

THE “LIFE AND BIBLE” SERIES
LIVING OUT OUR CHRISTIANITY WITH AN ATTITUDE

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 1:9-14

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER JH239 JANUARY 7, 2009

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**BEING A CHRISTIAN
AT YOUR JOB**

*A SERIES ON DEVELOPING A PRACTICAL AND EFFECTIVE WALK
WITH GOD AT ALL TIMES AND IN ALL SITUATIONS*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Workplace, Discipleship, Witness, Faithfulness

Introduction to the Text;

Colossians 1:9-14

Colossians 1:9-14

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will** in **all wisdom and spiritual understanding**; **:10** that you may **walk worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing *Him*, **being fruitful in every good work** and **increasing in the knowledge of God**; **:11** strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; **:12 giving thanks to the Father** who has **qualified us** to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. **:13** He has delivered us **from the power of darkness** and **conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love**, **:14** in whom we have **redemption** through His blood, even the **forgiveness** of sins.

For the Next Several Weeks We're Going to Take a Break

from our verse by verse teachings to look at a practical series in living out our Christian faith publicly and what that looks like in **real life**.

and it's in **“Real Life”** Where Christians Excel
publicly, practically, personally

Tonight We Kick It Off With...

“At Work And Your Faith”

As Christians We Serve a “Personal” God !

the Lord has made us very complex beings and we by nature thrive in and upon personal relationships – our work relationship being one of them !

BEING A CHRISTIAN AT YOUR JOB

1.) At Work And Your Faith

Work is a Necessity - for Your Sanity.

The Christian is to be the very best employee that a company can have

Man was Created to be a Doer.

(God Himself is a Doer)

Genesis 2:7-8,15

And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. :8 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed... :15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it

Work is a Necessity - for Your Ministry.

Every Christian has been given a ministry to an unbelieving world

The Christian has been Sent Out into this World.

(The Lord Himself came to Us)

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. :19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, :20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*"

AT WORK AND YOUR FAITH

1a.) Establishing a Biblical work ethic

the Bible sets the highest standard for performance
that any other instruction known to man.

What is a Biblical work ethic ?

Honestly, It's what created the most productive, illuminated and compassionate cultures in the world.

the **value** of life / an individuals **rights** / **love** for fellow man / **equality**
and the knowledge of the Lord.

The Judeo-Christian Influence is The Most Advanced in Every Area of Human Life.

1 Corinthians 10:31-32

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. :32 Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,

AT WORK AND YOUR FAITH

1b.) Translating a godly example

Every Monday Morning

The Lord Gives Us a Pulpit To Live Out What We've Put Into Our Hearts.

Genesis 39:21

For **the LORD was with** Joseph... *to accomplish what was needed*

1 Samuel 2:26

And the child Samuel grew in stature, and **in favor with both the LORD and men...** *to accomplish what was needed*

Christian, You are Highly Favored !

John 17:23

I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and **that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.**

AT WORK AND YOUR FAITH

1c.) Maintaining a faithful attitude

I know no greater power in the work-place than a good "attitude"

In Flight School You're Taught That;

"The **Attitude** of Your Airplane Determines Your **Altitude**"

As a **Christian** Your **Attitude** Determines Your **Altitude**

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Got Trouble?

There's a Song in There Somewhere

Consider King Saul and David – David Chose to Sing About It.
Consider Moses & Three Million Whiners – Moses Chose to Sing About It.
Consider Paul & Silas in Jail – They Chose to Sing About It.

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. :29 For whom He **foreknew**, He also predestined *to be* **conformed** to the image of His Son...

BEING A CHRISTIAN AT YOUR JOB

2.) At Work And Your Boss

Bosses Are Used By God to Shape Us – No Matter What.

The worse the boss the more the Christianity is applied

A Christian in Authority Should Make The Best Boss

(the Christian is humbled by authority knowing that they will one day return it)

Colossians 4:1

Masters, (bosses) give your bondservants (employees) what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master (Boss) in heaven.

We're To Pray For Our Bosses Appointed by God

God has His reasons for the boss you have right now

Does Your Boss Need Jesus Christ? – you're the one

Matthew 6:24

"No one can serve two masters;
to be serving you boss and company you're serving the Lord.

AT WORK AND YOUR BOSS

2a.) Did you know your boss **is your boss**?

Colossians 3:23-24

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, :24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

By Serving Your Boss
you're actually serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

In All Fairness I must Confess That

i have never really known what it's like to be unemployed or without a job.

The Lord Has Been Very Good To Me.

In the last 30 years I have had only 2 bosses,

One at Baxter International for 13 years and for the past 17 years – I've Worked for
Jesus Christ as a Sheepdog.

P.S. are you a boss here tonight? – you have
a Boss too

Ephesians 6:5-8

Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; :6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, :7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, :8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

AT WORK AND YOUR BOSS

2b.) Did you know your boss trusts you?

1 Corinthians 4:2

Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. (trustworthy)

When Trust Grows Responsibility Increases

Psalms 75:6-7a

For promotion doesn't come from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. :7 But God is the judge:

AT WORK AND YOUR BOSS

2c.) Did you know your boss depends on you?

Genesis 41:39-44

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. :40 You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." :41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." :42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. :43 He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and men shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. :44 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt."

BEING A CHRISTIAN AT YOUR JOB

3.) At Work And Your Co-Workers

Cooperating With Others is a Learned Discipline

The Christian should be the glue that holds a team together

We have been designed by God for Team Work

(Human Interaction is a “Faith-Incubator”)

Romans 12:18

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Being Side By Side With Co-Workers is The Reality

How will an unbelieving world ever see Jesus without you there?

Friendship Evangelism Can Never Be Denied

(Working together with others breeds Respect)

Amos 3:3

Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

AT WORK AND YOUR CO-WORKERS

3a.) They never hear you complain

Galatians 5:16

I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

The Christian is the man or woman at work whose “Thankful”

Luke 3:14

Likewise the centurions asked John the Baptist, saying, “what shall we do?” So he said to them, “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse people falsely, and **be content with your wages.**”

1 Corinthians 10:9-10

nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; **:10 don't complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.**

AT WORK AND YOUR CO-WORKERS

3b.) They go to you **when something's up**

Throughout History This Has Been
a powerful reality of the Christian – People in Need Seek Out The Christian.

Matthew 19:16-17

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" :17 So He said to him, "**Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God...**

1 John 4:16-17

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. :17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because **as He is, so are we in this world.**

AT WORK AND YOUR CO-WORKERS

3c.) They know that you **know your stuff**

The Christian Strives for Excellence.

Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

2 Chronicles 1:10-12

Give me now **wisdom** and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great? :11 And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked **wisdom** and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: :12 **Wisdom** and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.

James 1:5

If any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

BEING A CHRISTIAN AT YOUR JOB

4.) At Work And Your Witness

Witnessing For Jesus Christ is Super
" Natural "

The Christian Life by nature is not of this world. it is different

The Lord has Placed each of us in strategic places.

(Every one of us has a purpose that has been customized for us)

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand **that we should walk in them.**

We Are All Witnessing for Christ at All
Times

Your Life and Mine will be read by more people than any book

The Christian Ought to be a Walking, Living Billboard

1 Timothy 4:12

...**be an example to the believers** in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

AT WORK AND YOUR WITNESS

4a.) Its always better to **show them Jesus** first

Acts 4:13

Now when the people saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled and **realized that they had been with Jesus.**

“ What Would Jesus Do ” - - *for real* ?

Matthew 5:41

And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

At Work - Stop Telling People About Jesus Christ,
rather show them what Jesus Christ is Like and What He can Do for Them.

Acts 3:1-6

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*. :2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; :3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. :4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." :5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. :6 Then Peter said, "**Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.**"

AT WORK AND YOUR WITNESS

4b.) Its always better to **have them ask** you first

Acts 16:30-31 // The Philippian Jailer

And he brought them out and said, **“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” :31** So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

AT WORK AND YOUR WITNESS

4c.) Its always better for them to be watching you

The Christian Will **Not Rob The Company.**

There are People Who Steal and Never Think About It. (they clock in or show up and then go online)

Or They “Slack Off” During Normal Hours
Because They Intend to “Steal” From The Company Using Overtime

The Christian Sees His/Her **J o b** as
Their **M i n i s t r y**

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. **:15** Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. **:16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Finish What You’re Asked to Do ~ ~ *and then do more...*

Look Around - Before You Leave.
Turn Off The Lights - Before You Leave.
Clear Your Desk - Before You Leave.
Look Around - Before You Leave.

As You and I live for Jesus Christ
the world will be watching us and it’s a good thing
that they are watching us

what question should you ask?

“Why Should I Care ?”

that’s right, why should you care ?

End of Study