from tax avoidance (a legal concept) to tax evasion? And just because it is legal, is it right?
- When does “creative accounting” or “clever advertising” become a form of deception?
- When would it be wrong to use political connections to gain an advantage over a co-worker or competitor?
Hebrews 5:12-14

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil
10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.

17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
12 So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets
Christians in the Workplace

Questions to ask when faced with a dilemma regarding integrity

- God’s View of Work
- Our Viewpoint – Work unto the Lord
- Viewpoint of Others
Christians in the Workplace

Types of Failure or Adversity

• General circumstances
  – Loss of a job
  – Demotion
  – Pay cut
  – Inability to find a job
  – Denied promised benefits

• Related to co-workers
  – Falsehoods
  – Ridicule
  – Bad language
  – Immoral stories

• Related to company conditions
  – Office relocation
  – Financial instability
  – Social policies
  – Poor working conditions

• Related to supervisors
  – Unrealistic expectations
  – Poor performance evaluation (deserved or not)
  – Lack of appreciation
  – Taking credit due us
  – Harassment
Christians in the Workplace

- Bob was recently let go from his job of 30 years. He is embarrassed to tell the brethren where he worships what has happened. He was given a severance package that will last a few weeks, and after that he is uncertain what he should do.

- A new supervisor was assigned to Mary’s team at work. The previous supervisor was a kind, and understanding individual. The new supervisor is abrasive, generally making fun of most of the team members. Mary feels that she is especially picked on because of her moral standards.

- After 15 years, John felt confident that he would be promoted but instead was overlooked. He is not sure why it happened, but it has taken all of the enjoyment away from his work. He also finds it difficult to work with those who were promoted, as he believes they have been unfairly rewarded.

- Maurice owns his own business. He employs two others, both of whom are Christians who are members of the same local church as he. The sales are declining in his business and it is looking likely that he will need to let one of his employees go. Maurice cannot stop thinking about his dilemma, especially when he is at a worship service.
Constant Concern of God

Passages to Read

1. Isaiah 41:10
2. Psalms 55:22
3. Psalms 138:3
4. Matthew 11:28-30
5. 1 Timothy 6:17b
6. Hebrews 13:5-6
7. James 1:16-17
14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.
Hebrews 12:1-13

Discipline – sign of a genuine relationship with God

• Vs. 5 Addressed as sons
• Vs. 6 God disciplines those He loves
• Vs. 7 God treats us as His children
• Vs. 8 Lack of discipline is a sign of illegitimacy
Hebrews 12:11

11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
James 1:2-4

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
Potential Benefits of Hardships

- Harden and toughen us for even more difficult days
- Help us appreciate our blessings more
- Help us examine and recognize what truly matters most in life
- Help us cease depending solely upon our own strength
- Draw our attention away from the material things of life
- Help us recognize the temporary nature of life
Psalm 73

Asaph’s Condition

• Vs. 2 nearly stumbled or slipped
• Vs. 3 envious of the arrogant
• Vs. 21 soul was embittered
• Vs. 22 brutish and ignorant
Psalm 73

Asaph’s Observation of the Wicked

- Vs. 4, 5  their prosperity and ease as compared to others
- Vs. 6-8  they oppress with violence
- Vs. 9  they defy God and He does not seem to know (vs. 11)
Psalm 73

Asaph’s Personal Suffering

• Vs. 13, 14 has his righteousness been a waste?
Psalm 73

Asaph’s Turning Point

- In the sanctuary of God, closer observation of His plan
- Vs. 18-20, 27 eventual end of the wicked
- Vs. 23-24 benefit of serving God
- Vs. 25-26, 28 clings to God
14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;
Philippians 2:14-15

14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning, (disputing – NASB & NKJV, arguing – NIV) 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
Christians in the Workplace

Self-examination – where do we stand in a time of difficulty?

• God’s View of Work
• Our Viewpoint – Work unto the Lord
• Viewpoint of Others
Matthew 10:37-39

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.  

38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.  

39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." 59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."
**Case Study**

John Goodman is 32, married with two children ages 4 and 6. John has been a Christian since he was 14, and he and his wife and children are members of the Fifth Street Church of Christ. John is an attorney in the corporate division of a law firm. John has had a successful career by any measure: excellent performance reviews, regular raises, and a number of clients who have asked specifically for John to be assigned to their account. John has enjoyed his position. The work has been interesting, the partners of the firm are morally minded, and he has never been asked by a client to do something that would violate his conscience.
Nevertheless, John has an uneasy feeling about the effect of his job on his family and he is beginning to worry if it is affecting his relationship with Christ. Two years ago, a favorite client went through a series of business transactions that required John to work 65 to 75 hours a week for a number of months. He remembered going days in a row without any meaningful interaction with his children. He missed the Wednesday services on a regular basis, and during the Fall gospel meeting, he was only able to attend the Sunday morning service. Yesterday, he heard that this client was preparing to go through an even more intense period of transactions. One of the partners has come to John with “good news”. This client has stated John’s work will be a critical factor in their success and a primary reason why they have continued to use John’s firm. The partner points out if all goes well, this opportunity will almost certainly assure John’s chance of making partner at the firm.
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• Materialism (Luke 12:15)
• Misplaced Priorities (Matt. 10:37-39)

Why are they also difficult in a time of adversity?
Christians in the Workplace

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Ephesians 4:28-31

28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
Christians in the Workplace

**God’s goals**

- That we would burden no one
- That we would provide for our family
- That we could share with others
- That we would not be idle

**Proper Spirit and Attitude**

- Sacrificial spirit
- Full effort
- Quietness
- Concern for others
- Honesty
Colossians 3:22-25

22 Slaves, 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.
Two Questions from the Previous Class

1. What are the goals God has for us in our jobs (i.e. what does He want us to accomplish)?
2. What is to be our spirit or attitude in regard to our work?

Be ready to answer at the beginning of class. Feel free to look at the previous lesson.
Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-25

Nature of Our Work

- Obey with fear and trembling (Ephesians)
- Obey in everything (Colossians)
- With a sincere heart (Eph, Col)
- Not by way of eye-service (Eph, Col)
- Not as people-pleasers (Eph, Col)
- Service with a good will (Ephesians)
- Work heartily (Colossians)

Why is this so hard in many jobs?
Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-25

For whom are we working?

- Obey . . . as you would Christ (Eph 6:5)
- As servants of Christ (Eph 6:6)
- Obey . . . fearing the Lord (Col 3:22)
- Doing the will of God (Eph 6:6)
- As to (for) the Lord and not to (for) men (Eph, Col)
- You are serving the Lord Christ (Col 3:24)

Reward? Ephesians 6:8, Colossians 3:24
Ephesians 6:9

9Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.
5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 
7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.
Colossians 4:1

1Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.
Christians in the Workplace
A False Picture of a Person’s Life

- Church
- Work
- Family
- Recreation
- Sleep
A truer picture of a person's life
Colossians 3:1-3, 17

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
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Christians in the Workplace

Work in the Old Testament

- Abraham and Lot
- Joseph
- Moses
- David
- Daniel
- Craftsmen (Exodus 31:1-10, 35:10, 35:30 - 36:2)

10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might . . .

Eccl. 9:10

2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Ps. 128:2
Christians in the Workplace

Work in the New Testament

- Lydia (Acts 16:4)
- Erastus (Romans 16:23)
- Luke (Colossians 4:14)
- Manaen (Acts 13:1)
- Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2-3)
- Paul
I Thessalonians 2:9

9For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

II Thessalonians 3:8

8nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.
Acts 20:33-35

33 I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. 34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. 35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
II Thessalonians 3:6-12

6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.
Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.
18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.
1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.
Categories of Jobs

- Blue collar or white collar
- Indoor or outdoor
- Independent or team oriented
- Emphasis on physical labor or intellectual labor
- Retail or Manufacturing or Service or Medical
- Supervisor or supervised
- Dealing with the public or “back of the house”

Temptations will vary, but will exist in every category of work
Christians in the Workplace

Factors that affect the challenge of our workplace

- Our level of spiritual maturity
- The nature of the work
- Spiritual character of management/owners
- Spiritual character of co-workers
- Stability of the job

Over which ones do we have a degree of control?
Christians in the Workplace
Christians in the Workplace
Goals of Our Study (that we will . . .)

1. Work for God’s glory rather than our own
2. Identify and endeavor to overcome the spiritual challenges of our main vocation
3. Be a more Christ-like example to our co-workers
4. Make more godly decisions while in the workplace
# Christians in the Workplace

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Christians in the Workplace

Foundational lessons from a woman’s perspective

• God’s View of Work
• Our Viewpoint – Work unto the Lord
• Viewpoint of Others
Christians in the Workplace

God’s goals
- That we would burden no one (I Thess. 2:9)
- That we would provide for our family (I Tim. 5:8)
- That we could share with others (Acts 20:35)
- That we would not be idle (II Thess. 3:6-7)

Proper Spirit and Attitude
- Sacrificial spirit (II Thess. 3:8)
- Full effort (Acts 20:35)
- Quietness (II Thess. 3:12)
- Concern for others (I Tim. 5:8)
- Honesty (Eph. 4:28)
For whom are we working?

- Obey . . . as you would Christ (Eph 6:5)
- As servants of Christ (Eph 6:6)
- Obey . . . fearing the Lord (Col 3:22)
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- As to (for) the Lord and not to (for) men (Eph, Col)
- You are serving the Lord Christ (Col 3:24)

Reward? Ephesians 6:8, Colossians 3:24
14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
1 Peter 2:11-12

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.
13 Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. 14 So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.
3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.
Christians in the Workplace

God’s goals

- That we would burden no one (I Thess. 2:9)
- That we would provide for our family (I Tim. 5:8)
- That we could share with others (Acts 20:35)
- That we would not be idle (II Thess. 3:6-7)
11 Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve; 14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. 15 Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.
12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil
Christians in the Workplace
Ephesians 4:22-25

22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.
Revelation 21:8

8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”
I Timothy 1:9-10

9 understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, 10 the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine
Clear Dishonesty

- Lying to gain the next promotion
- Making a promise to a sales prospect or to a job candidate that you know will not be honored
- Divulging company secrets or competitive advantages to a competitor
- Putting blatantly false information on your resume
- Breaking confidentiality about something entrusted to you
- Engaging in insider trading
- Offering or taking a bribe
Dilemmas of Integrity

• Do I explain to a client everything that could go wrong in my company’s effort to serve them?
• Do I mention that a key employee is leaving and we don’t know what impact that will have?
• When do I tell the boss about a problem, and when do I just try to fix it?
• As a supervisor how do I handle sensitive company information that my staff are not privy to?
• When has a line been crossed from tax avoidance (a legal concept) to tax evasion? And just because it is legal, is it right?
• When does “creative accounting” or “clever advertising” become a form of deception?
• When would it be wrong to use political connections to gain an advantage over a co-worker or competitor?
10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.

17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
Matthew 7:12

Golden Rule

12 So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets
Christians in the Workplace

Questions to ask when faced with a dilemma regarding integrity

- God’s View of Work
- Our Viewpoint – Work unto the Lord
- Viewpoint of Others
Christians in the Workplace

Types of Failure or Adversity

- General circumstances
  - Loss of a job
  - Demotion
  - Pay cut
  - Inability to find a job
  - Denied promised benefits

- Related to co-workers
  - Falsehoods
  - Ridicule
  - Bad language
  - Immoral stories

- Related to company conditions
  - Office relocation
  - Financial instability
  - Social policies
  - Poor working conditions

- Related to supervisors
  - Unrealistic expectations
  - Poor performance evaluation (deserved or not)
  - Lack of appreciation
  - Taking credit due us
  - Harassment
Christians in the Workplace

- Bob was recently let go from his job of 30 years. He is embarrassed to tell the brethren where he worships what has happened. He was given a severance package that will last a few weeks, and after that he is uncertain what he should do.

- A new supervisor was assigned to Mary’s team at work. The previous supervisor was a kind, and understanding individual. The new supervisor is abrasive, generally making fun of most of the team members. Mary feels that she is especially picked on because of her moral standards.

- After 15 years, John felt confident that he would be promoted but instead was overlooked. He is not sure why it happened, but it has taken all of the enjoyment away from his work. He also finds it difficult to work with those who were promoted, as he believes they have been unfairly rewarded.

- Maurice owns his own business. He employs two others, both of whom are Christians who are members of the same local church as he. The sales are declining in his business and it is looking likely that he will need to let one of his employees go. Maurice cannot stop thinking about his dilemma, especially when he is at a worship service.
Constant Concern of God

Passages to Read

1. Isaiah 41:10
2. Psalms 55:22
3. Psalms 138:3
4. Matthew 11:28-30
5. I Timothy 6:17b
6. Hebrews 13:5-6
7. James 1:16-17
14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.
Hebrews 12:1-13

Discipline – sign of a genuine relationship with God

- Vs. 5 Addressed as sons
- Vs. 6 God disciplines those He loves
- Vs. 7 God treats us as His children
- Vs. 8 Lack of discipline is a sign of illegitimacy
Hebrews 12:11

11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
James 1:2-4

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 
3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 
4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
Romans 5:3-5

3 More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
Potential Benefits of Hardships

- Harden and toughen us for even more difficult days
- Help us appreciate our blessings more
- Help us examine and recognize what truly matters most in life
- Help us cease depending solely upon our own strength
- Draw our attention away from the material things of life
- Help us recognize the temporary nature of life
Psalm 73

Asaph’s Condition

- Vs. 2 nearly stumbled or slipped
- Vs. 3 envious of the arrogant
- Vs. 21 soul was embittered
- Vs. 22 brutish and ignorant
Psalm 73
Asaph’s Observation of the Wicked

- Vs. 4, 5  their prosperity and ease as compared to others
- Vs. 6-8  they oppress with violence
- Vs. 9  they defy God and He does not seem to know (vs. 11)
Psalm 73
Asaph’s Personal Suffering

• Vs. 13, 14 has his righteousness been a waste?
Psalm 73

Asaph’s Turning Point

- In the sanctuary of God, closer observation of His plan
- Vs. 18-20, 27 eventual end of the wicked
- Vs. 23-24 benefit of serving God
- Vs. 25-26, 28 clings to God
Hebrews 12:14-15

14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;
14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning, (disputing – NASB & NKJV, arguing – NIV) 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
Christians in the Workplace

Self-examination – where do we stand in a time of difficulty?

- God’s View of Work
- Our Viewpoint – Work unto the Lord
- Viewpoint of Others
Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.  

And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.  

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." 59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."
Case Study

John Goodman is 32, married with two children ages 4 and 6. John has been a Christian since he was 14, and he and his wife and children are members of the Fifth Street Church of Christ. John is an attorney in the corporate division of a law firm. John has had a successful career by any measure: excellent performance reviews, regular raises, and a number of clients who have asked specifically for John to be assigned to their account. John has enjoyed his position. The work has been interesting, the partners of the firm are morally minded, and he has never been asked by a client to do something that would violate his conscience.
Nevertheless, John has an uneasy feeling about the effect of his job on his family and he is beginning to worry if it is affecting his relationship with Christ. Two years ago, a favorite client went through a series of business transactions that required John to work 65 to 75 hours a week for a number of months. He remembered going days in a row without any meaningful interaction with his children. He missed the Wednesday services on a regular basis, and during the Fall gospel meeting, he was only able to attend the Sunday morning service. Yesterday, he heard that this client was preparing to go through an even more intense period of transactions. One of the partners has come to John with “good news”. This client has stated John’s work will be a critical factor in their success and a primary reason why they have continued to use John’s firm. The partner points out if all goes well, this opportunity will almost certainly assure John’s chance of making partner at the firm.
Instead of being excited, John is worried about his soul. He also worries that another period of intense work will reduce the spiritual influence he feels he should have in the lives of his wife and children. John has calculated that if he were unemployed he has savings sufficient for six months. The job market for corporate attorneys is really not good at the moment, and he wonders how he would ever explain his decision to leave. He can’t imagine getting a recommendation from anyone at his firm if he left at such a critical moment. He has come to you for advice.
Christians in the Workplace

Temptations Normally Associated with Success

- Pride (James 4:6, I Peter 5:5)
- Materialism (Luke 12:15)
- Misplaced Priorities (Matt. 10:37-39)

Why are they also difficult in a time of adversity?
Christians in the Workplace

Christ – Our First Priority

- Colossians 3:3  
  For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- Colossians 3:17  
  And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus

- Galatians 2:20  
  It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.
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Colossians 3:22-25

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Christians in the Workplace

Two Questions from the Previous Class

1. What are the goals God has for us in our jobs (i.e. what does He want us to accomplish)?

2. What is to be our spirit or attitude in regard to our work?

Be ready to answer at the beginning of class. Feel free to look at the previous lesson.
Nature of Our Work

- Obey with fear and trembling (Ephesians)
- Obey in everything (Colossians)
- With a sincere heart (Eph, Col)
- Not by way of eye-service (Eph, Col)
- Not as people-pleasers (Eph, Col)
- Service with a good will (Ephesians)
- Work heartily (Colossians)

Why is this so hard in many jobs?
Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-25

For whom are we working?

• Obey . . . as you would Christ (Eph 6:5)
• As servants of Christ (Eph 6:6)
• Obey . . . fearing the Lord (Col 3:22)
• Doing the will of God (Eph 6:6)
• As to (for) the Lord and not to (for) men (Eph, Col)
• You are serving the Lord Christ (Col 3:24)

Reward? Ephesians 6:8, Colossians 3:24
Ephesians 6:9

9Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.
5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.
Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.
Christians in the Workplace
A False Picture of a Person’s Life
A Truer Picture of a Person’s Life
If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
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Christians in the Workplace

Work in the Old Testament

- Abraham and Lot
- Joseph
- Moses
- David
- Daniel
- Craftsmen (Exodus 31:1-10, 35:10, 35:30 - 36:2)

10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might . . . 
Eccl. 9:10

2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Ps. 128:2
Christians in the Workplace

Work in the New Testament

- Lydia (Acts 16:4)
- Erastus (Romans 16:23)
- Luke (Colossians 4:14)
- Manaen (Acts 13:1)
- Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2-3)
- Paul
I Thessalonians 2:9

9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

II Thessalonians 3:8

8 nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.
Acts 20:33-35

33 I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. 34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. 35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
II Thessalonians 3:6-12

6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.
28Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. 1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.
Christians in the Workplace

Categories of Jobs

- Blue collar or white collar
- Indoor or outdoor
- Independent or team oriented
- Emphasis on physical labor or intellectual labor
- Retail or Manufacturing or Service or Medical
- Supervisor or supervised
- Dealing with the public or “back of the house”

Temptations will vary, but will exist in every category of work
Christians in the Workplace

Factors that affect the challenge of our workplace

- Our level of spiritual maturity
- The nature of the work
- Spiritual character of management/owners
- Spiritual character of co-workers
- Stability of the job

Over which ones do we have a degree of control?
Christians in the Workplace
Christians in the Workplace

Stress and Anxiety

-Lesson 13

• **Work for God’s glory** rather than our own
• Identify and endeavor to **overcome** the spiritual **challenges** of our main vocation
• Be a more **Christ-like example** to our co-workers
• Make more **godly decisions** while in the workplace
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Genesis 3: 17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”
Examples of Stress and Anxiety

2 Corinthians 11: 28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

2 Corinthians 4: 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed — 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.
2 Corinthians 4: 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
Examples of Stress and Anxiety

- “The Work”
- Failure of others
- Competition
- Outside Economy
- The Hours
- Compensation
- Duration
- The setting / environment
- Travel
- Corporate / Peer pressure
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<td>• Extensive policy ‘library’ designed to govern behavior (exp. Evangelism policies)</td>
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<td>• “…everyone here thinks…”</td>
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<td>• “…we’ve always done thing like that here…”</td>
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<td>• “… if you were a real company man/ woman”</td>
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<td><strong>Culturally Driven</strong></td>
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<td>• Politically driven agenda</td>
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<td>• Senior leaders ‘role-model’ a worldly outlook</td>
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<td>• Direct &amp; Functional leadership lack morals</td>
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<td>• Venue of the industry may be more worldly</td>
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<td>• Held to an unfair higher standard in everything</td>
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<td>• Harsh treatment by others</td>
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<td><strong>Direct Reports</strong></td>
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<td>• Temptation to engage in worldly conduct</td>
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<td>- drinking, carousing, lawlessness, lewd behavior</td>
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Examples of Stress and Anxiety

- “The Work”
- Failure of others
- Competition
- Outside Economy
- The Hours
- Compensation
- Duration
- The setting / environment
- Travel
- Corporate / Peer pressure
“Teachings on Stress and Anxiety

Matthew 6: 25 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

28 “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

31 “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
Matthew 6: 25 -33

“...do not worry about your life…” “Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature”

“...why do you worry about clothing?” ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

“Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Lesson Learned:

• Worry accomplishes little
• Let go of the physical
• Trust in God
• Focus on the larger picture
Luke 10: 38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.”

41 And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Lessons Learned:

- “First things first”
- Focus rather than multitask
Example of Stress and Anxiety

1 Corinthians 7: 32 But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. 33 But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please his wife. 34 There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world—how she may please her husband.

Lessons Learned:

- Distractions can come from even good things
- Our Master should be the Lord
Philippians 4: 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 7: 29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, 30 those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, 31 and those who use this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away.

Lessons Learned:
• ‘Choose’ Joy
• Turn to the Lord for help
• Rest in God’s hands
1 Peter 5: 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Lessons Learned:

- Lean on God
- You stand no chance alone
Answers for Stress and Anxiety

2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.