Colossians 3:22-25

3:22 **Christian employees must soberly obey Christ's command to fervently obey their employers.**

1. The Christian religion is a practical religion, and Jesus Christ is Lord of your conduct at work.
2. Employment is a very pervasive relationship in life by the much time taken and effect it has.
3. It is also the most visible of our authority relationships, as the world gets to see us up close.
4. Every child of God who wants to please Jesus Christ should get excited about this opportunity.
5. By fervent, godly conduct on the job, we protect and adorn the gospel (I Tim 6:1; Titus 2:10).
6. The greatest work ethic in the world is right here – not dependent on the boss or limited to him.
7. Saints will continue to perform fervently regardless of his conduct and past his expectations!
8. Servant is an appropriate description of workers. It is much more meaningful than employee.
9. God has made a very great difference among men – only a few have the ability to be masters.
10. The first verb is important; when the apostle addresses servants, he requires their obedience.
11. The "all things" is clearly limited from anything sinful; but it clearly includes everything else!
12. Our masters in the flesh only have authority over our flesh: they cannot bind our spirits/souls; but they can bind our hours, bodies, minds, location, effort, methods, speech, conduct, etc., etc.
13. Regardless of whether a master is a Christian, Catholic, Muslim, Hindu, or pagan, obey him!
14. We have a Master in heaven, but He has assigned masters to us in the flesh for our vocations.
15. "Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers" is not against "when the cat's away, the mice will play."
16. "Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers" is not for hard work whether the boss is present or gone.
17. While this fact ought to be certainly true of Christians, it is not taught by these words here.
18. You are to avoid eyeservice, as a manpleaser – you are not working to impress and please men.
19. The single heart is one for the Lord, not combining the Lord and men. The Lord is to be feared.
20. Consider the value of this work ethic – you will perform at a high level regardless of your boss.
21. Consider the value of this work ethic – you will perform past his compromised expectations.
22. While you do want to please your boss (Tit 2:9), your goal of pleasing Christ is much higher!
23. Full understanding of this subject requires: Eph 6:5-8; I Tim 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10; I Pet 2:18-20.
24. Full understanding is enhanced by: Pr 19:10; 30:22; Eccl 10:5-7; Is 3:1-5; Mat 8:9; Lu 17:7-10.
25. Servants must count masters worthy of all honor, both pagans, and surely brothers (I Tim 6:1).
26. Servants should obey their masters in such a way to please them well in all things (Titus 2:9).
27. An obnoxious employer is an opportunity for your submission, nothing more (I Pet 2:18-24).
28. Labor unions are from hell; they are organized rebels; they are rabid dogs (II Peter 2:10-12).
29. Answering again and purloining are two simple ways in which you can blaspheme (Tit 2:9-10).

3:23 **Christian employees should work passionately, as doing the job for the Lord Jesus, not men**.

1. Work ought to be done fervently, passionately, aggressively, cheerfully for the Lord's sake.
2. Whether it is work you enjoy or not is totally irrelevant – do it with zeal for the Lord's sake.
3. Every employee should pretend each and every day that they are working for the Lord Christ.
4. Every task can be reduced to the simple proposition that you are doing it for Him and to Him.
5. As Solomon wrote, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" (Eccl 9:10).
6. Shortcuts, pacing yourself, sauntering, and all other related cheating are the sins of losers!

3:24 **Christian employees should remember Jesus Christ will reward them with an inheritance**.

1. It is unlikely a servant will be compensated by a master for the exceptional service above, for the incremental performance will far exceed the latitude allowed in most compensation plans.
2. If you think for a moment that the exceptional performance has no return, this verse is for you.
3. Regardless of the treatment of your master, the Lord will reward you for your service to Him.

4. The real payday is yet to come, and you are to keep that payday foremost in your mind here.
5. Instead of grumbling about your wages or being slothful to punish an employer, think heaven.
6. Here is true service to the Lord Christ – notice that there is no foreign mission field involved.
7. The distinction of "full time Christian service" invented by mission boards is not your choice.
8. A man who is a servant 40 hours a week may also be a husband and father the other 128!
9. This is how the Lord Jesus Christ wants to be served, and you should do it with a pure heart.
10. If we measure ourselves by the epistles of Jesus Christ, these relationships are serving Christ.

3:25 **<u>Christian employees should know that wrongdoing on the job will be judged strictly by God</u>**.

1. Servants have no rights; they have duties (Pr 19:10; 30:22; Ec 10:5-7; Matt 8:9; Luke 17:7-10).
2. When God wrote labor laws, He allowed slavery and beating servants severely (Ex 21:20-21).
3. God is always on the side of authority in any arbitration, for it is His image and ordination.
4. God doesn't care if you are poor, rich, smart, dumb, fast, slow, or otherwise a holy Joe.
5. He does not respect any who think they are wise of heart, so give up your attitude (Job 34:19).
6. The great and dreadful God sees all attitudes, words, efforts, gestures, actions, and lack thereof.
7. The LORD condemns answering again, as the master does not need your opinions (Titus 2:9).
8. The LORD condemns purloining, small and minor thefts, as He sees all such sins (Titus 2:9).
9. Perfect obedience will result in a reputation for all good fidelity, which employers prize!
10. The Lord is particularly the avenger of any who go beyond and defraud brothers (I Thess 4:6).
11. If you want God's blessings in life, go out of your way to honor authority, especially masters.
12. The respect of persons particularly deals with the difference between bond and free (Eph 6:8).
13. Consider it. If you have any trouble with those under your authority, have you given trouble?
14. It is confirming and rewarding to see disrespectful employees struggle with their marital relationships, because as the southern expression says, "What goes around, comes around."
15. Gehazi and Joab are two servants who thought they could disobey their masters! Ouch!