

BIBLICAL WORDS FOR WORKERS

Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

“My Boss Owes Me!”

“I’m not just anybody! My boss owes me. More than anybody else, he owes me his appreciation, respect and a lot more money. After all me is me!”. Those who go to work with such a proud sense of self importance and entitlement may soon find themselves out of work. Some workers do eventually receive special treatment and pay increases. But it doesn’t come easily. It’s usually earned over time through dedicated, selfless service. Work sometimes ends up difficult and disagreeable. Those who plow through it despite hard rock obstacles and get the job done, are the ones who generally are rewarded.

You Owe Your Boss

A servant mind set is a key factor of Christian stewardship in the workplace. It’s not “what can my boss do for me, but what I can do for my boss.” Jesus often spoke of himself as a servant. In a Cleveland Plain Dealer article (6-24-17), Terry Pluto wrote: *“In the world of work, having the ‘I’m special’ mentality can lead to a lot of problems. Jesus often spoke of Himself as a servant. When His disciples argued about who was the greatest, Jesus washed their dirty, dusty feet to make a point about serving others.”*

Meaningful Work

According to a survey by Payscale Inc., members of the clergy top the list of people saying they have the most meaningful jobs. Gambling casino workers were found among the least most satisfied. Work ends up meaningful and satisfying when it involves “doing for others”. Hotel housekeeping workers, who clean rooms and make beds, get a joyous kick out of work when they consider they are doing something to make the next guest happy. It’s encouraging that Millennials (ages 15 to 35) are more concerned about meaningful work than making a lot of money. At the end of a workweek it’s wonderful to have the happy feeling that somehow you accomplished something for someone even though the tasks performed didn’t hit the front page of the newspaper or you didn’t even get a thank you. Actually, if you selflessly, humbly do you work out of love without expecting appreciation, you won’t be disappointed when you don’t get it.

Words for Workers

Obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men. (Eph. 6:5&7)

The Endless Nature of Work

It’s often been said, “A woman’s work is never done.” It’s true for everyone. Life consists of a multitude of things waiting to get done. But this is just what gives us a sense of purpose in life. When deeds get done successfully, the joy of achievement makes duties worthwhile. If sometimes you feel like a dog chasing his tail, stop the whirlwind of frustration by being grateful you’re alive and able to do things. Get rid of the shakes, quivering lips and grumbles. Pray for help. Then set priorities to get the important things done. God doesn’t expect us to accomplish everything. Consider distracted Martha preparing a meal. Jesus would have preferred her feeding on His word than feeding Him. Mary prioritized. (Luke 10:38-41)

Biblical Words for Workers

- *Be a Servant* (Mark 10:43-45)
- *Be Respectful* (1 Pet. 2:18; 1 Tim. 6:1-2)
- *Be Faithful* (Eph. 6:5-6; Col. 3:22-23)
- *Be Trustworthy* (Titus 2:9)
- *Be Wholehearted* (Ephesians 6:7)

Practical Tips for the Workplace

In a Cleveland Plain Dealer article (7-9-15), Olivera Perkins writes about things that prevent promotions:

- ▶ Having a negative attitude
- ▶ Showing up for work late or leaving early
- ▶ Using vulgar language and gossiping
- ▶ Shabby appearance and poor grooming
- ▶ Too much time on personal social media
- ▶ Taking too many breaks or sick days
- ▶ Provocative attire.

RELATED RESOURCES

www.selc.lcms.org

Personal Stewardship - Christian Life

“Work - the Spice of Life”

“Stewards in the Workplace”

“Time Management”