

‘WALK WORTHY’- -3/2/25 (#17)

PASTOR LEE

EPH 6: 5-9 - Slaves, obey your masters with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as you would Christ. (6) Don't work only while being watched, as people-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing God's will from your heart. (7) Serve with a good attitude, as to the Lord and not to people, (8) knowing that whatever good each one does, slave or free, he will receive this back from the Lord. (9) And masters, treat your slaves the same way, without threatening them, because you know that both their master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him. (CSB)

- **We are still....throughout this Series...been talking about the same thing....'WALKING WORTHY'. Paul's been talking about how to do this for the past few Chapters..... through the strength of the Holy Spirit.... (Chapter 5) how to "Walk" as wives, as husbands, as kids and....today....he addresses our work.....which is all part of the same equation (family system).**
- **Indeed, your work is highly spiritual and is all about Jesus....part of a 'Christ-First' life! This is the lens through which we must view our work. Our faith in God impacts our work!**
- **Its not about what you are doing, it's about who you are doing it for! Be 'biblical' in your work.....regardless of your role or authority!**
- **Continuing the theme of obedience/submission, we need to view our work through our role as slaves/workers (we all have bosses/masters). Note: remember that, in ancient times, the entire Nation of Hebrews were slaves in Egypt....in later times, there were 'bond slaves'...and that power dynamic has come through the ages....in various and sometimes very ugly forms.**
- **Getting back to those Greco-Roman times, they despised physical labor and their goal was to garner people, as slaves, to do the most laborious work. This was their culture.**
- **In Genesis 2 and before the Fall, God put man in the Garden to work it....it was a blessing! In 2 Thes 3:10, Paul says...'if you are unwilling to work, you don't eat'. In that same verse, he says 'some are idle, not busy at work....busy bodies'. If you are capable and this fits you...be convicted....and work!.....in our Church, we want a Christ-first world ethic and view.**
- **V-5 and reference to "...as you would Christ".....endeavor to treat/view your superiors commands , however challenging any may be, as if they were coming from Christ...in doing so, you are honoring and obeying our Lord....and recognizing HIS authority.**
- **See your boss as an 'agent of God'as part of the 'tapestry' he weaves....is 'life and world -changing'! Just imagine what it would be like if that's what all Christians started to do tomorrow.....(and what if it extended to imitating Christ in ALL that we do!) ALL of us are under authority....we must learn, in the order of things, to obey. These authorities are being used as a tool by God to effect something(s) in your live.**
- **And- - this phenomena 'splashes'.....other people...especially your children....observe and copy your modeling of respect for authority.....and, as an extension, toward discipleship and God.....even to people who find it counter-intuitive!**

- Making reference to Pastor Rob's conversation with a Church-member who gave him a list of 84 (!) questions about his work/job, Pastor Lee tries, now, to address a few that would be common to many of us:
- Q-1....."In working from home, what if I can get my work done in just four hours, am I entitled to my full salary?" 1. Consider the expectations of your boss/authority...and, 2. Appreciate that your work is a spiritual thing....not just a means toward a paycheck.
- Q-2...."how do I share my faith at work?" Pastor Lee refers to an old friend...Ivan....who exudes his faith in Jesus....suggests walking/modeling by faith....PLUS, he invested his one whole hour most days just discipling, in whatever obtuse or, perhaps, direct way with work lunch partners!
- This was just an example....however YOU can find the opportunities to share....see the Passages' words (V-1) :....".....in the sincerity of your heart..."
- The goal: We want them (workers, bosses, etc.) to see our honesty, our integrity, our work ethic, how we treat superiors, colleagues, and subordinates, how we handle vendors, customers and the list goes on. (Your faith can splash!!!)
- Q-3.... "How do I stay true to my faith when company policies are contrary to my faith?" (Eg. ...being requires to wear a pin that symbolizes something sinful). There are times such as this when you, indeed, should say no!
- The best guidance: YOU ARE WORKING FOR GOD....not for man.
- Re: V-6 and in furtherance of this point.....you are not working, ultimately, to please men...to 'look good'...but, rather, to please Christ. Work as if Jesus is watching, because He is!
- V-7:.....'Slave or free', do it for Christ.....He is the ultimate performance evaluator! Looking back and while some might have regrets about their career/life...applying the fact that you are doing whatever job, ultimately - for Him - - washes them away.
- V-9....the same message.....its not about 'what you're doing...its about who you are doing it for! Titles, power, position, compensation levels all are reduced to nothingness as compared to that to whom EVERYONE ultimately answers....our Lord! With Him, there is NO partiality...NO favoritism!
- Question: how can I bless the work people around me (bosses, subordinates, peers, customers, vendors) as the opportunities arise?

****WALK WORTHY AT WORK****

****YOU WORK FOR GOD****

THE BELIEVER: ALL OF LIFE IS ALL ABOUT JESUS