

The Bottom Line

Colossians 3:23,24

I. Serve God Rather Than People

A. Do everything in life as an assignment from God. And *whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord*, and not unto men; (COLOSSIANS 3:23)

B. Every task a believer undertakes deserves thanks to the Lord of Providence Who assigned it. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.* (COLOSSIANS 3:17)

C. Consider the example of Hezekiah's dedication from the heart. And *in every work that he began* in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, *he did it with all his heart, and prospered.* (2 CHRONICLES 31:21)

D. A task derives its meaning from the way in which it is performed by a believer. Seeing *ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth* through the Spirit *unto unfeigned love of the brethren*, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: (1 PETER 1:22)

E. Develop an eye for the larger picture – IN EVERYTHING BELIEVERS BELONG TO THE LORD. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: *whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.* (ROMANS 14:8)

F. Believers serve husbands, bosses, teachers, and parents in order to serve God. Wives, *submit yourselves* unto your own husbands, *as unto the Lord.* (EPHESIANS 5:22)

G. Faking may work with men but it won't work with God. Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, *as to the Lord, and not to men:* (EPHESIANS 6:6-7)

II. God Rewards the Faithful

A. Abraham, the pattern of faith, expected his reward from God, not from the world. *By faith Abraham*, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, *obeyed*; and he went out, *not knowing whither he went.* By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling

in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: ***For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*** (HEBREWS 11:8-10) After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, ***Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.*** (GENESIS 15:1)

B. It is the faith which makes any service rewardable. But *without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.* (HEBREWS 11:6)

C. What can't be done in God's presence can't be rewarded – BY DEFINITION. *If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.* (JOHN 12:26)

D. Paul abandoned a great career and refused to do what would guarantee public success because he understood that only what satisfies God matters in the end. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for *if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.* (GALATIANS 1:10)

E. The hope for eternal glory comes from the presence of Christ in a life. To whom God would make known *what is the riches of the glory of this mystery* among the Gentiles; which is *Christ in you, the hope of glory.*** (COLOSSIANS 1:27)**

III. The Faithless Also Get Their Reward

A. God will not forget to reward the guilty, or wink at the indiscretions of His own people. But *he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.* (COLOSSIANS 3:25)

B. Though believers are saved entirely by grace, there will still be an accounting for the investment God made in them. For *we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body,* according to that he hath done, whether *it be good or bad.* (2 CORINTHIANS 5:10)

C. God is not an earthly judge who can be bought or secretly influenced in a case. For the LORD your *God is God of gods,* and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, *which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:*** (DEUTERONOMY 10:17)**

D. Having received fair warning, believers live intentionally holy lives. And if ye call on *the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work,* Pass the Time of Your Sojourning Here in Fear: (1 PETER 1:17)

E. God will settle accounts with those who neglected His standard for some other. And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, ***the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds*** which they have ungodly committed, ***and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*** These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and ***their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.*** (JUDE 14-16)