

Finance Report

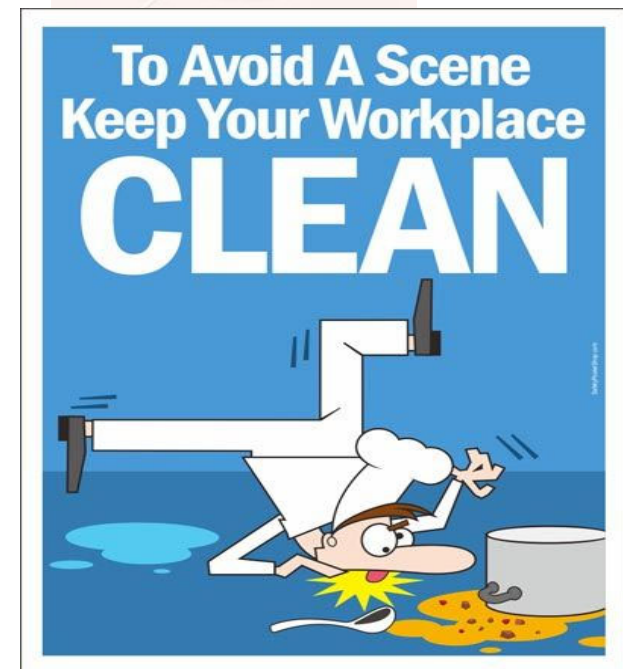
Christians in the Workplace

Introduction / God's Viewpoint of Our Work

April 12, 2023

What this class is not

- How to be more efficient at work
- What to do to get that next promotion
- How to write a resume
- Polish up on your customer service
- How to re-sort your spam folder
- Identifying work skills
- Ways to be more productive
- Become CPR trained
- Earn continuing education credits



Goals for this class



1. Work for God's glory rather than our own
2. Identify, Plan, and Be Purposeful about overcoming the spiritual challenges of our main vocation
3. Be a more Christ-like example to our co-workers and others we interact with during work time.
4. Make more godly decisions while on work time.

Class Schedule

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Application for All

- Lessons emphasize principles that apply to many situations in our lives
- Applies equally to those who currently have employment and those without employment
- Every job & work environment is different, all can add to experience of this study
- Comments and discussion are not just welcomed, they are vital to the depth of our study together

Working Combinations

- Patrick Mahomes & Travis Kelce
- Michael Jordan & Scottie Pippen
- Maddux, Glavine, Smoltz
- Laverne and Shirley
- Bert and Ernie
- Tom and Jerry
- Peanut Butter & Chocolate
- Chips and Queso
- Work and Church



Christians need to recognize that every part of life is to be devoted and directed by will of Christ.

- **Put On the New Self**
- **Colossians 3** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
- ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Paul's example

Straining toward the goal



- **Philippians** ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.
- ¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

God's view of our work

- God expects us to work and engage in the activities of the world
- Work in the Old Testament
 - Abraham, Lot, Joseph, Moses, David, Daniel
 - Exodus 31:1-10, 35:10, 35:30-36:2
 - Ecclesiastes 9:10
 - Psalms 128:2
- Work in the New Testament
 - Lydia – Acts 16:14
 - Luke – Colossians 4:14
 - Erastus - Romans 16:23
 - Manaen – Acts 13:1

Paul

Acts 18:1-3 ; 1 Thess 2:9 ; II Thess 3:8 ; Acts 20: 34-35

- What was Paul's occupation ?
- Who were his co-workers ?
- How does Paul describe his labor ?
- What was the purpose behind Paul's labor ?
- What does Paul say his work accomplished ?
- What was the lesson they were to learn from his example, as reinforced by the words of Christ ?

Idleness

II Thess 3:6-12

6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

Responsibility to Provide

I Timothy 5: 8

- 5 She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, 6 but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives.
- 7 Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. 8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Opportunity to change

Ephesians 4:28

- 25 Therefore, having **put away falsehood**, let each one of you **speak the truth** with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. 28 Let the thief **no longer steal**, but rather **let him labor, doing honest work** with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let **no corrupting talk** come out of your mouths, but only such as is **good for building up**, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to **those who hear**.

Class 1 take-aways



- Lessons will emphasize principles that apply to our entire life
- Be a Christ like example to our co-workers
- God expects us to work and honor him while doing so
- After each lesson, pray about what we learn and keep eyes open for opportunities to apply His principles
- You are going to find what you are looking for.....

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Christians in the Workplace

Lesson 2 - Work Unto God, Not Unto Men

Class Goals

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- Lessons 1-3: Biblical Foundations
- Lessons 4-6: Issues w/ the Pursuit & Achievement of Success
- Lessons 7-8: Issues w/ Work Adversity & Failures
- Lessons 9-12: Workplace Temptations & Challenges

What are the reasons the world works?

Money

Provide for Self/Family

Give Life Purpose

Stay Healthy

Feel Like I Have to Work

Community

Earn Respect

Get Away From My Spouse

Results of the worldview of work?

Temporary Happiness

Stress

Anxiety

Fear

Loss of Sleep (Poor Health)

Resentment

Lying for Gain

Frustrations

Worldview of work...

- **Leads us down a path where priority/justification/identity is looked for in the wrong places**
- **Modern Work vs. Biblical Work**
- **"if we really believed this proposition and arranged our work and our standard of values accordingly, we should no longer think of work as something that we hastened to get through in order to enjoy our leisure; we should look on our leisure as the period of changed rhythm that refreshed us for the delightful purpose of getting on with our work."**

Dorothy Sayers - "Why Work"

Ephesians 6:5-9

⁵ 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, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸ 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.

Colossians 3:22-4:1

²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

4 Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Who Is Our Audience When We Work?

- **This concept was world-changing! How?**
- **It gave slaves (and now us) something which makes work bearable.**
- **What about this concept makes our work bearable now?**
 - **All work is valuable and justifiable when done for the Lord!**
 - **Changes priority for where we seek approval.**
 - **Prevents us from both overwork & underwork!**

"Christians, you see, have been set free to enjoy working. If we begin to work as if we are serving the Lord, we will be freed from both overwork and underwork. Neither the prospect of money and acclaim, nor the lack of it, will be our controlling consideration. Work will be primarily a way to please God by doing his work in the world, for his name's sake"

-Timothy Keller - *Every Good Endeavor*

Overwork

- **Always seeking to get ahead, be promoted, appease others/admin, seek justification from the wrong people**
- **Get burned out!**

Underwork

- **Ephesians 6:6 - "not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christs..."**
- **Do we do the bare minimum when no one is watching? When the boss is out of town, do we slack off?**
- **"Work to please God, not to appease God" - Keller**

Bearable Work Cont'd...

- **When we understand that all work is a calling from God, then our mindset changes regarding our vocation.**
- **Ephesians 6:9 - "...there is no partiality with Him."**
- **Slaves = Masters**
- **How does this change our outlook on not only our work, but the work of others?**
- **All Work is Honorable in God's eyes!**

A Change in Perspective

- **If we started to work for the Lord and not for men or ourselves would we....**
 - **Get to work on time?**
 - **Change our attitudes about our jobs? Work harder? Not work as much?**
 - **Prepare sooner for upcoming projects, and not procrastinate?**

Why should we serve God in our work?

- **Ephesians 5:21 - "out of reverence for Christ"**
- **Christ first served us!**
- **Romans 5:7-8**
- **Jesus is the only supervisor, boss, administrator that was willing to die for you!**

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Christians in the Workplace

Viewpoint of Others – Working as Godly Examples

April 26, 2023

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Idleness

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Two lessons down, 1 to go

- Seen the importance God places on work
- Understand the expectation that we will not be idle
- We will provide for those under our responsibility
- Attitude we are working for the Lord
 - Not self
 - Not merely for the boss
 - Not to chase the \$\$\$

Tonight our focus will be on:

The Effect of our actions in the workplace

We do not belong to this world, but we have to live in this world for a time

- Hebrews 11: 13-16 ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.
- Philippians 2: 14-15 ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Christians must live in the world

- **1 Peter 2: 11-12** ¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.
- How clear is Peter about living in the world and apart from it ?
- What kind of conduct must we have among unbelievers ?
- What may be the initial result of our example ?
- Why do you think the example may be more powerful over time ?
- If so, what traits are required of us to accomplish this?
- What would be the ultimate result of our example ?

My Work & Life example



What to do.....**Be known**

- **Be known** as **fair**, **caring**, and **committed** to others

Eph. 4:32 Matthew 6:12

- **Be known** as **generous**

1 Timothy 6:17-19 II Corinthians 9: 6-15

- **Be known** as **calm** and **poised in the face of difficulty or failure**

Poised (Synonym) - Composure, Balance, Self Control, Dignity

(Antonym) - Rage, turbulence, agitation, anger

Mark 4: 35-41 911 call

My Work & Life example

What to do.....**Be known**



- Be known as **authentic**

Synonyms – real, true, genuine, pure

Antonyms – false, counterfeit, artificial, erroneous

- Be known as **diligent**

Synonyms – patient, busy, hardworking, active

Antonyms – unconcerned, indifferent, apathetic, lethargic, careless

- Be NOT KNOWN for Gossip

At Work

Be known



- Be known as **fair**, **caring**, and **committed** to others
- Be known as **generous**
- Be known as **calm** and **poised in the face of difficulty or failure**
- Be known as **authentic**
- Be known as **diligent**

.....to shine as a beacon of light for His glory

- Be NOT KNOWN for Gossip

Class 3 take-aways



- God's view - work is a good thing and generally expected of us. It is not a separate part of life unrelated to our service to Him, but from God's view it is a righteous endeavor and one where our conduct must honor him.
- Our view – We should work to please God, not to please others and not for some selfish end. Work is one location where we can express our faith and devotion to God.
- View of others – The world is watching and we seek, not to please them, but to influence them by being a living example of the gospel's power.
- Pray about what we learn and keep eyes open for opportunities to apply His principles and be the light in the world.
- You are going to find what you are looking for.....

Christians in the Workplace

Lesson 4 - Pride and Competition

Class Goals

- 1. Work for God's Glory rather than our own.**
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- Lessons 1-3: Biblical Foundations
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Review-Biblical Foundations

1. God's Viewpoint on Work

- We are required to work in order to live.
- God created us to work and cultivate His creation (Gen. 2)
- We should not be idle in our work, but do GOOD work for Him.

2. Our Viewpoint of Work

- Work for the Lord, and not just earthly masters (Eph. 6, Col. 3)
- Working for the Lord makes our work bearable.
- We work for Him because he first served us (Eph. 5:21)

3. Others' Viewpoint on Our Work

- Other people are constantly watching our approach to work.
- We are not working to please others, but rather to influence them by being an example of Christ through our work.

Case Study of Pride-Nebuchadnezzar

- Daniel 1
 - Nebuchadnezzar besieges Jerusalem
 - Daniel "chosen" by Nebuchadnezzar
- Daniel 2
 - Nebuchadnezzar has first dream; no one can interpret and he vows to destroy "wise men" (vs. 12)
 - Dream revealed to Daniel when he asked God, and Daniel praised God (vs. 20-23); he then interprets dream and king praises "Daniel's God".
- Daniel 3
 - Nebuchadnezzar creates a golden image, and requires all to bow down to him
 - Shadrech, Meshech, and Abednego are thrown into furnace but come out unscathed; King astonished and praised their God

Nebuchadnezzar Cont'd

- Daniel 4
 - First praises God (vs. 3) and all was "at ease".
 - King has second dream
 - A great tree whose top "reached to heaven" (vs. 11)
 - A holy one came down from heaven, stump was left, etc.
 - Daniel again interprets the dream
 - Tells King that he will be like beasts of the field (vs. 25) until he knows the Most High rules the earth.
-

Did King Nebuchadnezzar learn his lesson?

Dan. 4:28-33

Final Conclusion?

Dan. 4:34-37

God's View on Pride

1. God Hates Pride!

- Proverbs 6:16-19
 - "Haughty Eyes" - superior viewpoint
- Psalm 101:5

2. Anyone who believes they are equal/above God He will knock down.

- Jeremiah 27:6 - God placed Nebuchadnezzar in this position, and he failed to realize where his fortune came from
- Psalm 10:4

"Pride in the religious sense is the arrogant refusal to let God be God. It is to grab God's status for one's self. In the vivid language of the Bible, pride is puffing yourself up in God's face. Pride is turning down God's invitation to join the dance of life as a creature in His garden and wishing instead to be the Creator, Independent, reliant on one's own resources. Never does pride want to pray for strength, ask for grace, plead for mercy, and give thanks to God."

-Lewis Smedes

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- Jeremiah 27:6 - God placed Nebuchadnezzar in this position, and he failed to realize where his fortune came from
- Psalm 10:4

3. God is the creator and deserves ALL the credit!

- When we take credit for things God has done, we become our own "god" and blind ourselves on how dependent we are of Him.

What characteristics make the perfect employee?

1. Reliability
2. Team Player
3. Self-Awareness
4. Good Co-Worker
5. Knowledgeable

If we are serving God like we should be in our work, success and accomplishments are something that inherently will occur.

How can success lead to pride being a concern?

- People praising you for your good work
- May detect admiration or envy from co-workers, thus telling yourself you are better than they are.
- **Pride is the failure to recognize the gifts we have been given!**
 - **1 Corinthians 4:6-7**
- Pride effects our abilities to spread His word through our lives.

How does pride deter our influence at work for Christ?

1. Unable to empathize with those around you
 - Compassion for those around you will be non-existent
2. Led by ego-driven instincts

"Now what I want you to get clear is that pride is essentially competitive - is competitive by its very nature...Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others."

-C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity"

How does pride deter our influence at work for Christ?

1. Unable to empathize with those around you
2. Led by ego-driven instincts
3. Incapable of Godly Traits
 - II Timothy 3:2-5
 - A life of self-glorification makes love and unity with other people nearly impossible because of our outlook on them.

How do we overcome the pride in work?

- Understand what Christ did for us.
- Christ was really "master of the universe", unlike Nebuchadnezzar, and He gave it up for us.
- Isaiah 52:14 - Christ's resemblance was "beyond human" so that He could be glorified.
- We need God's mercy and grace to rid ourselves of pride!

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Materialism

May 10, 2023

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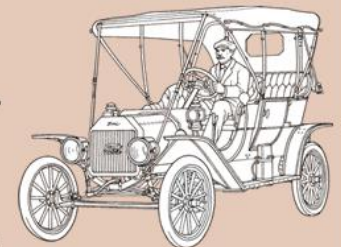


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He who dies with the most toys.....

WINS
NOTHING...



your  cards
someecards.com

1. Google

ma·te·ri·al·ism

2. Dictionary.com

[mə-'tir-ē-ə-, li-zəm](#) , noun

1. a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as **more important than spiritual** values.

"they hated the sinful materialism of the wicked city"

2. preoccupation with or emphasis on material objects, comforts, and considerations, with a **disinterest in or rejection of spiritual**, intellectual, or cultural values.

Cambridge Definition: Materialism

the **belief** that having **money and possessions is the most important thing** in life:

Belief – Actions consistently show heart is focused on money and possessions while rejecting spiritual guidance

Synonyms:

greedy

temporal

earthly-minded

object-oriented

profane

acquisitive

earthy

possessive

secular

banalistic

material

terrestrial

sensual

caral

mundane

unspiritual

Antonyms: Spiritualism

Bible speaks about Materialism



1John 2: 15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Bible is clear: Materialism is a sin



Philippians 3: 18-19

18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

What is their God ?

In what do they find glory ?

Where is their mindset ?

Its an attitude.

Bible clarifies what is to be treasured



- Matthew 6: 19-24
- Where are we to lay up our treasures ?
- Where is our heart ?
- What choice must we all make (v24) ?

Paul

Acts 18:1-3 ; 1 Thess 2:9 ; II Thess 3:8 ; Acts 20: 34-35

- What was Paul's occupation ?
- Who were his co-workers ?
- How does Paul describe his labor ?
- What was the purpose behind Paul's labor ?
- What does Paul say his work accomplished ?
- What was the lesson they were to learn from his example, as reinforced by the words of Christ ?
- Bonus thought: Proverbs 4: 23-27

Proper Attitude toward Material Success

Attitude God expects of us

1 Timothy 6

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

17 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Work and Materialism

What opportunities exist in your workplace to make more money?

How can these opportunities turn into temptations to sin ?

Accountability buddy, Selfie check, pray about

Freestyle talk about Materialism

What further questions about items or situations would you like to discuss as a group ?

Examples of materialism in and around your life that you would like to discuss?

Class 5 take-aways



- Materialism is the actions that show one feels that money and possessions are the most important aspects of life.

It is a characteristic opposite of what God expects of us and HE defines it as SIN.
- Materialism is an attitude of defiance to God, _____ can be our god
- Biblical examples show us that our extra material success should be used to help others
- Pray about the funds and resources that you have that you will use it wisely for His glory
- You are going to find what you are looking for.....

Christians in the Workplace

Lesson 6 - Misplaced Priorities

Class Goals

- 1. Work for God's Glory rather than our own.**
- 2. Identify and Endeavor to overcome the spiritual challenges of our main vocation.**
- 3. Be a more Christ-like example to our co-workers.**
- 4. Make more Godly decisions in the workplace.**

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| June 28, 2023 | Stress and Anxiety/Conclusion | Jon Whitaker |

- Lessons 1-3: Biblical Foundations
- Lessons 4-6: Issues w/ the Pursuit & Achievement of Success
- Lessons 7-8: Issues w/ Work Adversity & Failures
- Lessons 9-12: Workplace Temptations & Challenges

Review of “Issues w/ Pursuit & Achievement of Success

- **Pride:**

- Success inherently occurs when we are working w/ God as our master.
- Stop trying to be the creator, and instead embrace being the created. Give God all credit for our success.
- Pride in the workplace inhibits our ability to influence those we encounter.

- **Materialism:**

- Lavish/Expensive does not mean “materialism”.
- Materialism is totally dependent on our attitude towards worldly possessions.
- “He who dies with the most toys....wins nothing!”

Let's figure out our priorities!

1. Our Faith
2. Our Families
3. Brethren/Other People
4. Our Job/Vocation
5. Myself

Matthew 13:44-46

- Context for “Parable of the Hidden Treasure”
 - Money was not a commodity like it is today.
 - People buried their money to keep it safe, and often times would die/forget where they buried it and it would be left.
- Context for “Parable of the Pearl”
 - Pearls were more valuable then than they are now.
 - Cleopatra was said to have owned the most expensive pearl ever....worth \$30 million (approximately).
 - “Merchant” implies someone who knew what they were doing when it comes to gems/pearls.

Lessons from the Parables

1. Both “treasures” were something that had to be sought after.
 - God is no different.
 - Jeremiah 29:13
2. Worth more than everything they owned.
 - What are we willing to sacrifice in order to receive the Kingdom of Heaven?
 - Everything? **Mark 10:17-22**
3. They understood the benefits overshadowed the cost!
 - vs. 44 - “in his joy...”
 - Not a burden, but a “reward”!

Let's figure out our priorities!

1. Our Faith
2. Our Families
3. Brethren/Other People
4. Our Job/Vocation
5. Myself

****What do you do when these conflict with one another?**

Company “Priorities”

- Success
- Integrity
- Quality
- Customers
- Employees

What potential issues could there be with this?

How do you determine which one is the most important?

The #1 “Priority”...

1. Integrity

- **Would this always be easy?**
- 1982 - Johnson & Johnson
- “Customers First”
- First “recall” of a product in an attempt to make things right with their consumers, and it cost them \$\$ millions!
- Having one “priority” made the decision easy!

What is our “priority”?

1. God/Our Faith
2. Our Families
3. Brethren/Other People
4. Our Job/Vocation
5. Myself

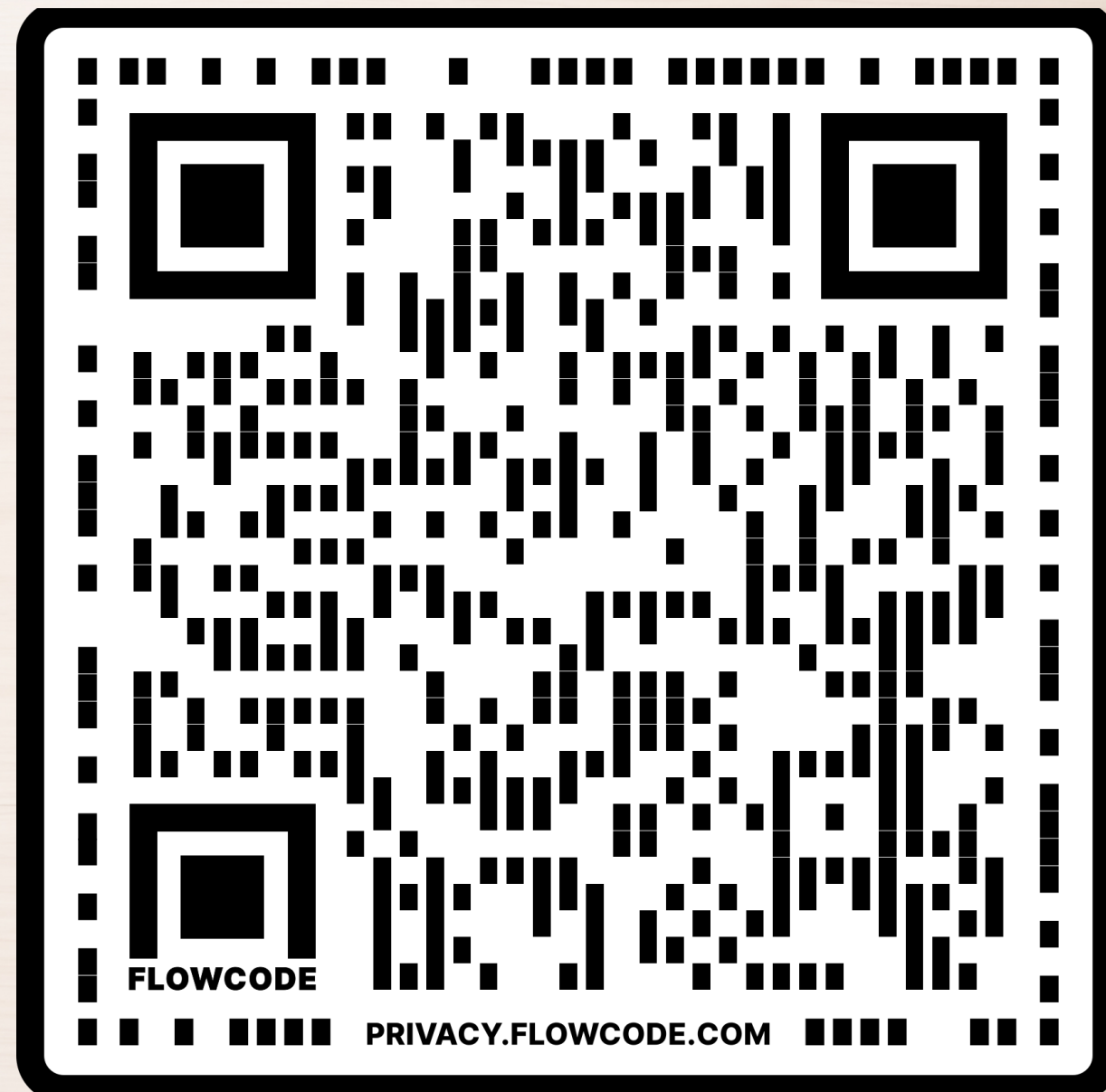
God/Our Faith!

How do we deal with other things on our list?

- Family?
 - Colossians 3:18-21
- Brethren/Other People?
 - Colossians 3:5-17
- Work?
 - Colossians 3:22-4:1
- Myself?
 - Colossians 3:1-4

****If God is our top priority we can have peace in all other decisions!**

Case Study



Case Study

John Goodman is 32, married with two children ages 4 and 6. John has been a Christian since he was 14, and he and his wife and children are members of the Fifth Street Church of Christ. John is an attorney in the corporate division of a law firm. John has had a successful career by any measure: excellent performance reviews, regular raises, and several clients who have asked specifically for John to be assigned to their account. John has enjoyed his position. The work has been interesting, the partners of the firm are morally minded, and he has never been asked by a client to do something that would violate his conscience.

Nevertheless, John has an uneasy feeling about the effect of his job on his family and he is beginning to worry if it is affecting his relationship with Christ. Two years ago, a favorite client went through a series of business transactions that required John to work 65 to 75 hours a week for several months. He remembered going days in a row without any meaningful interaction with his children. He missed the Wednesday services on a regular basis, and during the Fall gospel meeting, he was only able to attend the Sunday morning service. Yesterday, he heard that this client was preparing to go through an even more intense period of transactions. One of the partners has come to John with "good news". This client has stated John's work will be a critical factor in their success and a primary reason why they have continued to use John's firm. The partner points out if all goes well, this opportunity will almost certainly assure John's chance of making partner at the firm.

Instead of being excited, John is worried about his soul. He also worries that another period of intense work will reduce the spiritual influence he feels he should have in the lives of his wife and children. John has calculated that if he were unemployed, he has savings sufficient for six months. The job market for corporate attorneys is not good at the moment, and he wonders how he would ever explain his decision to leave. He can't imagine getting a recommendation from anyone at his firm if he left at such a critical moment. He has come to you for advice.

Case Study - John

- What questions would you have for John in this scenario?
- Do you have any advice in mind?

Christians in the Workplace

Adversity and Failure at Work Bitterness & Resentment

May 24, 2023

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Goals for this class



1. Work for God's glory rather than our own
2. Identify, Plan, and Be Purposeful about overcoming the spiritual challenges of our main vocation
3. Be a more Christ-like example to our co-workers and others we interact with during work time.
4. Make more godly decisions while on work time.

Dry Erase Board Time



In each column, list job related :

Failures / Less than desired outcome

Challenges / Circumstances beyond our control

Adversities / Ongoing negative circumstance(s)

Proper Attitude toward Material Success

Attitude God expects of us

1 Timothy 6

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

17 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Pride and Adversity/Failure at work

James 4: 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1 Peter 5 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world

Materialism and Adversity/Failure at work

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Luke 12 13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” 14 But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” 15 And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” 16 And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ 18 And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Misplaced Priorities and Adversity/Failure at work

Matthew 10 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Bitterness & Resentment and other sins

Ephesians 4 ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Bitterness & Resentment and other sins

Hebrews 12: 14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

Proverbs 14: 29 Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding,

but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.

30 A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh,
but envy makes the bones rot.

Bitterness & Resentment and other sins

Philippians 2: 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

View from Foundational lessons



- God's view of work – If we are bitter or angry, we should think again about what we are trying to accomplish. Are our goals and our jobs in harmony with God's or are we frustrated over our failure to accomplish something of a more personal basis ?
- Our view , working unto the Lord – For whom are we working? Is it primarily for us and to build up our own pride or sense of accomplishment?
- View of others – Are we really concerned about the example we set? What better time to shine our light than when we have been misused. Consider that 1 Peter 1:12 speaks of visitation which may be a reference to a period of trial, whether for us or for those who observe our conduct.

Freestyle talk about Bitterness & Resentment

What further questions about items or situations would you like to discuss as a group ?

Examples of bitterness , resentment, or adversity/failure around your life that you would like to discuss?

Class 7 take-aways



- Whether we have Success or Failure, Monetary gain or monetary loss at work....God has the same expectations for our actions.
- Avoid blaming others when difficulties at work arise, this can lead to bitterness through anger, frustration, or envy
- Biblical examples should guide us away from sinning in this manner
- Pray about the failures, adversities, on-going temptations to act, react, or thinking in ways of bitterness/resentment.
- You are going to find what you are looking for.....

Christians in the Workplace

Lesson 8 - Discouragement

Class Goals

- 1. Work for God's Glory rather than our own.**
- 2. Identify and Endeavor to overcome the spiritual challenges of our main vocation.**
- 3. Be a more Christ-like example to our co-workers.**
- 4. Make more Godly decisions in the workplace.**

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- Lessons 1-3: Biblical Foundations
- Lessons 4-6: Issues w/ the Pursuit & Achievement of Success
- Lessons 7-8: Issues w/ Work Adversity & Failures
- Lessons 9-12: Workplace Temptations & Challenges

Adversity & Failures Review

Bitterness & Resentment

- Avoid blaming others when difficulties at work arise.
- Pray about the failures/adversities/temptations to act, react and think in ways that show bitterness towards other people.
- Pride/Materialism/Misplaced Priorities can be problematic not only with success, but also failures at work.

How can we become discouraged at work?

- 30 year employee being terminated due to downsizing
- Old boss has left the company, and new boss comes in with “new ideas”
- Overlooked for promotion by someone younger, not as much experience
- Small business owner who has to fire two employees (both are Christians) due to poor work habits
- Stuck in the same old “9 to 5”, and dread going to work every day...BORED

I identify with....?

- IF WE BECOME OVERLY DISCOURAGED WE NOT DO FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT MATTERS MOST, OR WHAT GOD WANTS US TO ACHIEVE IN OUR WORK!
- II Corinthians 4:16-18

“If we base our lives on work and achievement, on love and pleasure, or on knowledge and learning, our existence becomes anxious and fragile - because circumstances in life are always threatening the very foundation of our lives, and death inevitably strips us of everything we hold dear”

- Timothy Keller

Psalm 73 - A Psalm of Asaph

- What issue was Asaph dealing with?
 - “envious of the arrogant...”
 - vs. 13 - He kept his heart clean like God wanted (73:1), but wanted success like others who were ungodly
 - Feels his own integrity has been pointless
 - “Spiritual Depression”

Asaph saw...

- v. 4 - no pangs (pain) til death/fat and sleek
- v. 5 - not stricken like the rest of mankind
- v. 6 - wore pride around their neck/violence
- v. 8 - scoff/speak with malice (intention to do evil)
- v. 9 - tongue struts through the earth
- v. 12 - “always at ease, they increase in riches”

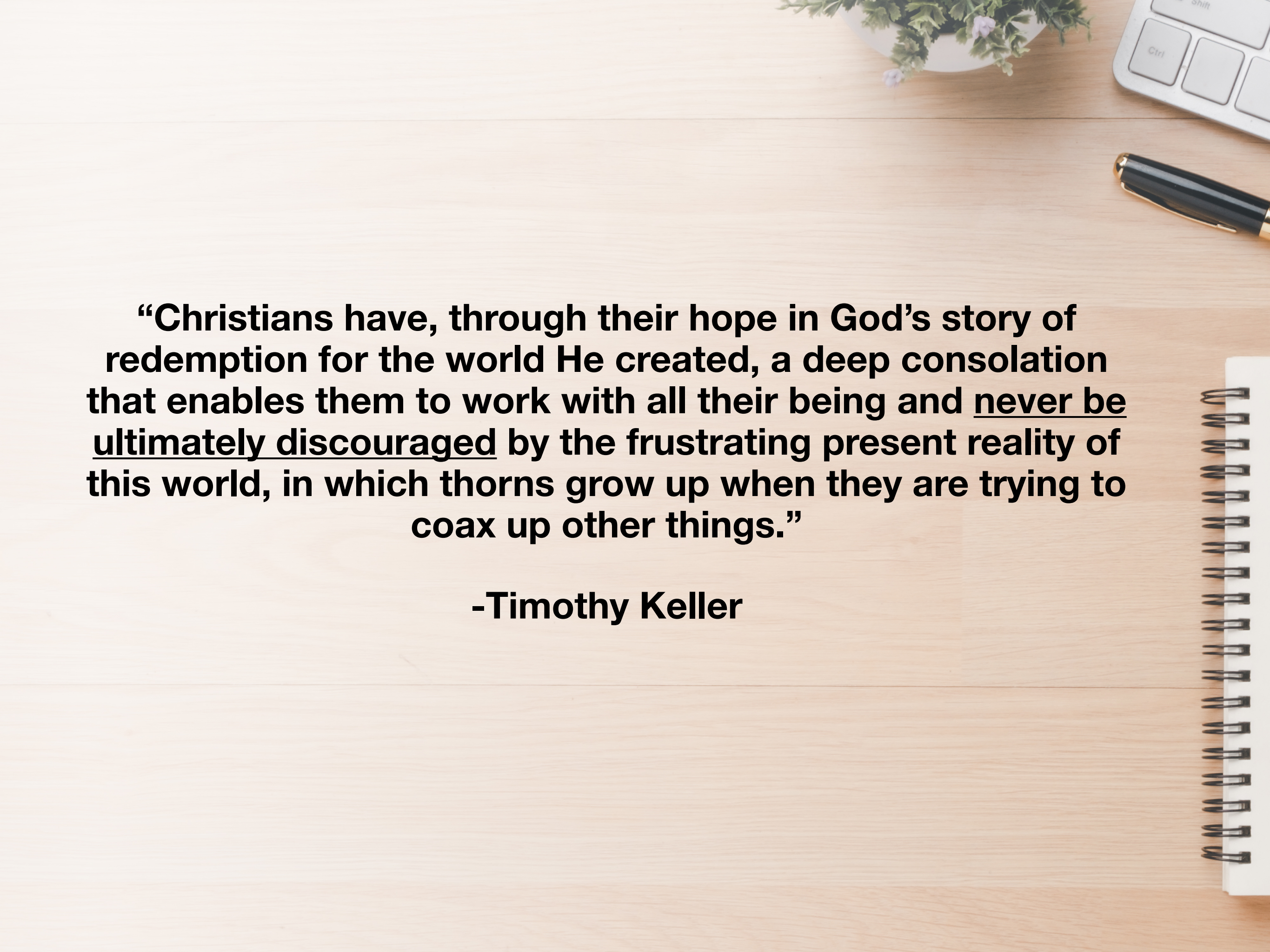
Asaph saw others living successfully without God, and wanted it too!

Asaph's Turning Point

- Asaph reacted the same way we can react...by inaction.
 - v. 15-16
 - When he “went into the sanctuary of God” is when he understood God would be victorious (v. 17)
- Asaph realized four things...
 1. He needed to latch onto God when he was discouraged (v. 23)
 2. He needed God's counsel (v. 24)
 3. Earthly desires unmatched with God (v. 25)
 4. Earthly lives are temporary/We are weak without God (v. 26)

Benefits to Adversity?

1. Going through trials can harden/toughen us up for more difficult days ahead.
 - "You have survived 100% of your worst days..."
2. When "blessings" are in jeopardy we learn to appreciate what we have each day.
3. Trials help us understand what is important to us.
4. Cease depending on ourselves for strength.
 - Matthew 11:28-30
5. Draw attention away from earthly matters and focus on God!
 - 1 Timothy 6:6-10

A wooden desk with a laptop, a pen, and a small potted plant. The laptop is in the top right corner, showing the 'Ctrl' and 'Shift' keys. A black pen with gold accents is lying horizontally to the right of the laptop. A small white pot with green leaves and purple flowers is in the top center. A spiral-bound notebook is visible on the right edge of the desk.

“Christians have, through their hope in God’s story of redemption for the world He created, a deep consolation that enables them to work with all their being and never be ultimately discouraged by the frustrating present reality of this world, in which thorns grow up when they are trying to coax up other things.”

-Timothy Keller

Finance Report

Christians in the Workplace

Corporate & Peer Pressure

June 7, 2023

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Failures / Less than desired outcome

Challenges / Circumstances beyond our control

Adversities / Ongoing negative circumstance(s)

Goals for this class



1. Work for God's glory rather than our own
2. Identify, Plan, and Be Purposeful about overcoming the spiritual challenges of our main vocation
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4. Make more godly decisions while on work time.

Role of Authorities in our workplace

1 Peter 2: 13-18

Submission to Authority

13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme
14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

Role of Authorities in our workplace

Romans 13: 1-7

Submission to the Authorities

1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Corporate Pressure

1 Peter 2:15

15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

Romans 13:3

3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval.

Acts 5: 27-29

Peer Pressure at work

John 12: 42-43

1 Peter 4: 1-5

Stewards of God's Grace

1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. 3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.



Peer Pressure at work



1 Corinthians 15: 33-34

33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” 34 Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

2 Corinthians 6: 14

14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

Quick Review



1. God has given all authorities their “power” and expects us to submit to them as it pertains to our lives and in this case work.... Or we may unfortunately find ourselves in opposition to God.
2. Obey God instead of any authority pressuring you to do anything against God’s will. HE has the power, HE has the upper hand, HIS will and word is truth. Be a seeker and do-er of Truth in the workplace.
3. Be Kind to all at work, letting HIS light shine through your actions and words so believer and unbeliever alike who work along side you will know where you stand spiritually. As you do this, be ever aware of possible negative influences a co-worker could be having on your faith and actions. Continual Self assessment is key. Peer pressure is constant, He will always give you a way of escape, He is always there for you through prayer if goes from a challenge to an adversity(continuous).

Use of Alcohol

Work

1 Peter 4: 3-4 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you;

Ephesians 5: 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

Use of Alcohol

Important points and questions we should ask ourselves in regard to drinking related to our work:

1. Consider your motives- Are you trying to please God or seeking personal pleasure?
2. Are you truly working as unto the Lord or is your motive to advance your career on your terms ?
3. What will be the impact on your example if you are known to take even a single drink? Are you more concerned about your reputation as a good employee or as a godly person ?

Worldly Corporate Culture

Discussion questions

1. Within our jobs, we are told to give preference to homosexuals as a “protected group” ?
2. How should we act when asked or pressured to support social causes or charities not in keeping with God’s will ?
3. What should we do, how should we act when our own beliefs are suppressed by company policy or culture ?
4. How should we react when asked to promote someone’s ideas, even when those ideas are in conflict with God’s teaching?
5. How can we be an influencer rather than being unduly influenced ?

Freestyle talk about Corporate and Peer Pressure at work

What further questions about Corporate pressure would you like to discuss as a group ?

Examples of Peer pressure around work-life that you would like to discuss?

**CATCH OUR
BREATH**



Class 9 take-aways



- God has given all authorities their “power” and expects us to submit to them as it pertains to our lives and in this case work.... Or we may unfortunately find ourselves in opposition to God.
- Biblical examples show us why we should not succumb to pressure to drink alcohol around work occasions (or not at work) and not to give into work pressure from company to sin.
- Pray about the Pressure from peers and “the company” , Pray for wisdom on how to act and react around unbelievers as to bring them to an understand you are a true Christian.
- In all these things, Co-workers and supervisors tend to respect consistency. Be consistent about your actions working for HIS glory. It is nearly impossible to draw a line between you and the world when you have indulged on occasions and given into the pressure by drinking or supporting sinful work practices.
- You are going to find what you are looking for.....

Christians in the Workplace

Lesson 10 - Lying & Integrity

Man Returns To Work After Vacation With Fresh, Reenergized Hatred For Job



Class Goals

- 1. Work for God's Glory rather than our own.**
- 2. Identify and Endeavor to overcome the spiritual challenges of our main vocation.**
- 3. Be a more Christ-like example to our co-workers.**
- 4. Make more Godly decisions in the workplace.**

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- Lessons 1-3: Biblical Foundations
- Lessons 4-6: Issues w/ the Pursuit & Achievement of Success
- Lessons 7-8: Issues w/ Work Adversity & Failures
- Lessons 9-12: Workplace Temptations & Challenges

Corporate/Peer Pressure Review:

1. God puts people in positions of authority that we are to respect...unless it compromises what God wants us to do.
2. Be consistent with your actions at work. People generally respect consistency when you do so.
3. Pray for wisdom on how to react in situations where peer pressure occurs, and pray that your stance will shed light on your faith in God.

Why do we lie?

- We ALL know that lying is not acceptable, even at work!
- Lying separates us from God - just like all other sins.
 - Satan lied to Adam & Eve (John 8:44)
 - Condemned in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:16)
 - Liars have a place in "lake of fire" (Revelation 21:8)

If we clearly understand that lying is not tolerated by God, then why is it such a problem at work, even amongst Christians?

- Our jobs tend to be a place where lying is most often accepted because of what it can do for you/the company/co-workers
 - It's rewarded at work.
 - "Part of the job"
 - "Business as usual" or "It's just business..."
- Why is it different than lying at home?

What does the "World" say?

- *Harvard Business Review* article "**Why People Lie at Work - What to do about it**" - Liz Kislik

Classified Three Different Types of Liars at Work:

1. Fear of upsetting someone or triggering conflict
2. Not wanting to expose their inadequacies
3. Trying to serve their own needs

"But if you catch small mistruths quickly, correct them, and lay out the correct behavioral norms or restructure the rewards or processes..."

"Categories" of Lying

Lies we ALL know are wrong:

1. Lying to gain promotion (false information on resume)
2. Making promises that you know will not be kept
3. Breaking confidentiality about something you were entrusted with
4. Taking bribes
5. Insider trading or Fraud

"Categories" of Lying

But what about...

1. Not explaining to a client problems within your company that could go wrong when you try to serve them
2. Is silence a lie? Knowing something that someone is doing wrong and not speaking of it (Whistleblower)
3. Changing numbers to make the "bottom line" look better than it actually is
4. Falsifying working hours

Acts 5:1-11

- Acts 4:32-37 - people were "of one heart and soul" and sold all they possessed and laid it at the apostles feet (vs. 35)

Did Ananias and Sapphira have to give ALL they possessed?

- NO! (vs. 4)
 - A/S were not required to sell their property, nor were they required to give all of the proceeds if they did sell it.

The main issue:

1. A/S were trying to appear righteous before other people and the apostles, but their hearts were deceptive.
2. The integrity of the early church was going to be compromised and God had ZERO TOLERANCE for lies.

Matthew 5:33-37

- Oath taking is not something that is abstained from in scriptures.
- So what exactly is this talking about?
 - We are to not flippantly give oaths to people in order to deceive them. (Culturally relevant then and now).
 - The real message? Christians should not HAVE to take an oath because we are always in the presence of God...including at work!
 - Our "Yes means yes" and "No means no"!

Matthew 12:36-37

Integrity - Why so important?

- Think about how our character at work affects how people perceive us to be
- Do we...
 - "Stretch the truth"
 - Lie for personal gains
- When we do this are we representing God the way that we should?

Ways to Look at Integrity

- Integer = Whole Number
- Fraction = Partial Number

Integrity - "the quality of being honest and having moral principles; moral uprightness; the state of being whole and undivided" (Google)

Are we different people at work than we are at home? At church? With friends?

We believe we can get away with lying at work because...

1. It's accepted behavior
2. We do not have Godly accountability at work
3. We believe no one is watching at work

ACCOUNTABILITY: If you knew everything you said in a day was being recorded and posted on the internet, would your behavior have to change?

Problems Lacking Integrity Creates:

1. Destroys Community
2. Destroys Human Identity
 1. Approval People
 2. Control People
3. Destroys Human Dignity
4. Puts You on Collision Course to Reality

CRIME · Published September 18, 2017 6:07pm EDT

Man turns himself in on Texas murder charge from '62 slaying

Associated Press



SAN ANTONIO – A man who turned himself in for a 1962 fatal shooting in Texas was tired of having an arrest warrant haunting him and was weary of living under an assumed name, his attorney says.

Pete Ortiz Jr., now 75, surrendered Wednesday to state District Judge Frank Castro. Ortiz was released on bond but must wear an ankle monitor.

Ortiz was indicted in March 1963 on a murder-with-malice charge in the Dec. 22, 1962, fatal shooting of Joe Ovalle, a self-employed sign painter who was killed in his driveway just before Christmas. Another man, Frank Juarez, also faced a murder-with-malice indictment in the killing and was convicted in April 1963. Juarez told authorities that he and Ortiz were hired for \$1,000 by another man to kill Ovalle, who was allegedly an informant for federal narcotics agents.

KSAT television station reports Castro asked Ortiz: "Where have you been all these 55 years?"

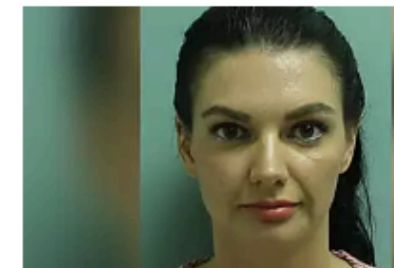
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Pennsylvania woman's 'heinous' and 'graphic' texts to estranged boyfriend pushed him to suicide

Finance Report

Christians in the Workplace

Women & the Workplace

June 21, 2023

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Goals for this class



1. Work for God's glory rather than our own
2. Identify, Plan, and Be Purposeful about overcoming the spiritual challenges of our main vocation
3. Be a more Christ-like example to our co-workers and others we interact with during work time.
4. Make more godly decisions while on work time.

Biblical Foundation for work

Lesson 2 God's Viewpoint of our work

Lesson 3 Our Viewpoint
Work unto God Not unto Men

Lesson 4 Viewpoint of Others
Working as Godly examples

Biblical Foundation for work

Lesson 2 God's Viewpoint of our work

- That we would burden no one (1 Thess 2:9; 2Thess 3:8)
- That we would provide for our family (1 Timothy 5:8)
- That we could share with others (Acts 20:35; Eph 4:28)
- That we would not be idle (2 Thess 3: 6-7)

Need to have the following spirit and attitude in our work

- Sacrificial spirit (2 Thess 3:8)
- Full effort (Acts 20:35)
- Quietness (2 Thess 3:12)
- Concern for others (1 Timothy 5:8)
- Honesty (Ephesians 4:28)

Biblical Foundation for work

Lesson 3

Our Viewpoint

Work unto God Not unto Men

Colossians 3:23

vs. 18 Wives, 20 Children

21 Fathers, 22 Bondservants

Lesson 4

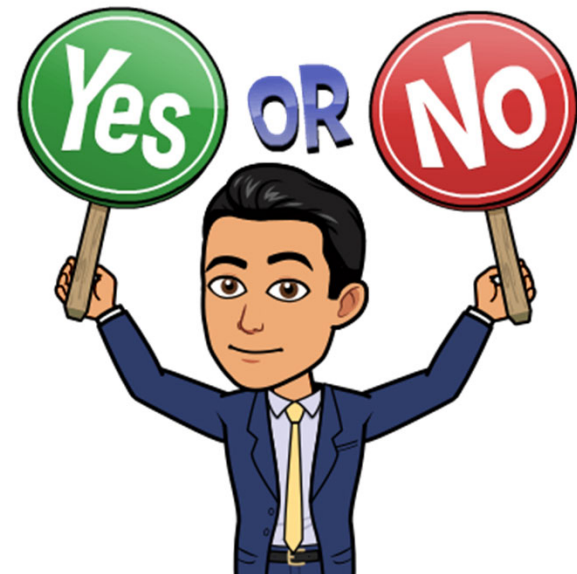
Viewpoint of Others

Working as Godly examples

Philippians 2: 14-15 ; 1 Peter 2: 11-12

Does a Christian woman have the responsibility to set a godly example at work ?

If the responsibilities while in the workplace are essentially the same, perhaps the real question is whether a woman should work, and if so, in what capacity.



Women and the workplace

1 Timothy 5:14 So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. 15 For some have already strayed after Satan.

Titus 2: 3-5 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

2 Thessalonians 3: 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

Women and the workplace

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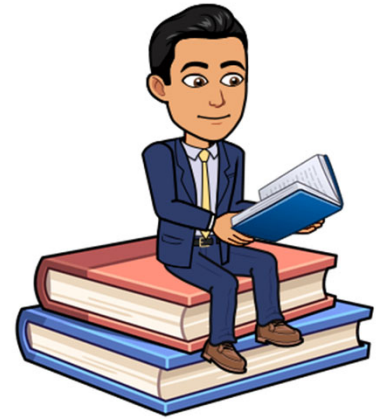
What is in the best interest of her husband and/or children ?

Women and the workplace

1 Timothy 5:16

If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

Quick Review



Every woman should devote time to careful study of the scriptures and what we have studied so far tonight.

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Challenges for Women

In the workplace

Balance / Time Management

Choosing a career

Treated different than men

Guilt (wishing could be at home)

Temptations

Advancement opportunities and cost



Challenges for Women

In the workplace

Treatment of other women in the workplace

-Possessive

-Mean

-Devious

-Gossip

-Cliquish



Class 9 take-aways



- God has the same expectations of Men and Women while in the workplace to act according to his laws.
- Biblical examples show us women need to make their families a priority regardless of whether they work outside the home.
- Women who enter the workforce outside the home will encounter some special challenges and should make effort to be ready for these.
- Women do not need to tear each other down over these topics, but be ready to support and encourage each other for His glory.
- You are going to find what you are looking for at work

May you be found seeking his truth at work or wherever you are.....

Christians in the Workplace

Lesson 12 - Stress & Anxiety

Class Goals

- 1. Work for God's Glory rather than our own.**
- 2. Identify and Endeavor to overcome the spiritual challenges of our main vocation.**
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Class Takeaways:

- **God's Viewpoint of Our Work**

- We were made to work....for God.
- Glorify God through our work!

- **Our Viewpoint on Work**

- Remember who our audience need to be when we work (Ephesians 6/Colossians 3)
- Working for the Lord prevents overwork and underwork.

- **Working as Godly Examples**

- Understand that others are watching, and we are to influence them by being a living example for God/Christ.

Results of Worldview of Work

Temporary Happiness

Fear

Loss of Sleep (Poor Health)

Resentment

Lying for Gain

Frustrations

Stress

Anxiety

What is stress?

- According to WHO (World Health Organization) - "a state of worry or mental tension cause by difficult situations"
- We all deal with....
 - Jobs
 - Families
 - Extracurricular Activities
 - Extended Family
 - Kids
 - Life....

1. Our Priority Changes

2. We Lose Focus

Matthew 6:25-34

- Key Verses:
 - vs. 25 - "Do not be anxious about your life"
 - vs. 27 - What does anxiety accomplish?
 - vs. 33 - Our #1 priority is....
 - vs. 34

What is the underlying issue in all stress/anxiety we go through?

- vs. 30 - **Lack of Faith/Trust in God!**

Control what you can control!

Causes of Stress at Work

1. Long Work Hours/Burnout
2. Heavy Work Load
3. Change in Leadership/Job Change
4. Co-Workers
5. Peer Pressures
6. Critical Deadlines
7. Many more....

Symptoms of Too Much Stress

1. Difficulty Concentrating/Focusing on Tasks
2. Physical/Mental Exhaustion
3. Headaches/Migraines
4. High Blood Pressure/Heart Rate
5. Changes in Sleep/Lack of Sleep
6. Low Morale/Poor Attitude
 - Luke 10:38-42
7. Lack of Self-Confidence
8. Depression

Paul's Prescription for Peace

- Book of Philippians
 - Where is Paul when he wrote the book?
 - But what is an underlying theme in this book from Paul?
 - Joy (rejoice, joyous) is mentioned in the book 18 times!
-
- Joy vs. Happiness - What's the difference?
 - Happiness - comes from having things you want in that moment (emotion)
 - Joy - the security of knowing you have the ONLY thing that matters (attitude)

Paul's Prescription

1. Understand that God is Working in You
 - Phil. 1:6
2. Pray to God Constantly
 - Phil. 4:6
3. Focus on Others
 - Phil. 1:7-11; 2:3-4
4. Look for Positives in the Negative
 - Phil. 1:12, 18
5. Count our Blessings - Spiritual/Physical
 - Ephesians 1:3; Matthew 6
6. "Think of These Things"
 - Phil. 4:8
7. Learn Contentment
 - Phil. 4:11

Philippians 4:4-9

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.