

‘TAKING CHRIST TO WORK’
(When You Go to Work for The Savior)
Colossians 3:22-4:6

The Great ‘Go-Mission’
(Matthew 28:18-20)

*“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.” **Lord Jesus***

A zealous young Christian once came up to the evangelist D.L. Moody after an inspiring sermon at church asking, “Mr. Moody, I want to be a missionary. What should I do?” Moody asked, “What are you doing right now to serve the Lord?” Sheepishly the answer returned, “Not much now, but I will when I get into full time ministry.” The wise old evangelist looked him in the eye and said, “Son, if you can’t serve God where you is, you sure won’t serve Him where you ain’t!”

Except for grammar, it’s a fact that whatever you are currently doing for Christ is probably what you’ll do for Him, if in full-time ministry. Christ told one young convert who wanted to leave all and follow Him, “Go home to your friends and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you.” Like any true disciple of Jesus should do, the man “...departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis (his home area) all that Jesus had done for him...” (*Mark 5:18-20*). That wasn’t the last time Jesus said that to somebody! Jesus isn’t calling *cheerleaders* who just want to hang out with Him – Christ wants *fishers of men* who will get busy at home, school, work, and in their community spreading the good news of salvation through repentance toward God and faith in Him (*Acts 20:21*).

After all, what is a mission field but somebody or someplace that is still *unsaved*? And what is a missionary except the closest Christian to that soul or place in need! Do a good job of witnessing and glorifying God in your school or work place and don’t be surprised if the Lord calls and moves you to do more, full time somewhere else. The Lord Jesus called disciples to follow Him who were at work right where they were. He never invited any slackers to ‘*come follow Him*’ into full-time vocational ministry. He called only disciples who were already successful at something – some were fishermen; there was a tax collector; even a political zealot. Being a faithful, hardworking, and diligent worker is always prerequisite to God’s calling into occupational ministry.

Many aspiring for ministry today have done nothing but go to school and accumulate academic wall paper. They have education, but lack ambition. Many have diplomas but no discipline. Some know how to take a test but lack a hard work ethic. Others have theology, but lack integrity. Too many have an ordination without inspiration. At CBF we believe it’s biblical to observe *gifts and calling* in a disciple first, and *educational preparation* second. Gifts and calling are spiritual fruit that can be ascertained by watching a Christian’s life, ministry faithfulness, and work place witness. Then, if spiritual *gifts and calling* are obvious, educational preparation can prepare that candidate for leadership and ministry.

Wise King Solomon taught that finding a job or vocation that fits the way God has made us is an important first step in having an abundant life:

“Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage. As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor – this is the gift of God. For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, because God keeps him busy with the joy of his heart.” (*Ecclesiastes 5:18-20*).

Work in Eden was a blessed part of God's assignment prior to entry of sin, not a punishment afterward. Work is a noble trust from God that can bring out the best in believers and prepare them for ministry. Work is a place where we learn many valuable character traits as we manifest a Christian witness for the Lord. It is where we earn wages to invest in ministries that advance the kingdom of God. Jobs also provide a modest, comfortable lifestyle for our families. Solomon's advice:

- 1) seek a good job that matches your abilities from God,
- 2) make sure it's a job that you're good at and you enjoy doing,
- 3) enjoy your work and the blessings that come from God to you and your family through it, and
- 4) glorify God and praise Him, as you work at whatever it is He has called you to do.

Christians should see their work this way. If you do, don't be surprised if some of you hear God's **'well done, good and faithful servant'** now in this life, *(and also later when He comes)*. His approval and reward may be to call for you into faithful, vocational ministry this side of heaven (**Mark 10:29-31**). The first step of obedience to the *'Great Commission'* is obeying His *'Go Mission'* by taking the Savior's gospel to the workplace He has called, appointed and ordained you to reach for His glory. Remember: ***If you can't do that where you are, it's a cinch you won't do it where you aren't!*** **PtL**

'Witness While You Work!' ***(The Spirit-filled Christian on the Job)*** ***Colossians 3:22-4:6***

The Biblical Employee-Employer Relationship

Employees

"Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done and there is no partiality." ***(also Ephesians 6:5-8)3:22-25***

- Discuss the do's and don'ts for Christians at work, at school or any personal endeavor?
- Talk about how the above attitude transforms the job or classroom into a mission field and the Christian present into a missionary. What are the incentives for doing this well?
- What are some creative ways to reach your secular mission field for Christ?

Employers

"Masters give your bondservants what is just and fair knowing that you also have a Master in heaven." ***(also Ephesians 6:9 & James 5:1-8)*** **4:1**

- Whether a business owner, boss, teacher, pastor, etc. how does God expect those in authority to see and treat the employees, students or believers under their authority?
- What are biblical incentives for being gracious, Christ-like leaders to those under them?
- Talk about ways those in authority can evangelize and serve those they lead.

The Biblical Evangelism Responsibility

Preparation

"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us that God would open to us a door for the word to speak the mystery of Christ for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak." **4:2-4**

Presentation

"Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." **4:5-6**

- How can Christians be more effective in witnessing for Christ on the job, at school or other activities they have (sports, hobbies, recreation, 'causes', etc.)?