

part 2
Taking Christ to Work
The Paychecks that Matter Most



Colossians 3:24-25

²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

²⁵Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

(NIV)

1. Invest _____

2. Stay _____

3. Don't _____

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. How focused on your "earthly paychecks" would you say that you are?

In what way does a focus on "recognition, appreciation and compensation" get your eyes off what is really important as it relates to your daily work?

2. Read Revelation 22:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 1 Corinthians 3:12-15. Though the Bible is clear that we are spared the consequences of our sin after death because of our trust in what Christ has done for us (see Titus 3:4-7 and Ephesians 2:8-9), the Bible also plainly teaches that what we do for Christ in this life will be rewarded. Think about your daily work environment and list aspects of your vocation that you believe are opportunities which have the potential of being eternally rewarded.

What are some aspects of your work which have the potential of bringing about God's discipline in this life (Galatians 6:7) and shame at his coming (see 1 John 2:28)?

3. What practical steps can you take to keep your heart set on the Giver and not just his gifts?
4. How could you use your Christianity as an excuse for shoddy work?

Read through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

Sunday

Lam.3-5 & 1Tim.3

Monday

Ezk.1-2 & 1Tim.4

Tuesday

Ezk.3-4 & 1Tim.5

Wednesday

Ezk.5-6 & 1Tim.6

Thursday

Ezk.7-8 & 2Tim.1

Friday

Ezk.9-10 & 2Tim.2

Saturday

Ezk.11-12 & 2Tim.3

Here are some resources that may prove helpful in adjusting our ideas about the things we ought to be working for:

- Bounds, Edward M. **Heaven: A Place, A City, A Home.** Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1975.
- Getz, Gene. **Real Prosperity: Biblical Principles of Material Possessions.** Chicago: Moody Press, 1990.
- Lutzer, Erwin. **Your Eternal Reward: Triumph and Tears at the Judgment Seat of Christ.** Chicago: Moody Press, 1998. *(As with all listed resources, discernment should be used when reading this title. Lutzer occasionally overstates his case – e.g., his attempt to suggest a significant distinction between "inherit the kingdom" & "possess the kingdom" in chapter 4.)*
- MacArthur, John. **The Glory of Heaven: The Truth About Heaven, Angels and Eternal Life.** Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1996.
- Moody, Dwight L. **Heaven.** Chicago: Moody Press, 1880 (reprint, 1995).
- Stowell, Joseph. **Eternity: Reclaiming a Passion for What Endures.** Chicago: Moody Press, 1995.
- _____. **Perilous Pursuits: Our Obsession with Significance.** Chicago: Moody Press, 1994.
- Watson, Thomas. **The Art of Divine Contentment.** Morgan, PA: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1653 (reprint, 1998).