



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

TAKE THIS JOB AND LOVE IT

Work is a necessity of life and if we are not careful, we all can fall into the rut of popular opinion that sees it as a burden and drudgery. However, work is a gift of God and when we understand the origin, opportunity, purpose and promise of work, our attitudes can be transformed and we can actually “Take This Job and Love It.”

Colossians 3:22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. 25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism. 4:1 Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

I. THE MOTIVE FOR WORK

The command: *Exodus 20:9* “Six days you shall labor and do all your work.”

1 Thess. 4:11 “Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands.”

The demonstration: *Gen. 1:1* “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” *Gen. 2:2* “By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing...” *Ps. 19:1* “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” *John 5:17* Jesus said, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.”

The blessing:

Materially: *Ps 128: 2* “You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.”

Spiritually: *Eph 6:7-8* “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.” *Mt.6:6* “and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

-Eternally: *Mt 25:23* "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'" *Col 3:24-25*

II. THE METHOD FOR WORK

The ethics: Honesty, Integrity, Diligence, Obedience.

Prov. 10:4-5 “Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.” *1 Cor. 15:58* “Therefore, my dear brothers...Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

Eph 6.5-6 “Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.” *Zech. 4.10* “...the eyes of the LORD, which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth.” *1Pet.2:18* "Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable." *1Tim.6:2* "and those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved." *Col 3:22*

The enthusiasm: *Col. 3:23* “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” *Ecc. 9.10* Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might...

The expectation: *Mt 5:41* “If someone forces you to go one mile, go w/ him two miles.” *1 Cor. 15:58* “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

The attitude: *1 Cor 4:12-13* “We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly.” *1 Pt. 2:18-20* “endure it w/out complaining.” *Titus 2:9* “Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,” *1Tim.6:2* "...with sincerity of heart."

III. THE MISSION OF WORK

The witness: *1 Th. 4:11-12* “Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.” *Titus2:9-10* "Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect." *John 12:32* "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

IV. THE MASTER OF WORK

The Employer: *Col.4:1* "...knowing that you too have a Master in heaven."

Eph 6:9 “And, masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven...,” *Lk.10:7* "...for the laborer is worthy of his wages."

The Employee *Col. 3:23, Eph. 2.10* “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” *1Cor.10:31* - "...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

CONCLUSION: To find a true sense of purpose, accomplishment and fulfillment in your work, you must approach it with the attitude that work is a gift of God and you are ultimately working to please Him and to bring glory to His name through your actions and attitudes. If this is your approach, then you will be able to “Take This Job and Love It.”