

Practical Christianity

AT OUR WORK!

- Being a Christian is a full-time commitment.

It will impact every area of our life.

I am called to be an example everywhere and at all times (**Matthew 5:13-16, Philippians 2:15**)

- It will affect every relationship I am in, where I go, who I associate with, my conversations, and what I do and when

Practical Christianity

AT OUR WORK!

Responsibility to work

- From the beginning, God has commended work – **Genesis 2:15, 19**
Even after their sinful fall – **Genesis 3:17-19**
- Solomon realized the value of work
Ecclesiastes 5:12
Proverbs 14:23
Proverbs 12:14

Responsibility to work

- In the New Testament we are commanded to work
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12**
 - **2 Thessalonians 3:10-12**
 - **Ephesians 4:28**
 - **1 Timothy 5:8**
- **What does the New Testament say about being a Christian when we are at work?**

My responsibility as a worker

- I need to do my job to the best of my ability
 - **Ecclesiastes 9:10** – *whatever your hand finds to do, do it with you might.*
- **Colossians 3:22-24** – a passage that addresses bondservants/masters. While not addressing that relationship directly, there are principles that govern the employer/employee environment.

My responsibility as a worker

- **Colossians 3:22-24**
 - *“Obey in all things...”* – I need to do my job.
 - *“not with eyeservice, as men pleasers”*
 - even when no one is looking
 - *“do it heartily,”* – do your job completely and to the best of your ability. Let your work be **QUALITY** and **QUANTITY**

My responsibility as a worker

➤ Colossians 3:22-24

- *“as to the Lord”* – everything we do is “to the Lord”. It is about serving and pleasing Him.

When serving God is our priority, it can help us cope with less-than-ideal circumstances. It also reminds us that everything we do is for a greater purpose – to get to heaven AND to take others with us

My responsibility as a worker

- **Colossians 3:22-24**
 - If we have the disposition of this text, we can anticipate our reward from God (**cf. Matthew 25:21**)
- AND often from our employers.
If he is honorable & interested in success, he will recognize your hard work and integrity and reward you accordingly

My responsibility as a worker

- I must have a Christian attitude
- While the word “attitude” is not found in many English translations, the concept is emphasized and fundamental. **Philippians 1:27, Ephesians 4:31-32, Galatians 5:22-23,**

My responsibility as a worker

My attitude in the workplace includes:

➤ Be content – **Luke 3:14, Philippians 4:11.**

Heed the warning of **1 Timothy 6:6-10**

➤ Be thankful – **Ecclesiastes 3:13**, *every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor – it is a gift from God.* Gratitude is a fundamental quality we need to possess/develop. Realize, there is ALWAYS someone with less.

My responsibility as a worker

My attitude in the workplace includes:

- Be honest – **Titus 2:9-10**, not pilfering, showing all good fidelity. EVEN if you are working from home/remotely!
Do not exploit your employer

My responsibility as a worker

My attitude in the workplace includes:

- Be pleasant – **Ephesians 4:32**, *and be kind to one another*

Kindness is a universal language appreciated by all. And it influences whatever environment you are in. You may not be able to control the demeanor of another, but you can control your demeanor

My responsibility as a worker

My attitude in the workplace includes:

- Be faithful to everyone – **Matthew 7:12**, do not forget “the golden rule”. We need to act without partiality, even as we do our jobs.

My responsibility as a worker

- IF you are in a work environment around other employees, you KNOW what is right and how you OUGHT to act!

You know how you would like to be treated if you were “wearing the other shoe”. Keep that in mind and never forget that you ARE being watched – especially by God.

My responsibility as an employer

- A discussion of the work environment is not complete without addressing “the boss” or one with authority over others.
- So, what does the Bible say about the employer?
- **Colossians 4:1, Ephesians 6:9** – we will make application to the one over others

My responsibility as an employer

➤ Be a good employer –

As a Christian, you need to care about your workers. Treat them with dignity. They are people, and likely they are there because they need to be.

Again, consider **Matthew 7:12**

My responsibility as an employer

- Give them their fair wages – Christians should not exploit anyone!
Colossians 4:1, give them what is just and fair
Luke 10:7, the laborer is worthy of his wages
James 5:4 – God takes note of those who defraud laborers

My responsibility as an employer

- Do NOT be harsh or unreasonable – Christians should not exploit anyone! **Ephesians 6:9**, give up threatening “Do the same things to them” – think about how you would want to be treated if roles were reversed

My responsibility as an employer

- NEVER forget you have a “boss” in heaven

Ephesians 6:9, *knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.*

Colossians 4:1, repeats this thought

- A good employer realizes he needs his workers and acts accordingly

My workplace and the gospel

- Your co-workers can be a great source to share the gospel with. Again, there are Biblical considerations we must make.
- **Matthew 5:13-16**, remember you are to be an example. That is your GREATEST teaching tool.

My workplace and the gospel

- ✓ Show them what integrity means – let them see honesty at work. God's standard!
- ✓ Control your language – **Ephesians 4:29-31, Colossians 4:6** – speech seasoned with salt.
Philippians 2:14 – do all things without complaining or disputing

My workplace and the gospel

- ✓ Show them that the Lord is important to you. Do nothing that compromises or degrades your faith.

Is God really your priority? Do you choose Him over more money, etc.? Will you sacrifice for more opportunities to be with your brethren, INCLUDING assemblies?

Matthew 16:26 – *what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?*

My workplace and the gospel

- ✓ IF allowed, will you take time to establish a public study? (Lunch break, weekly, etc.) Invite coworkers to services, gospel meetings? Etc.
- ✓ Give evidence that God is important – a Bible in your workspace, scripture sayings, NOTHING ungodly displayed. (IF ALLOWED!)

My workplace and the gospel

- ✓ Seek opportunities for home studies and after work influences – casual conversations can lead to further studies
- ✓ Do NOT let your spiritual zeal cheat your employer. “But I’m studying God’s word” is no excuse to neglect your responsibilities. Remember, a part of being a good example is to follow the rules (as long as they do not violate God’s rules).

We are blessed to live in a country where most of us can find gainful employment

**IS GOD PRESENT
WHEN I WORK?**

Let us pray!
