

## THE WEEKLY WORD

**Word:** Work

**Passage:** Colossians 3:17; 3:22-4:1

**Key Verses:** Colossians 3:23-24

*“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”*

### **Commentary:**

Many of us tend to obsess over our work. Often, we let our work define who we are, our sense of worth, and even our identity. But Scripture does *not* exalt work to this status. For the believer, work becomes the natural overflow of who we are in Christ: the workmanship of Jesus Himself (Eph. 2:10). We are to walk in the good works God has prepared beforehand for us to do.

So, as we approach our work each day, both our paid and unpaid work, our fundamental motivation must be *who* we work for, *not* what work we do, or the title, status, or recognition we receive from others.

Who do you work for? Knowing who your real boss is changes everything. It gives us the energy to work hard (heartily) even when our earthly boss is unreasonable or absent. Boring, rote, and mundane tasks take on a new value when we truly believe that from the Lord, we “will receive the inheritance as our reward.” This reward – eternal life and fellowship with God in His Kingdom – is not in doubt for believers, nor is it dependent on the quality of our work, but instead serves as the wellspring of our motivation *in* our work. When it is all said and done, and the race is over, He and He alone will look at us face-to-face and judge our works as our loving Father, not as a cruel taskmaster.

### **Challenge:**

All work is important to God. Let’s all examine our attitudes in our work. Let us each take an inventory of the anxiety, anger, frustration, joy, contentment, and satisfaction we receive through our work. Does this inventory reflect a Christ-centric approach to work?

### **Prayer:**

O Lord, help us remember that you ordain all our good works; help us remember that you are always watching, and that knowing this, we can serve you both with the healthy fear and the confident peace that a child has in the presence of a loving father.

**Author:** Steve Hawkins, Elder