

LIBERTI

*Practical*  
**CHRISTIAN  
LIVING**

**WORK**



# Ephesians 6:5-9



<sup>5</sup> Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, <sup>6</sup> not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup> rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, <sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.




# Ephesians 6:5-9



<sup>9</sup> 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.

# A Word On Slavery

-vs. 5a 

<sup>5</sup> Bondservants, obey your earthly masters

Generally most slaves were free by age thirty, either by purchasing their freedom or through government emancipation. And during their time as slaves, many people were given formal education and specialised job training that would greatly benefit them if they were eventually emancipated. Often, freed slaves became Roman citizens, and continued working with their former masters and employers.

- *Clinton Arnold*



Slaves comprised nearly 20-30% of the population in the Roman Empire and there were no class of slaves, for slaves occupied a great deal of positions in the society. They could have been household cleaners, family servants, business advisors, doctors, bankers, or property managers. In fact, slaves could own property, save money, get an education, and even have other slaves working for them.

r 4  
L

*- Clinton Arnold*

Rather than look for work every day without any certainty, many people in ancient Rome sold themselves into slavery to gain security.



*- Yale Anchor Bible Dictionary*

<sup>20</sup> Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. <sup>21</sup> Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) <sup>22</sup> For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord.

7 4  
L

**1 Corinthians 7:20-22a**



<sup>9</sup> **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, <sup>10</sup> the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, **enslavers**, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is **contrary to sound doctrine**.

7 4  
L

**1 Timothy 1:9-10**

<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus...

<sup>15</sup> For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. <sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

┌ 4  
└

**Philemon 1:10, 15-17**



# A Word To Employees

-vs. 5-8

<sup>5</sup> Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, <sup>6</sup> not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup> rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, <sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.

No work is so sordid and base that it is not reckoned precious in God's sight.



*- John Calvin*



When we work, we are the fingers of God, the agents of God's providential love for others.

*- Martin Luther*

<sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.



**Colossians 3:23-24**




Cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground.

7 4  
L

**Genesis 3:17b-19a**

# A Word To Employers

-vs. 9 

<sup>9</sup> 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.

We should think of our vocation therefore, not as a necessary evil to pay the bills, nor even as an opportunity to become rich, but as the primary path of our Christian walk where in God has planned good deeds for us to do... most of us spend half or more of our waking hours at our vocation. If we fail to find opportunities for good works there, we are throwing away half our lives as to the fulfilling of God's purpose for us here on earth... if we feel our particular job does not allow us to genuinely meet the needs of people, we ought to prayerfully consider a change.

*- Jerry Bridges*

