

JESUS + NOTHING = EVERYTHING

Week 5: Whatever You Do...

Key Text: Colossians 3:15-22

OPEN

The first half of Paul's words in Colossians focus on theology, doctrine, and understanding the supremacy of Jesus as "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" (1:15). The second half of Colossians is about the difference being in Christ makes in our life in the practical. One of the things we learn about life in Christ from this week's passage of scripture is that whoever we are, wherever we are, and in whatever we do in life, we are "to do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (v.17). In our text, Paul talks about 3 spheres of life that are impacted by being in Christ: church, family, and work. Being in Christ makes a difference in each of these three circles. How we are at home and at work is just as important – or more – to our life in Christ than who we are at church.

REFLECT

- Paul talks about ministering (speaking and doing) "in the name of the Lord Jesus." What does that mean to you?
- In this section of scripture, the title "Lord" is used 7 times. Why the emphasis on Jesus being Lord in the context of this passage? What is the underlying point being made?
- Paul gives a word to each member of God's design for a family (wives, husbands, and children). What is the word? Is it still relevant for today's world?
- A word is also given to slaves and masters. If we apply that word to employees and employers, list the points being made – especially about economic inequality.

DISCUSS

- Paul talks about Christ making a difference both at home and at work: Share what your family growing up was like. Did it reflect Christ? How?
- In thinking about the difference Christ should make at work, share your first work experience? What was your first job?
- Paul uses the analogy of clothing to talk about putting on the 'new self.' Which specific attitude or trait stands out to you right now as what is most needed? Why?
- In the first century context of this text, women had few rights and slaves even fewer. Scripture does not condone these practices. Instead, Paul is speaking into the 'cultural moment' to show the difference Christ makes first 'internally' before leading to changes that are 'external.'
- How hard is it for you to look beyond the cultural context?
- What internal principle(s) most stand out to you?

APPLY

- What is one thing that needs to change at home?
- This is getting personal: if you are married, what is one interest or need you of your spouse you can put above your own this week?
- For those with children, what is one way you can avoid exasperating or discouraging your child?
- For those who work outside the home, what is one change in either attitude, action, or motivation you can apply to your work situation to serve the Lord in your workplace?

PRAY

- Take time to thank the Lord for one another and in his name bless one another.
- Pray for each household's family life and a family situation that you need God's help with.
- Ask the Lord to help each person in their place of work, that 'work' would become a place for doing 'God's work.'