

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

8 February 2015

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Old and New Covenant worship (Hebrews 9:1-10)

A.M. Lesson:

How is God's Word to be applied (2 Timothy 3:14-17)?

P.M. Lesson:

God promised peace (Matthew 10:34-42)

Wednesday:

Romans 7:7f

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Psalm 122:2

The most shared verse in 1014 in its context

<http://servantsofgrace.org>, Posted by Mike Leake on Feb 7, 2015

According to YouVersion Colossians 3:23-24 was the most shared verse in 2014.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:23-24 ESV)

Colossians 3:18-4:1 is a shortened version of Ephesians 5:22—6:9. Just as in Ephesians, Paul begins his letter by expounding upon the complete redemption that believers have in Christ Jesus. And once again, like Ephesians, in the middle of the letter Paul begins to exhort these believers based upon what Christ has accomplished.

In Colossians 3, Paul encourages the Colossian believers to "put to death" what is earthly and to "put on" that which corresponds to their new life in Christ. I believe in 3:17 Paul sums up that section by saying, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving

thanks to God the Father through him."

After this exhortation—which I believe applies to relationships within the church at large—Paul now makes application upon the home. He moves from wives to husbands to children, and then to slaves. It is within this exhortation to slaves that we find Colossians 3:23-24.

In context this verse is directed to household slaves. So can we apply these verses today if we aren't slaves?

In order to understand this verse we have to first dispel our typical notions of "slavery." The slaves that Paul is speaking to in this passage are not people enslaved against their own will. But we also cannot too quickly dismiss the fact that a slave is owned by his master. Douglas Moo is correct when he says:

It is true that ancient slavery differed in some important ways from slavery practiced, for instance, in 19th century America... But it is also true that ancient and modern slavery, in its various forms, has in common the basic fact that one human owns and has virtually ultimate control over another. (Moo, 308)

So we should not be too quick to make a one-to-one connection between slavery and employment. Paul's main point here is that even if you find yourself in a really terrible situation like ancient

slavery you are still to represent Jesus in the way you work heartily.

So, what meaning does this have for people today that don't find themselves enslaved? Can we apply this to the employer and employee relationship?

Yes. Even though the near application is to slaves, we see that these principles apply to the employer and employee relationship as well. That which would have made a faithful slave will also make a faithful employee. Likewise, the attitude that would make a master faithful to the Lord also apply to an employer.

In fact, there are seeds here in Colossians that would actually lead to an eradication of slavery and lead to a shift to an employee/employer type of relationship. Therefore, it is not difficult to make this application.

All of this leads me to wonder why in the world Colossians 3:23-24 is the most shared verse. My only hypothesis is that many believers, or their friends, are in jobs that they do not necessarily enjoy. As such we need encouragement to be faithful in our work.

Furthermore, within Colossians 3:23-24 is a purpose for your work—you are working for God and for His Kingdom. That is a reason to get out of bed in the morning. Yeah, you may dislike your job and your boss may be a real goober—but Jesus is Lord over you and He is wonderful. Serve Him with passion and that will transform the way you view your Mondays.

Works, in context

David Cole, posted on Facebook

Paul and James used the word "works" differently. Paul was contrasting Old and New Covenants. James was contrasting mental assent faith and active faith.

The real threat in the church today is thinking that mere mental acceptance is "faith". Faith is active trust. Obedience to the gospel is faith. Believing is faith. Repenting is faith. Confessing Christ is faith. Trusting the Lord to forgive sins by being baptized is faith. Living like Jesus Christ by practicing his ethics of love is faith. Participating in

the ministry of reconciliation is faith. All Christian action is faith. Faith is not passive. And no Christian action should ever be regarded as works. As James said "faith without works (actions) is dead."

None of us are part of the Old Covenant and none of us are trusting in following the Old Covenant Law for our salvation so there is really no threat whatsoever that Christians are attempting to be saved by works (of the Old Covenant) according to Paul's definition.

Luther and Calvin screwed it all up by misunderstanding Paul's categories. They outrightly dismissed covenant and substituted a system of unconditional unilateral promises in it's place. Don't follow them down the road to deterministic easy believism. It is those who deny faith is "active trust" who are trusting in man made religion rather than "working out their own salvation with fear and trembling."

Relevant verses:

You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone (James 2:24, RSV).

... yet who know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified (Galatians 2:16, RSV).

News:

Jimmy Johnson is home from the hospital – tired, thin, a little weak, but glad to be out of the hospital and back home.

Everyone's invited to the Shorts' house to celebrate

Sara Atchley's birthday – about 2 P.M. today.

Fellowship meal is next Sunday, after services.

Prayer List:

Joy Gibson, Tatyana Knowlton, Ken Cocke, Janet Radar, H.L. Boling, Mike and Sandy Cavasos, Nic and Ani Self.

Neil Short, editor.
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