

Is What You Do Who You are?

A Master Plan Network Study Guide

1. Colossians: 3: 22 – 25 NKJV

²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ 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. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

1. Do you wonder what is meant by the term bondservant?

a. Here is a definition from gotquestions.org:

In Roman times, the term *bondservant* or *slave* could refer to someone who voluntarily served others. But it usually referred to one who was held in a permanent position of servitude. Under Roman law, a bondservant was considered the owner's personal property. Slaves essentially had no rights and could even be killed with impunity by their owners.

The Hebrew word for "bondservant," *'ebed*, had a similar connotation. However, the Mosaic Law allowed an indentured servant to become a bondservant voluntarily: "If the servant declares, 'I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,' then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life.

2. What does it mean to serve not as men-pleasers but in sincerity of heart, fearing God?

3. What does this mean: "Whatever we do, to do it heartily as to the Lord and not to men"?

4. Can you tell from this scripture where meaning and purpose for work should come from?

2. Ephesians 6: 5 – 10 NKJV

⁵ 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 eye-service, 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.

⁹ And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him. ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

1. This passage from Ephesians 6 is almost identical to the previous reference from Colossians 3. Do you think that the Apostle Paul, the author of Ephesians, thought that these were important principles? What resonates for you from these Bible verses?

2. What does this passage tell us about serving our bosses at work?

3. Does this passage have anything to say about how a boss should treat an employee?

4. What does this passage tell us about God, and what does it say about people?

5. Does this passage have anything to say about where the ability to do these things comes from?

3. Colossians 1: 24 – 27 NKJV

²⁴ I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, ²⁶ the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. ²⁷ To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

1. The author of Colossians, the Apostle Paul, wanted the members of the church to receive a revelation of a mystery that had been hidden for generations. What was this mystery, and why did he want them to get the revelation of it so badly?