



“FAMILY BUSINESS!”

Ephesians Chapter 6:5-9

- President Abraham Lincoln spoke truth to Americans when he said: *“But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.”*
 - President Theodore Roosevelt warned Americans about our future when he said, *“I believe that the next half century will determine if we will advance the cause of Christian civilization or revert to the horrors of brutal paganism.”*
 - President Ronald Reagan foretold America’s demise when he said, *“If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a Nation gone under.”*
- There were over 6 million slaves in the Roman Empire at the time Paul pinned Ephesians, and slavery was an accepted institution. Paul's ministry was not to overthrow the Roman government or any of its institutions, but to preach the Gospel and win the lost to Christ. Certainly, the results of his evangelism ultimately led to the overthrow of the Roman Empire, but that was not Paul's main motive just as the preaching of Wesley and Whitefield resulted in the abolition of slavery and child labor, the elevation of women, and the care of the needy, so Paul's ministry contributed to the death of slavery and the encouragement of freedom.

~ **Verses 6 – 9 give us TEN MOTIVATIONAL PRINCIPLES for temporal / eternal BENEFITS and REWARDS:**

(v5-8) **Bondservants and Masters** can be used comparatively to our modern **Employee to Employer work ethic**. Let us look at:

- **MOTIVATION #1 – Be OBEДИENT to your employer** (the word “obedient” is *hupakouo* (*hoop-ak-oo'-o*); *to hear under (as a subordinate), i.e. to listen attentively; to heed or conform to a command or authority*) – An employee needs to discover their **JOB DESCRIPTION, EXPECTATIONS, REGULATIONS, and POLICIES**; then **JUST DO IT!**
- **MOTIVATION #2 – Work with FEAR and TREMBLING** – This is not telling us to be afraid of our employer, but work with a REVERENCE

AND RESPECT “*as to Christ*” and thus **REPRESENTING CHRIST** to your employer and fellow employees. Remember a doer of the Word presents a powerful testimony; let us walk the talk before we talk the walk.

- **MOTIVATION #3 – Work with SINCERITY OF HEART** – To be *sincere* is to be HONEST, not DECEITFUL, DON’T LIE, be GENUINE AND TRUE, **AS TO CHRIST!** Warren Wiersbe writes, “*The heart of every problem is the problem of the heart, and only God’s Spirit and God’s Word can change and control the heart.*”
- **MOTIVATION #4 – Not with EYESERVICE** – The old expression comes to mind, “When the cat is away the mice will play.” Guard yourself against laziness and a lack of discipline. Check out **Proverbs 6:1-11** – “Go to the ant.” 1 Timothy 5:8 – *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*
- **MOTIVATION #5 – Do not be a MEN-PLEASER** – Whether it is for the boss or your peers. In other words “**be a GOD-PLEASER**”; whereas you will not commit SIN to get ahead, get a pay raise or a promotion, or protect someone who has done wrong. **Maintain VIRTUE and SOUND BUSINESS ETHICS.**
- **MOTIVATION #6 – Be a BONDSERVANT OF CHRIST at work** – How? Work unto the Lord, start your day in prayer and His Word then work faithfully, be timely, be fair, be courteous, be kind, be positive, and be vibrant and alive!
 - **The word SERVANT is found 522 times in the Bible.** Jesus said in Mark 10:42-45 – “*You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*”
- **MOTIVATION #7 – DOING THE WILL OF GOD FROM THE HEART** – What would be the will of God for you at work? Jesus said, “**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**” (Matthew 5:16) Attitude, attitude, attitude!
- **MOTIVATION #8 – WITH GOODWILL DOING SERVICE** – Your “**GOODWILL**” and “**SERVICE**” will develop a **TEAM SPIRIT OF**

SUCCESS, which brings prosperity to the company, your boss, yourself and fellow employees. Your success brings prosperity to your family, your community, your city, your state, and your country.

- **MOTIVATION #9 – KNOWING THAT WHATEVER GOOD ANYONE DOES, HE WILL RECEIVE THE SAME FROM THE LORD** – The word **RECEIVE** means that **God will provide for you, take care of you, tend to your needs.** Famous employees are found in the Scriptures; we find them promoted to incredible leadership positions; for example there's Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, and Nehemiah; and in the New Testament we have Peter, James, and John as fishermen, Matthew a tax collector, Paul the tentmaker, let us not forget the carpenter's son, our Lord Jesus who was and is **SERVANT TO ALL!**
- **(v9) MOTIVATION #10 – Masters, that is EMPLOYERS DO THE SAME THINGS (which is #'s 1 thru 9) TO YOUR EMPLOYEES AND GIVE UP THREATENING** - John D. Rockefeller, Sr. one of the richest men in history, was once asked how much money it takes to make a man happy. Rockefeller's famous reply was, "*just a little bit more.*"

- Remember, 1 Timothy 6:10-12 - *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

- John Wesley speaks to our hearts when he said, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

- Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 6:17-19- *Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

- Matthew 16:25-27- *For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the*

glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

- The key to success is found in Matthew 6:24-34

- Let us look forward to Matthew 25:14-30.

Two Days We Should Not Worry

By Author Unknown

There are two days in every week, about which we should not worry, two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is Yesterday with all its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains.

Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control.

All the money in the world cannot bring back Yesterday.

**We cannot undo a single act we performed;
we cannot erase a single word we said.**

Yesterday is gone forever.

The other day we should not worry about is Tomorrow with all its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and its poor performance; Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control.

**Tomorrow's sun will rise,
either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds, but it will rise.**

**Until it does, we have no stake in Tomorrow,
for it is yet to be born.**

This leaves only one day, Today.

Any person can fight the battle of just one day.

**It is when you and I add the burdens of those two awful eternities
Yesterday and Tomorrow that we break down.**

**It is not the experience of Today that drives a person mad,
it is the remorse or bitterness of something which happened Yesterday
and the dread of what Tomorrow may bring.**

**Let us, therefore,
Live but one day at a time**