



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

JANUARY 17, 2015 - PASTOR LIONEL YOUNG

**Working For the Lord**  
Colossians 3:22-4:1

### **THINK & SHARE** Questions to get your group talking

One of the big news stories this week was the historic Powerball jackpot. What dreams and goals do people attach to winning the lottery, especially related to work?

The concept of work is broader than clocking into a job each day. (Think stay-at-home parents, students in school, or retirees volunteering, for example). What do people receive from their labor? What do you want to receive from yours?

### **STUDY & DISCUSS** Questions that invite you to dig deeper into the week's material & your own life

A. Whether we're clocking in, staying home with the kids, volunteering, going to school, or even job hunting, we've all got an "earthly master" to serve. What does respecting human authority teach us about following God and serving Him?

B. In what ways do you find yourself tempted to work hard (or long or in a certain way) to get the attention of a certain audience, be that audience co-workers, the boss, the board, etc? What need within you are you trying to fulfill with that recognition?

C. Pastor Lionel defines working passionately as for the Lord as working with diligence and excellence. How would this approach to our work make us not just better workers but, more importantly, better Christ-followers?





“The Church’s approach to an intelligent carpenter is usually confined to exhorting him not to be drunk and disorderly in his leisure hours, and to come to church on Sundays. What the church *should* be telling him is this: that the very first demand that his religion makes upon him is that he should make good tables.” Dorothy Sayers

D. Read Colossians 3:23-24 and Ephesians 6:7-8. It would seem that Paul is saying we can expect reward both now and forever in return for our respectful and diligent work. What reward have you already seen for work well done for the Lord? What is it about the promise of heavenly reward for work that stirs your heart?

E. Look at Colossians 3:17, which is the theme under which verses 3:18-4:1 are gathered. How have you learned to invite God into your work and to live *coram Deo* (before the face of God)? Or in what ways are you thinking you need to do this going forward?

## PRAY & COMMIT Questions for your breakout prayer time and challenges for the rest of your week

A. Did you know that work was instituted BEFORE sin entered the world (Gen. 2:15)? Work is neither a punishment nor a result of sin. Take time this week to thank the Lord for your work/labor, even if you are having difficulty with aspects of it or with the people you work alongside. Work is a gracious gift from God and worthy of giving thanks over.

B. Take a deep breath and learn to apply the gospel when you are frustrated at work. When you are upset or stressed out, remind yourself of Christ’s love for you and His work for you. Let that settle you down. And take a moment to remember that you are serving your “heavenly master,” who sees your effort and is pleased with you.

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