

Sometimes when a Christian's employer is also a Christian the employee expects special favours, and tends not to work as diligently as he otherwise would. What does *1Tim 6:2* say about this situation? _____

Read *1Pet 2:18-25*, and notice that this submissive attitude should be held, not only towards **good** employers, but also to the severe and unjust. The Lord is glorified in such behaviour.

“You employees, put your backs into the job you do for your earthly employers, not only trying to please them while they are watching you, but all the time; do it willingly because of your love for the Lord and your desire to please Him. Work hard and cheerfully in all you do, as men who are working for the Lord and not merely for bosses, remembering that it is the Lord Christ who is going to pay you, giving you abundant wages from all He owns.”

Col 3:23,24 (Michael Green's paraphrase.)

No 26

CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE COURSE

Study Twenty-six: The Christian and His/Her Work

In this study we will consider God's plan for us as far as employment is concerned. We need to make sure that we allow what God has done in our lives to affect the relationships we have with our employers/employees/and workmates.

GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN INCLUDED WORK

Before sin entered the world, and before the curse came upon mankind, God had given work and responsibility as a very important part of man's life. What work did God give to Adam?

Gen 2:15 _____

The curse came upon Adam, because he sinned. God sent him out of the garden to work by the sweat of his brow. What kind of work was given him to do? *Gen 3:23* _____

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE CHRISTIAN INCLUDES WORK

What key instructions are given to us regarding our manner of life in *1Thes 4:11,12*? _____

What does *1Tim 5:8* say concerning the person who does not provide for his own family? _____

(N.B. An infidel is an unbeliever)

What does *2Thes 3:10* say about those who don't work? _____

It is suggested in *2Thes 3:11* that if we do not work we become gossipers and troublemakers. In *v12* What command does Paul give to people like that? _____

THE CHRISTIAN EMPLOYER

In looking to the New Testament for principles to guide us in the realm of employer/employee relationships we go to the passages to do with masters and slaves, for the basic idea there, is employment.

The employer must give that which is just and equal to those who work for him. His conscience must help him in this. Give one good reason why the employer must be fair in dealing with his workers, *Col 4:1* _____

What must the Christian employer refrain from doing? *Eph 6:9* _____

Does the Lord favour the employer more than the employee?

Eph 6:9 _____

What is God's attitude toward the person who employs someone to do a job but does not give him his wages? *Jer 22:13; Jam 5:4*. _____

Jesus gave two instructions to those who are "greater" and "chief". Obedience to these instructions is the proof of greatness. What are these two instructions? *Lk 22:26*

- a. "He that is greatest among you _____
- b. "He that is chief or governs _____

How was Jesus a special example to those who are in superior positions? *Phil 2:5-7* _____

THE CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEE

Read *Col 3:22-24* and answer the following questions by underlining the **most correct statement or word**:

1. Servants (employees) are to obey their masters in all/some/no things.
2. Servants are to serve their employers by:
 - a. doing only what they are told to do.
 - b. doing a job to impress the boss.
 - c. doing more than what was expected.
3. We should do our work:
 - a. unwillingly, knowing that we are not being paid enough.
 - b. eagerly and willingly, trying to please the Lord.
 - c. with the idea that we'll show how inefficient the other workers are.

We may be serving the government, a business, a private employer or a Christian organisation, but:

1. If we are Christians, who are we really working for? *Col 3:23*. _____
2. Who, after all will reward us? *Col 3:24* _____

Christian employees should count their employers worthy of honour. Why? *1Tim 6:1* _____