



WOODLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Cornerstone Effect Part #4 – The Cornerstone of Your Work

Small Group Discussion Guide on Colossians 3:22-25

Woodland Heights Christian Church Core Value Connection

This sermon on Colossians 3:22-25 directly aligns with the core value of **Discipleship** at Woodland Heights Christian Church. Discipleship is about growing into faithful followers who integrate Christ into every aspect of life, including daily work, by living with purpose and gratitude.

The sermon's focus on transforming work from a mere paycheck to an act of praise mirrors the journey of a disciple who makes Christ the cornerstone of their actions. This message challenges us to deepen our walk with Christ, aligning with our church's mission to "Reach, Teach, and Serve others for the Cause of Christ" as we seek to train disciples who reflect God's glory in their everyday lives through obedience and eternal perspective (Matthew 28:19-20).

Section #1 – ENCOUNTER

"Observing God's Word"

Imagine a weary laborer toiling under the sun, his hands calloused and his back bent, chasing the next payday in a cycle of endless routine. Suddenly, a shift occurs—a realization that his efforts are not just for earthly gain but for an eternal audience. In Colossians 3:22-25, Paul's words are like an awakening call, urging believers to work wholeheartedly for the Lord, not men, transforming mundane tasks into acts of worship.

Let's dive into this passage and discover how God invites us to view our daily work through the lens of God's eternal reward. We start our study by anchoring ourselves in Scripture. Read Colossians 3:22-25 (ESV) as a group, family, or an individual, letting God's Word sink in as you see Paul writing to early Christians, encouraging them to live out their faith in the workplace with integrity and devotion.

Core Questions

- What do you notice about Paul's words and instructions in this story? Why is this relevant?
- What are key words, phrases, or themes that grab your attention in this text?
- What is the main lesson or lessons that you learn about the character of God from Colossians 3:22-25?

Section #2 – EXPLORE

“Understanding the Passage and Sermon”

Let’s unpack Paul’s teaching in this text with questions that connect the sermon’s insights to our lives. Discuss these as a group or reflect on them as an individual.

Quote – “If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next.” – **C.S. Lewis**

- What does the quote from C.S. Lewis teach us today? Why is this an important lesson to remember?

Decision #1 – Choose a Consistent Heart of Devotion that Honors Christ in All Circumstances (Colossians 3:22)

The sermon highlights Paul’s call for Christians to work with complete devotion to the Lord by urging believers to view their work as worship, regardless of circumstances, fair bosses, or harsh conditions. The illustration of Gladys Aylward, a humble maid who became a missionary saving over 100 orphans in China, shows how sometimes what seems to be some of the most “insignificant” work might prepare you for eternal impact when done with devotion.

- Have you ever experienced a moment where God redefined your view of work or purpose?
- In what ways does Colossians 3:22-23 encourage you as a Christian today?
- Gladys Aylward’s story illustrates preparation through faithful labor. God still uses our seemingly ordinary jobs to equip us for greater service? How can this inspire you today?

Quote – “Work is not a curse; it is a calling, a means to worship the God who gave us hands to labor.” – **R.C. Sproul**

Decision #2 – Make Every Task a Testimony and Invest Your Efforts into Eternity (Colossians 3:23-24a)

As you read Colossians 3:23-24, Paul emphasizes that Christians are called to work wholeheartedly for the Lord, “...knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ” (Colossians 3:24). This teaching led to Wesley’s remarkable legacy of preaching, traveling, and giving sacrificially.

- What does this teach us about the eternal value of working as unto the Lord?
- How can you apply this principle in your own job or daily tasks, even if they feel mundane?
- How does the quote from A.W. Tozer apply to these verses?

Quote – “God doesn’t need perfect servants; He needs faithful ones.” – **A.W. Tozer**

Decision #3 – Work With Expectation and Confidence Knowing the Lord Rewards the Faithful (Colossians 3:24b-25)

Paul concludes saying, “You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality” (Colossians 3:24b-25). This passage reminds us that our true Master is Christ, who judges impartially and rewards faithfulness with an eternal

inheritance. The sermon illustrates this through D. James Kennedy, a dance instructor whose life was redirected by a radio sermon, leading him to turn to the Lord and become a minister who reached millions despite early setbacks. His story shows how God redirects paths and rewards perseverance, echoing Galatians 6:9's promise of reaping if we don't give up.

- **What does God's impartial judgment reveal about His fairness in rewarding motives and actions? How does this encourage you when facing unfair treatment at work?**
- **Reflect on the promise in Galatians 6:9 cited in the sermon. In what areas of your work do you need to persevere without growing weary, trusting in God's harvest?**

Section #3 – EMBRACE

"Applying God's Word"

Go deeper into the Word of God by applying what you've learned to your life today. Reflect on these action steps and discuss how you can live out the truths from Colossians 3:22-25.

- **Identify Your Cornerstone:** Think of an area in your work or daily life where Christ is not yet the cornerstone. It could be a challenging task, a difficult colleague, or a routine chore. Write down one specific step you can take this week to approach it "as for the Lord" with gratitude and purpose.
- **Practice Gratitude in Work:** Like the porter in Wesley's story, take time to thank God for your job, even in its challenges. Spend a moment in prayer, asking God to reveal how your work can glorify Him and shift your focus from paycheck to praise.
- **Serve with Eternal Impact:** Wesley's obedience changed the world. Commit to one act of service this week that reflects Christ in your workplace, such as encouraging a coworker or working with integrity. Discuss with the group how you can support each other in living this out.

Memorize and Reflect: Memorize the sermon's key verse, Colossians 3:23 (ESV): "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." Reflect on how this transforms your view of work and invites God's reward into your life. Share with the group how this verse challenges or inspires you.

Closing Challenge and Prayer

As a group, pray for one another to make Christ the cornerstone of daily work, just as Wesley did. Encourage each member to take at least one of the action steps above and follow up next week to share how God worked through their faithfulness. Consider participating in a Sunday School class or inviting someone new to join your small group to continue growing in faith together.