

*Heaven's HR Dept.***I. Announce:**

- A. **Welcome those online.*
- B. **Slide1 Harvest Festival:** We will also have **food available for purchase**. We will be in need of **baked goods** delivered to the church office or you can bring them to the event from October 29-31.
- C. **Slide2 Thanksgiving Eve Service:** Wed, Nov 26, 6:30pm, whole church family. We will share a time of **worship** and a **short message**. *After that we will head outside where the kids will have an opportunity to work on a Thanksgiving craft. And we will have pie and coffee and cocoa for a time of fellowship.*
- D. **Slide3 Community Food Pantry Drive:** Please bring to church by this Sun 11/2. No glass jars or expired items.
- E. **Slide4 Women's Christmas Celebration:** Ladies Christmas Celebration on Sat, 12/6 9-11am, followed by a craft boutique in the gym. *There will be great coffee and food trucks to enjoy while you shop. free event*, but if you'd like to **donate lip gloss to TREASURES** for their outreach bags, please bring it to the event. *A small way to help make a big impact in helping girls get out of a life of exploitation.*
- F. **Slide5 Church Prayer:** Join us this Sun 1:30pm in the Agape Room.
- G. **Slide6 IDOP:** Sssshhhh.
- H. **Slide7 Prayer:** *And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God.* Eccl.3:13

II. Slide8 Intro: Heaven's HR Dept.

- A. **Slide9 "Where Do You (or Have You) Worked?"** (raise hand, after each)
 - 1. **Medical Field:** Who's in the medical field (doctors, nurses, caregivers, therapists)?
 - 2. **Education:** Teachers, professors, coaches, or school staff?
 - 3. **Construction/Trades:** Anyone in building, repairs, mechanics, or engineering?
 - 4. **Business/Tech/Office Work:** Office jobs, business, finance, or tech?
 - 5. **Service Industry:** Retail, restaurants, hospitality, customer service?

6. **Public Service**: Law enforcement, military, fire, or first responders?
7. **Agriculture/Outdoors**: Farming, landscaping, environmental work?
8. **Creative/Media**: Artists, photographers, writers, or musicians?
9. **Home/Family Work**: Stay-at-home parents, homeschoolers, caregivers?
10. **Ministry/Nonprofit/Missions**: Church staff, counselors, volunteers?
11. **Retired**: Who's retired but still serving somewhere?
12. **Students**: Who's studying or learning as your main work right now?
 - a) *Whatever you do, do it unto the Lord* - truly touches every kind of work.

B. Slide 10 Cultural Setting.

C. In Paul's day, slavery (Greek: *doulos*) was a common part of Greco-Roman life. Roughly **1/3** of the pop. of Ephesus would've been enslaved in some way.

1. Most slaves were **household servants**, **not field laborers** (as in later *Western* slavery), **and** many were **educated professionals** (teachers, doctors, artisans, accountants).
2. While Roman slavery was still **unjust** and **exploitative**, it was **not race-based** and slaves could often **purchase or earn freedom**.

D. Paul's Approach.

E. Paul **doesn't** endorse slavery; **rather**, *he plants the seeds that ultimately undermine it*.

1. He **elevates slaves to moral equals**: they can serve **as unto Christ**.
2. He **reminds masters** that they too have **a Master in heaven**.
3. The gospel here is **transforming social relationships from within**, **not** through **revolt** **but** through **redemptive redefinition** - both slave and master stand equal before Christ. Gal. 3:28 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus*.

F. Application Today.

G. Whether slave or free reminds us that this passage directly applies to the **employer/employee relationship** (authority, submission, work ethic, **and** accountability under God).

1. It's a theology of work as worship!

H. Here Paul steps into the real world of work (not a fantasy church world) **but** the world of *masters and servants, bosses and employees*. **And** what he teaches here can **transform any workplace into a place of worship**.

1. He tells both workers and leaders: *Whatever you do, do it as unto the Lord*.
In other words - *you work for Jesus ... and that changes everything!*

III. Slide11 1. WORK HEARTILY (5-6)

A. *Bondservants, 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 bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,*

B. Obedience ... with fear and trembling - respectful reverence, **not** servile fear.

C. Not with eye-service - don't just perform when being watched.

1. When painting the Sistine Chapel, **Michelangelo** was asked *why he took such care painting details on the high ceiling no one would see*.

He replied, *"God will see."* [we serve an unseen, **but** watching Master]

D. As to Christ reframes all work - *your boss isn't your ultimate boss*.

E. *"The Christian's work is not secular; it's sacred when done for a sacred Master."*

Warren Wiersbe

IV. Slide12a 2. SERVE WILLINGLY (7)

A. *Rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man,*

B. Good will - a willing spirit, joyful cooperation.

C. The workplace becomes *a mission field* when we work with a **gospel** heart.

D. Our **attitude** matters as much as our **output**. [isn't just competence it's *Christlike character*]

E. Col. 3:23: *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men*.

F. A **janitor** at NASA in the 1960s was asked, *"What's your job here?"* He replied, *"I'm helping put a man on the moon."* [he understood his small role in a great mission]

1. Slide12b No task is too small when done for *a great God*. The gospel lifts *the mundane* into *the meaningful*.

V. Slide13a 3. RECEIVE JUSTLY (8,9)

- A. *Knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will **receive back** from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. 9 **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.* [Lead w/fairness]
- B. *God is the ultimate rewarder* - no good deed goes unseen.
- C. *Earthly masters* are reminded: you also have *a heavenly Master* who shows no partiality.
- D. *The gospel equalizes the workplace* - no favoritism, no threats, no pride.
 1. Abraham Lincoln once said, “*Nearly all men can stand **adversity**, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him **power**.*” [the gospel teaches us to use power to **serve**, **not** to rule].
 2. *If you’re a Leader: lead as a servant. If you’re a Worker: serve as a leader.*
 - a) *Whether you’re at the **top** or **bottom** of the **org chart**, you’re under Christ’s authority. Whether you work with your **hands** or your **head**, you’re building something eternal.*
- E. “*The gospel doesn’t erase authority; it **sanctifies** it.*” - John Stott
 1. *Now, imagine an Ephesian house-church - slaves and masters sitting side by side, reading this letter aloud. Paul levels the ground by saying, “**You both have the same Master.**”*
 - a) Slide13b The gospel dismantled hierarchy **not by revolt**, but by **relationship**.
- F. *Key Takeaways*
 1. **Work** becomes **Worship**. **Leadership** becomes **Stewardship**. And the **Workplace** becomes a **Mission Field**.

2. CM saints, **Serve** like **Jesus** is standing beside you ... **because He is!**
3. *“Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it.”* Zig Ziglar

G. Questions:

- H. How do you think God feels about **ordinary jobs**, like cleaning, filing, cooking, driving, changing diapers, etc.?
- I. How does **the gospel** transform the way we **treat difficult people** at work?
- J. What happens to our witness when we **complain** about our work or coworkers?
- K. How does knowing God shows “*no partiality*” change the way we see people in **different job roles**?
- L. Can you think of **1 positive attitude change** you can make this week, where you work?
- M. How can your work this week become your **worship**?

N. **Read** Phil.2:1-4 *msg.*

O. Keywords: work, lead, jobs.