

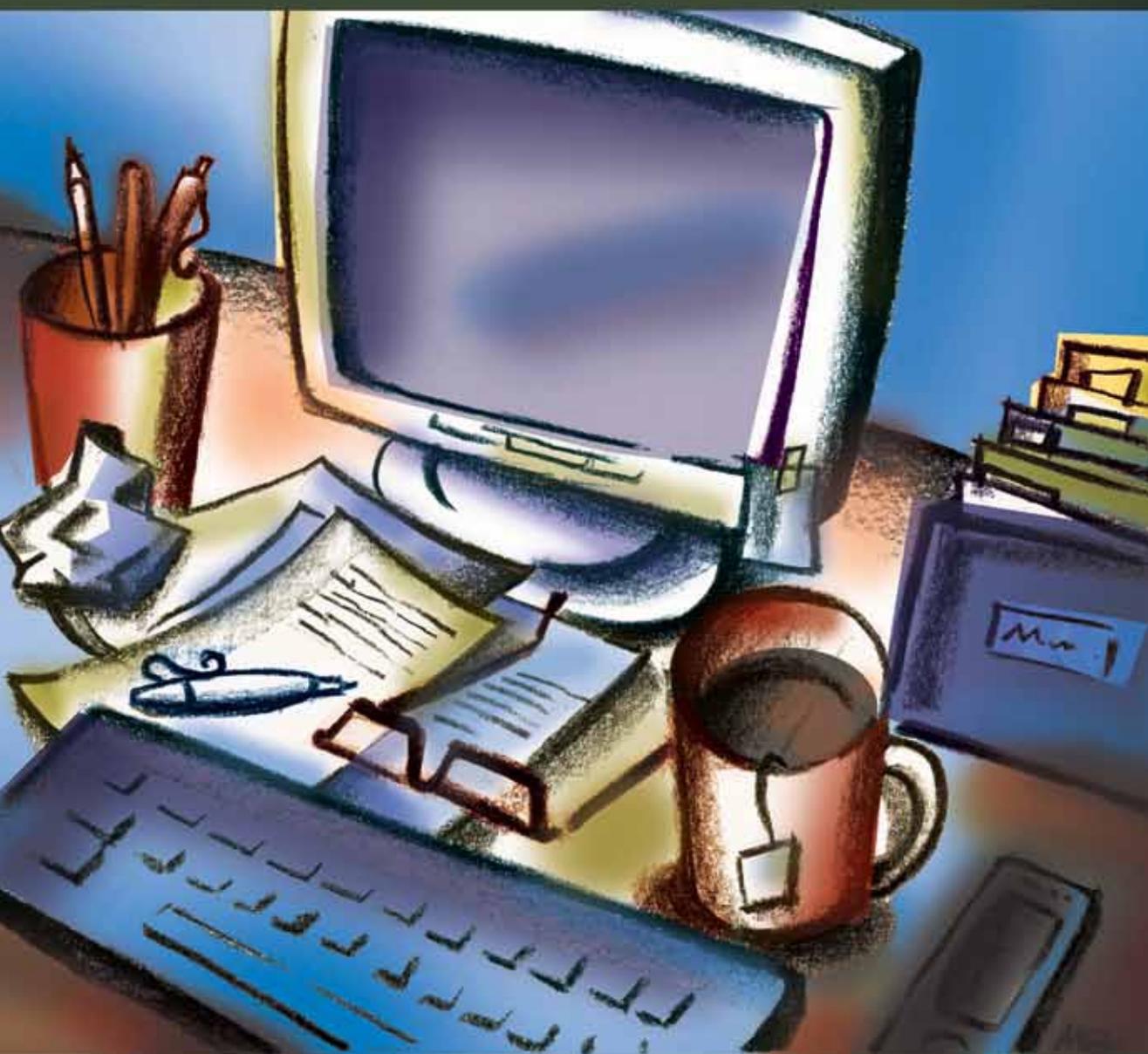
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Bible Witness



Christian and Work: Why Work?

Christian Work Ethics

The Christian Employer

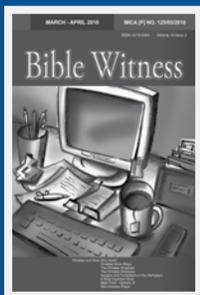
The Christian Employee

Dangers and Temptations in the Workplace

A Most Important Work

Bible Trivia - Genesis 47

God Answers Prayer



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Editorial

Dear reader,

Grace and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

In this editorial, I would like to touch on particularly two things: firstly, the theme of this issue – “Christian and Work”, and secondly, retreats held by Bible Witness Media Ministry.

“Christian and Work”

Most men work five or six days in a week. Almost all the daytime is spent at the workplace. Some Christians even work “overtime” late into the night. Since most Christians spend much of their time at their workplace, their Christian testimony can be either established (Ephesians 6:5-6) or destroyed (1 Timothy 6:1) by their conduct at work. If Christian employers and employees will take heed to the biblical principles and counsel concerning their conduct at work, they will become wonderful vessels of God’s glory at their place of work.

The articles in this issue will help you to discover the biblical wisdom for a godly demeanour at work. If you will apply the counsel that you glean from this issue, you will be able to bear a good testimony for the Lord Jesus before your bosses, co-workers and subordinates. Your place of work is your mission field and hence, how you comport yourself at work really matters. Whether you are a boss or a servant, may you be a servant of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart (Ephesians 6:6b).

Retreats by Bible Witness

Our hearts are very thankful to the Lord for His gracious blessings upon the first retreat held by Bible Witness during the March school holidays (17-19 March) at Pulai Springs Resort, Johor, Malaysia. There were thirty-five enthusiastic participants. Their eagerness and delight in studying God’s Word and in having fellowship with one another made the retreat a very special experience.

Having experienced God’s special blessings upon this new teaching ministry of Bible Witness, we will be holding another Bible Study retreat during the coming September school holidays (8-10 Sept 2010). I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join the upcoming retreat. More information can be found on the back cover of this magazine. Please reserve your seat early.

For your pleasure, I would like to publish some of the thanksgiving testimonies of the participants of the first retreat (see the next page). I covet your prayers as I prepare the lectures and notes for the next retreat. Please continue to pray for Bible Witness Media Ministry.

Prabhudas Koshy

Testimonies from



First Bible Witness Retreat

To God be the glory. I thank the Lord that I could come with my sister, Katherine, to attend the first retreat of Bible Witness. My heart is very thankful for His servant, Pastor Koshy, who organised the retreat and taught us God's Holy Word. As I heard of the obstacles and challenges that he faced in organising this retreat, I realised that God's special grace has surely been bestowed upon him to hold this retreat.

The study of God's Word concerning "the glory of His grace" has helped me to grow in assurance of my salvation. I thank God for the blessed assurance that I now have about His grace and goodness towards me. His grace is so overwhelming. Words cannot express my delight in the opportunity to know more about His glorious grace. It's like what the Psalmist has said in Psalm 23:5, "my cup runneth over."

I am overwhelmed by the thought that God is ready to pour down His marvellous grace upon an undeserving sinner like me. He has promised all His children that He will give His grace sufficiently, abundantly, exceedingly and richly. It gives me much confidence, and has removed my fears. I know that I can rest on Him totally. May His holy and gracious name be praised forever and ever. Amen.

I also thank the Lord for a blessed time of rest that He has prepared for me in the retreat. In fact, everything was in abundance - fellowship, spiritual feasting and physical feasting.

My sincere thanks to Pastor Koshy, Bro Stephen and the Bible Witness team for all the hard work. All glory be to God!

Shalom

Penny

"grace" was chosen not for mere literary purpose, like rhyme, but because of its great significance in the lives of Christians.

I especially enjoy the not so "demanding" retreat schedule where family with young kids like us can have ample time to have some family activities and rest. The programme was well planned that the participants were much refreshed.

I certainly look forward to the next retreat and God willing, we would like to join again.

Lovingly in Christ

Aik Kean, Su Yuan & Priscilla.

I would like to thank Bible Witness ministry for organizing the recent retreat at Pulai Springs Resort. I thank God for giving Rev Koshy the burden to start this new ministry and count it a privilege to be in the pioneer group of participants.

I want to testify of the blessings we have received during the retreat, both spiritual and physical. I thank God for inspiring Rev Koshy to expound on the theme "the Glory of His Grace". Until then, I had never known how narrow my understanding of the grace of God was.

I must confess for years I have been using the phrase "grace of God" without a proper understanding of what it actually encompasses. As we went through the lessons, I was constantly amazed at how rich and extensive God's grace is in our lives - from 'saving grace' that redeems us from eternal condemnation to grace that would enable us to pray for grace in time of trial and affliction, even when we are at a loss for words to pray.

I thank God that now I have a better appreciation of His grace; and hence whenever I use it, I will use it with the knowledge of its purpose in a Christian's life. With better understanding, God's grace is also becoming more visible in my daily life; and with that visibility, I am more aware of God's presence and His direction and intervention in my life.

I thank God for the refreshing 'singspiration' before each lesson, especially for the list of hymns with the word "grace" in them. I have sung those hymns hundreds of times, and even some of them, so I thought, I have understood them well. But during the retreat, I realized that the word

Why Work?

by Ephrem Chiracho

The concept of work is deeply rooted in the Holy Scriptures. Our God is a working God. The very first verse of the Bible shows that God opened history by His work of creation (Genesis 1:1ff). The first park, the Garden of Eden, was made by God (Genesis 2:8-9). Since then, God has committed Himself to the work of providing for, preserving, renewing and guiding His creatures. Thus, Jesus Christ declared to the Jews, “My Father worketh hitherto, and I work” (John 5:17). Likewise, God created man as a working moral creature (Genesis 1:28; 2:15). Therefore, the answer to the question “Why work?” must be furnished with biblical answers.

The mandate to work

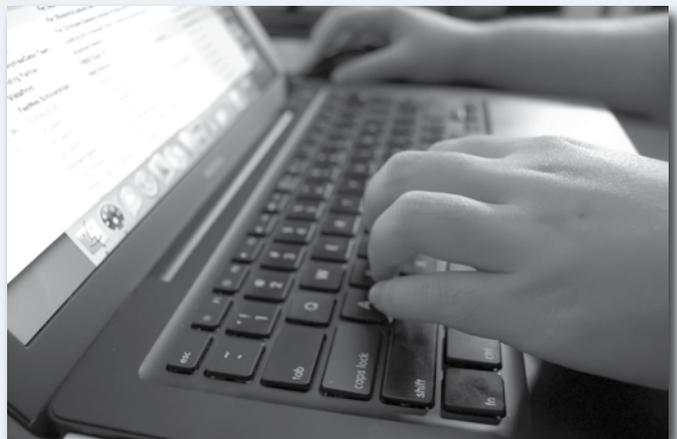
God created man in His own image, equipping him with faculties to render service for the glory of God. The Creator also gave man a mandate to work. First, God gave man the authority and duty to rule over His creatures. “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:28; cf. v. 26). This mandate is also displayed in the fact that God gave Adam the duty and privilege of naming all the animals (Genesis 2:19-20). Then God gave man the responsibility of caring for, maintaining and keeping the Garden of Eden

(Genesis 2:8-9, 15). The mandate to work was given prior to the Fall of man.

After man fell into sin, God charged him to earn his living by the labour of his hands (Genesis 3:17-19). Thus, if a capable person is not willing to work, it was said of him that “if any would not work, neither should he eat” (2 Thessalonians 3:10). Since work is a divinely appointed duty of man, it is pleasurable and fulfilling when it is done according to God’s will and purpose. “Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion” (Ecclesiastes 5:18; cf. 2:24).

The necessity for work

By his very nature, man is designed to work. Nonetheless, his work became laborious after the Fall because man’s environment was adversely affected thereafter. Therefore, man is required to work by the sweat of his brow to have his physical necessities sufficiently



and timely provided for (Genesis 3:17-19; cf. 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12).

The very structure of human society is set according to this divine pattern. The civil laws of our lands require every able-bodied person to be committed to some kind of job to provide for himself. Moreover, the believer is duty-bound to provide for his family as well. The Holy Scriptures declare that "if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (1 Timothy 5:8; cf. Ephesians 5:29). Believers who have widowed or incapacitated relatives are required by God's law to provide for their needs (1 Timothy 5:16). As God's children, we also have the glorious privilege and moral duty to provide for the work of God's house. It is the divine pattern that God's work be supported by the freewill gifts of God's people (Exodus 25:1-8; 1 Chronicles 29).

Therefore, we are required to work deliberately and diligently in order to provide for our needs, the needs of our families and dependant relatives, and to support God's work in the world. Christians who are in the full-time ministry should put their best efforts to do their utmost in fulfilling their divine calling. Though ministers of the Gospel are committed to full-time spiritual care of God's people, they are required to set a pattern of commitment to one's business in life (2 Thessalonians 3:7-9; Acts 20:33-34).

The purpose of work

The primary purpose of work is to bring glory to God, our Creator and Redeemer. We Christians are stewards of God to care for and improve on all that God has graciously entrusted to us. The

Holy Scriptures say that every believer is a servant of Christ Jesus in his place of employment. "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men" (Ephesians 6:5-7). Therefore, when we do our jobs faithfully and joyfully, God will be glorified and His Gospel will be testified through our virtuous lives (Titus 2:9-10; Matthew 5:13-16).

Since work is the divinely designed means of earning our living, God will be glorified when we provide for our needs and the needs of our families. It is God's will for us to improve our lives and circumstances through honest labour (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; Proverbs 13:4). God gave man a creative and innovative mind so that he may wisely and properly utilize the natural resources for the betterment of his life as well as the lives of the people in his family and community. In human history, many capable and industrious Christians had contributed greatly to the development and advancement of science and technology for the good of all humanity.

The time frame to work

The wise and benevolent Creator gives man a week of seven days: six working days and one day of rest (Exodus 20:6-11; cf. Genesis 2:1-3). Moreover, in the twenty-four hour day, God gives twelve "light-hours" to execute our businesses and twelve "night-hours" to refresh our body and enjoy fellowship with our family members. Those who work in shifts may alternate this working time between day and night. Yet, sufficient

rest is essential for our health and efficiency in performing our duties in every aspect of life. The internationally accepted standard is eight hours of work a day. However, some people may need to work more hours to provide for their necessities while others torment their body with longer working hours to attain a luxurious lifestyle. When this is done at the expense of our family and spiritual commitments, it is even more harmful.

Yet, man must diligently and wholeheartedly labour to fulfil all his duties during the six working days, and then rest on the remaining day of the week. For the Christian, the day of rest is a necessity as much as the working days are: the latter for our physical welfare while the former for our spiritual well-being. Man is not an animal; he is a moral and spiritual creature. Therefore, he is duty-bound to make provisions for his body as well as his soul. Negligence in carrying out either duty is dangerous (Proverbs 24:30-31; Luke 12:16-21). We must keep the balance which our Creator has set between working for our temporal life and working out our spiritual life. The Christian's true happiness and fulfilment are achieved when his relationship with God is healthy and strong. This can be attained by devoting oneself to spiritual pursuits such as prayer, reading the Bible, public and private worship, and performing spiritual services on the weekly day of rest (Luke 4:16; Acts 20:7; Isaiah 66:23). This will in turn lead to spiritual growth and fruitfulness in life.

The motivation for work

There are several motivational factors for work. Firstly, work is designed by God to be the means of providing for our needs in life (Genesis 2:7-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12). God also provides opportunities for

education and specialised training which qualify us for a job, thereby enabling us to earn our living, provide for the necessities of people in our lives and support God's work. This creates joy, a sense of satisfaction and inspiration to work.

Secondly, God promised to bless the works of our hands as we faithfully labour in accordance with His will and purpose for our lives. "Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee" (Psalm 128:1-2; cf. Deuteronomy 24:19; 28:12; Ephesians 4:28).

Thirdly, the Bible clearly declares that God will faithfully reward every Christian who cheerfully, diligently and honestly performs his job as a servant of Christ (Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-24). At times, men may fail to pay us or they may underpay us, but our God will surely reward us abundantly.

Finally, the pattern of Christ's earthly life gives us great motivation for work. From His humble labour in the daily chores assigned to Him by His parents (Luke 2:51; Mark 6:3), to the lofty work of redemption for which He came to accomplish, the life of Jesus Christ is the epitome of sacrificial work (John 4:34; 9:4; 10:17). We have every reason to follow the pattern set by our Creator and Redeemer that we may devote ourselves to every task God assigns to us.



Christian Work Ethics

by Tan Kian Sing

Introduction

God the Creator has revealed in His Word the proper work ethics so that His people may conduct themselves as exemplary workers. Christian work ethics are God-ordained rules, standards and principles governing a Christian worker in his role as an employer or employee. It involves instructions on integrity, honesty, commitment, humility, truthfulness, accountability, faithfulness, trustworthiness, good attitude and behaviour, and diligence with the best effort, respect and obedience.

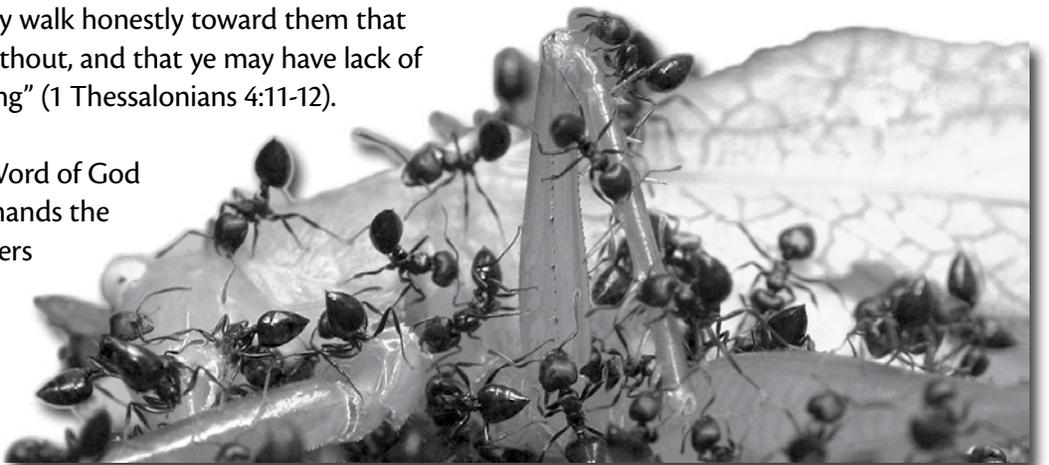
God, in His sovereignty and goodness, provides for all our needs. Nevertheless, it is God's will that man should exercise his responsibility by working with his own hands to earn his upkeep. In doing so, man is to be faithful and honest so that he need not be dependent upon others, thus bearing a good testimony. "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing" (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12).

The Word of God commands the believers

to work and to earn a living. "Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread" (2 Thessalonians 3:12). We are to work to provide for our own even as we trust in the Lord to take care of all things in our lives. It would be unthinkable to neglect this command in the light of 1 Timothy 5:8, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

Diligence at work

Christians are expected to labour hard at work. We need to be industrious and motivated workers; to be cooperative with our co-workers and have a persevering spirit at work, especially when the work is difficult and tedious. Christian workers ought not to be lazy in doing their work, for God has given many admonitions in His Holy Word against the sin of laziness and procrastination:



“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: so shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man” (Proverbs 6:6-11).

“The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour. He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth and spareth not” (Proverbs 21:25-26).

“The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain” (Proverbs 15:19).

“Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger” (Proverbs 19:15).

“The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing” (Proverbs 20:4).

Christians are therefore to be on guard against being idle and unproductive in their jobs or businesses. In 2 Thessalonians 3:7-10, the Apostle Paul cites the example of the apostolic band in order to exhort Christians to be responsible and diligent in their work - “For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: not because we have not power, but to make ourselves

an ensample unto you to follow us.

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”

Obedience at work

Christian employees are to give due respect and obedience to their employers. They are not to cheat, steal company time, nor take the easy way out in performing their tasks. They ought to arrive at work on time and to be given fully to work during office hours. They must be faithful workers with good work attitudes, working as if the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is our Employer. The Apostle Paul outlines the importance of obedience of Christian workers in these passages:

“Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free” (Ephesians 6:5-8).

“Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things” (Titus 2:9-10).

Likewise, Christian employers are to treat their employees fairly and not to short-change them but to pay and reward them accordingly. They are not to impose unreasonable demands or place undue stress on the employees.

Remember that we are all servants of the Lord and He is watching and judging all the things that we have done or left undone. "And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him" (Ephesians 6:9).

Responsible stewardship at work

Believers are to faithfully fulfil their responsibilities, whether they are in a subordinate or managerial position at their workplace. They are expected to be submissive to higher authority. They need to be trustworthy and to keep to their promises and commitments. "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2). They are accountable in the way they use whatever talents they have in order to do their job well. Remember the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) and the parable of the ten pounds (Luke 19:11-27) in which the Lord Jesus teaches how we should be good and faithful servants in using the talents that we have been given? Besides, God expects Christian workers to use their talents diligently not only to meet the needs of this earthly life but more importantly, to show forth a good Christian testimony at their workplace.

A wrong perspective

It is wrong for believers to work with the goal of becoming wealthy. In Proverbs 23:4-5, we are told, "Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven." It is not money or becoming rich that is evil but the love of money. A man who

loves money and wants to have more and more of it will face many troubles and sorrows. That is the emphatic message from 1 Timothy 6:9-10, "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

The right perspective

God's will is for us to work to provide for our needs and that of our loved ones. He made man to serve Him through his labours and to enjoy it. It is not for us to labour with the aim to become rich lest "thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth" (Deuteronomy 8:17). The right attitude and focus towards working and earning a living is that "thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day" (Deuteronomy 8:18).

Always bear in mind to seek to glorify God and to have a thankful spirit in our work and in all that we do. That is the teaching contained in the following Pauline instructions:

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Colossians 3:23).

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

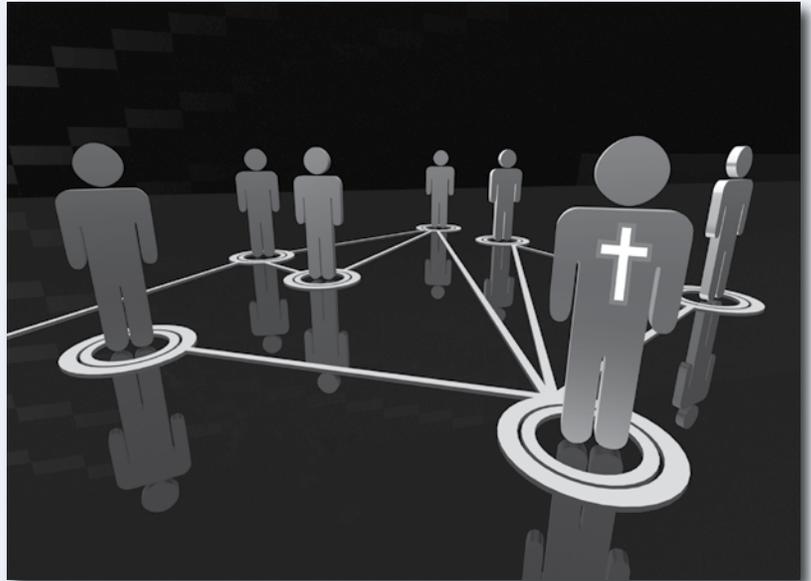
(Continued on page 14)

The Christian Employer

by Boaz Boon

Whether employers or employees, all Christians have the same Master, that is, our Lord Jesus Christ – “...for one is your Master, even Christ” (Matthew 23:10b). Therefore, masters ought to treat their servants well because the Scriptures say, “Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven” (Colossians 4:1). “And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening; knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him” (Ephesians 6:9).

Christian employers need to set Christ-like examples to live out the Gospel in their lives. The main purpose which God allows a person to be in that position of command is to reflect the beauty of the Lord Jesus Christ and to make Him known to people around him. Employers, in this context, could be entrepreneurs who have their own businesses, or managers and supervisors in a company (from the highest rank, e.g. Chief Executive Officer and downwards) and those who employ domestic helpers at home. However, there are indeed instances when Christian employers have fallen



short of the biblical standards. Those who abuse their power and act as tyrants will certainly bring shame to the name of Christ. This ought not to be!

A Christian employer should uphold honesty, integrity, industry and patience towards others. In other words, fairness and truthfulness must characterise all his dealings. There will be no place for bribery and fraud in his business, and whatever profit gained is due to his diligence. He should also treat his subordinates with a kind and gentle spirit, manifesting a heart that is forgiving and willing to give a second chance to those who may have failed or may have been remiss in their duties.

The main difference between a Christian employer and others is that the former

has Christian values as guiding principles in everyday life. These values are to be based on the Bible and guided by the love of God. Hence, Christian employers need to emanate the love of Christ and shine forth His beauty not only at home but also at the workplace. Pertinent lessons can be drawn from Colossians 4:1 and Ephesians 6:9 on how this can be done.

Being just

“Masters, give unto your servants that which is just...” (Colossians 4:1a). This word ‘just’ has the meaning of what is ‘rightful according to the law of God and the law of the land’. The employment contractual agreement may be the best place to start in applying this principle. Christian employers should be reasonable with the demands stipulated in the employment contract. It goes without saying that every detail therein should be legal (like working hours, days of leave and entitlement to medical benefits). Moreover, the spirit in which the contract is implemented is equally important.

One can mull over an example from the gospel account of a certain centurion who showed honest concern over the sickness of his servant. “And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him” (Matthew 8:6-7). This centurion was a man of authority but he was concerned enough for his servant’s welfare that he humbled himself to plead with the Lord Jesus for his healing. The Lord was happy with the centurion’s faith and humility that He said to him, “Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour” (Matthew 8:13). Thus, Christian employers

should do no less to care for their employees with all sincerity as exemplified by the centurion. The lines written on the employment contract would be of little meaning if there is no sincerity on the part of employers to fulfil them.

There are other examples where Christian employers can be just, such as in giving leave entitlement and benefits. Christian employers can provide annual leave according to prevalent market practice (i.e. the number of days of leave would depend on the rank and length of employment of the employee). In addition, they can provide family-event leave, child-care leave, social-volunteer leave (including missions work) and flexible working days. A happy and grateful employee will increase productivity at work! This is well researched and published in management journals, including the Harvard Business Review.

Christian employers may also provide flexibility to work benefits which the employee can convert into funds to pay for medical expenses for dependents, for holiday accommodation for the family, for insurance, etc. The flexibility of such benefits can go a long way in meeting other needs of the employees.

Being equal

“Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal...” (Colossians 4:1a). This word ‘equal’ has the meaning of fairness and honesty. We should give credit where credit is due. Equality and fairness can be shown in the following aspects:

In fair wages: Christian employers who have been blessed with a good harvest should fairly compensate the employees.

During performance appraisals, Christian employers should be fair to recognise the efforts and achievements of their subordinates. If they have done well and deserve good grades, they should be rewarded fairly. Good grades should be followed with commensurate bonuses, salary increment and/or promotion. "For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward" (1 Timothy 5:18).

Furthermore, our God expects Christian employers to be generous. "Thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him" (Deuteronomy 15:14). For it is commanded of us to "withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it" (Proverbs 3:27).

A warning is given from the Scriptures to employers who are unjustly withholding their employees' due. "Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth" (James 5:4).

We have a Master in heaven who shows no partiality as expressed in Ephesians 6:9b, "neither is there respect of persons with him." Thus, hiring and promotion should be based on merit and not on any other factors like race or kith and kin. Doing otherwise would find Christian employers to be unfair or unequal.

In food and nourishment: How many domestic helpers have been

denied sufficient food and even beaten or tortured when they eat food found in the kitchen? Do take careful note that it is the responsibility of masters in households to provide sufficient food for their helpers as these verses imply:

"And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance for thy maidens" (Proverbs 27:27).

"She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens" (Proverbs 31:15).

In the story of the prodigal son, he recalled how his father nourished his servants sufficiently. "And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!" (Luke 15:17).

Forbearing threatening

"And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening" (Ephesians 6:9a). Forbearing threatening has the meaning of giving up or avoiding issuing threats. It is a disposition to govern by love rather than terror.

Christian employers should not be tyrants to their subordinates. A survey on the abuse of domestic helpers reveals these horrible findings:

- a) Being screamed and yelled at for the smallest thing
- b) Various physical abuses resulting in injury
- c) Not given proper food
- d) Not given enough rest
- e) Not paid properly on time
- f) No freedom to do personal things
- g) Living in fear and indignity
- h) Tortured like slaves in some cases

In Singapore, many such abusive employers were caught and jailed. Do not let that happen to you!

Conclusion

As an employer, have you been oppressive to those who are working for you? Have our servants sinned and we have not? Have they fallen short of our expectations and we have not fallen short of the Lord's expectations? Have they angered us and we have not angered the Lord? Are they imperfect and we are so perfect?

Let all Christian employers search their hearts and ask the Lord for mercy and

repent of such sins as being unjust, biased and threatening tyrants. Christian employers, remember that there is a greater, even perfect Master, the Lord Jesus Christ. May we seek to be more like Him as we minister as earthly masters to our employees.



Christian Work Ethics

(Continued from page 10)

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Colossians 3:17).

Conclusion

These God-given work ethics require us to be committed workers, trusting in Christ and working towards excellence in the earthly tasks that our hands find to do. Once our time on earth is up, our earthly work will cease and eternal rest will follow for the Christian. So, “whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor

knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest” (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Christian work ethics found in the Word of God are given to us as divine principles to be faithfully obeyed so that we may be found blameless as God's stewards wherever the Lord has ordained us to labour for Him. May God help us to abide by these biblical work ethics by being a good workman approved unto God that we may not be put to shame.

At the end of it all, we must be guided by the words of wisdom written in the

Scriptures, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).



The Christian Employee

by Dennis Kabingue

Introduction

The Christian employee is an ambassador for Christ at his workplace. He is commissioned to live out the truth of God daily at work. He should be a living witness to the Gospel that his life may become an instrument in leading the elect of God, who are still lost in the world, to be reconciled to God.



Sadly, many Christian employees today are not concerned with the spiritual work that God has appointed them to perform at their workplace. They are only concerned about dollars and cents, and career advancement – not at all different from the people of the world. This mindset must be corrected, for it is neither pleasing to God, nor is it the appropriate attitude of a Christian who wants to be obedient to the Great Commission of his Master.

This article underscores three major areas where vigilance is needed from every Christian employee that seeks to please the Lord in his vocation. They are (i) his faith, (ii) his attitude, and (iii) his evangelistic zeal.

The faith of the Christian employee at work

As an ambassador for Christ at his workplace, the Christian employee must

so live out his faith that his superiors and colleagues may have a glimpse of the reality and existence of the living and true God in his life. In so doing, prayer and total dependence upon God will inevitably be the hallmarks of his faith.

A consistent prayer life. No Christian should conduct his work by his own strength and abilities. He may have accumulated knowledge and experience over the years, yet he must remember that without Christ, he can do nothing (John 15:5). It goes without saying that he must make it a point to uphold his work in prayer (Psalm 37:5; Proverbs 3:5-6). A consistent prayer life is what sets the Christian employee apart from others.

To discharge his duties to the best of his ability is vital (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Knowing that God cannot be mocked, the Christian should be conscientious in carrying out all

his responsibilities at the workplace. So as he prays to be effective at work, he should be scrupulous in utilizing company time and resources. He should not report to the office late nor leave even before working hours are over. He should avoid the use of office equipment and materials for personal benefit (unless with permission). Instead, he must be resourceful in finding ways and means to always improve. If he expects more blessings at work, the rule is to pray hard and work hard as well.

Undoubtedly, the Lord shall bless the Christian employee openly though he communicates with Him secretly (Matthew 6:6). God will make him an effective and efficient worker so that he becomes a good example to people around him. His efficiency and disposition at work will capture the attention and curiosity of others. They will soon discover that his secret is not so much in his own capabilities as in praying to God who gives him grace to discharge his duties or responsibilities in an exemplary manner. When this happens, the Christian employee is blessed with the opportunity to honour and witness for the Lord Jesus Christ in his job. No monetary compensation or career promotion can ever accord such a great blessing.

An utmost dependence upon God.

There is a great danger when a Christian employee looks at his employer as his provider and his career as his lifeline. Doing so would lessen his reliance upon the great Jehovah Jireh, and he soon forgets that God is the Provider of all things in his life.

At this stage, he becomes open to the attacks of Satan and begins to worry even over his daily needs. This can lead him to

compromise his biblical standards and fall into all sorts of sin. He may find himself working for long hours at the expense of his spiritual life. He may still attend church worship but is only a 'Sunday Christian' at best. There will be less or no time at all for personal devotion, church activities and family life as he becomes engrossed with materialism. Pretty soon, the mammon god will be the object of his devotion.

To satisfy his greed for mammon, he becomes indifferent to illegal practices at work. The consequences can be tragic. He learns to 'close one eye' and keep quiet at the sight of dishonest activities. Worse of all, he himself may be engaged in them. He seems to prosper financially but his life becomes a big mess. His household is no better with an unhappy wife and unruly children going about their ungodly ways. And when his family falls apart, he becomes troubled and loses his focus and efficiency at work. As a result, he may even lose his job. Realize that only the Lord God Almighty is the faithful and true Provider. All other gods are abominable, mammon included.

Thus, the Christian employee must wholly trust God to provide for his needs. Needless to say, a prudent lifestyle filled with contentment is also required as reflected in this verse, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

The attitude of the Christian employee at work

The Christian employee must let the Word of God guide his attitude towards work if he is to be an effective ambassador for

Christ. “Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things”

(Titus 2:9-10). The attitude of the Christian worker is certainly a crucial factor in the way people look at his Christian faith.



The Christian employee's obedience to his boss “in all things” is the outcome of “fearing God”. This means that as far as his superior's work instructions remain within biblical precepts, there

An attitude of respect. “Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed” (1 Timothy 6:1). This means that Christian employees must hold their superiors at work in high regard. They should “count their own masters worthy of all honour” and not become bitter, even if at times they may be unreasonable or bad-tempered. This is a very wise and practical instruction from the Lord.

Moreover, when a Christian employee regards his boss highly, he will be pleased to work under him. This will create in him a happy and secure disposition that motivates him to give his best. It develops his personal character as he aligns himself with his boss' vision, ideals and way of running the company. He becomes more acquainted with and, thus, more effective in his work to the glory of the Father.

An attitude of obedience. “Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: and whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto

men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons” (Colossians 3:22-25).

is no ground for a Christian worker to refuse compliance. At times, this can be a big struggle if you are ordered to work in a certain way or according to specific instructions with which you are not comfortable. Sometimes, you may indeed have a better way of accomplishing a particular task than that which was prescribed but it might never stand a chance of being implemented because your boss is too proud to accept it. Nevertheless, the Scriptures remind us to maintain a good working relationship with our superior through our obedience rather than to argue with him and lose our Christian testimony.

Obedience to our earthly masters “in singleness of heart, fearing God” is no less a service to Christ Himself. It is a witness that the Christian trusts in the Lord, being mindful that he is more accountable to God than to his earthly boss. Though he is doing a secular job, he knows he can earn eternal rewards because God will judge how he has performed his duties or responsibilities. Treasures in heaven await the faithful and obedient Christian worker. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one

may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

An attitude beyond reproach. Every Christian employee carries with him the responsibility of being the salt of the earth and the light of the world (cf. Matthew 5:13-14). At the workplace, vices and ungodly activities abound. Colleagues may engage in idle talk, gossiping, politicking and slandering. Others may be into gambling, drinking and womanizing. Once a Christian employee joins in, his testimony is weakened, even destroyed, as his character is open to reproach.

Dear Christian employee, you might already be serving in various church ministries such as the choir, Sunday school or in ushering. Do you know that your colleagues' opinions about who you are can affect your service for Christ? Who knows that one day you might become a deacon, an elder or a pastor? Their report could either confirm you or disqualify you in the ministry. The Bible says, "Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil" (1 Timothy 3:7).

The evangelistic effort of the Christian employee at work

As an ambassador for Christ at his workplace, the Christian employee must never forget this important duty of leading to Christ his unbelieving co-workers. These unbelievers may not be within the reach of pastors and preachers of the Gospel as they spend most of their lives in massive factories and corporate buildings. Day in and day out, they shuttle

between home and office, oblivious to the grave danger that awaits them.

Someone must bring to their attention their lost condition. Someone must tell them about Jesus Christ. This is not only a great evangelistic opportunity for the Christian employee; it also fulfils his responsibility in warning sinners to turn away from their wicked ways. The Lord makes it clear that someone will be held accountable if the Gospel is not spoken to them. Could it be you? "When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand" (Ezekiel 33:8).

Conclusion

Beloved, take your calling seriously as an ambassador for Christ to the working world because God expects you to work out this calling as you work day by day. Be not earthly-minded by being busy in laying up treasures upon the earth. But let your Christian faith be seen at work; let the Word of God mould your attitudes at work. Lastly, put in much effort in bringing people to Christ as you work. Truly, your life will be blessed and more meaningful as you become "a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (2 Timothy 2:21).

May the Lord bless us with good Christian employees, serving the Lord as ambassadors for Christ in their particular places of labour.



Dangers and Temptations in the Workplace

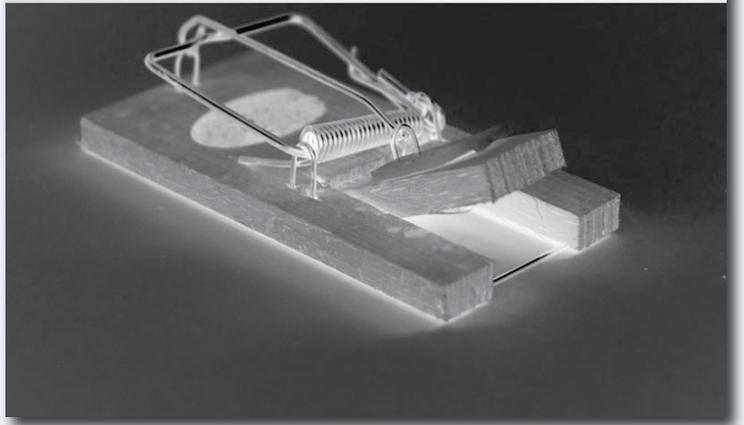
by Reggor B. Galarpe

One very common area that poses a great threat to one's Christian witness and testimony is the workplace. Regardless of the nature of your work, whether you belong to the corporate world having a white-collar job or in the industrial sector doing a blue-collar job, or any other job placement, one of the greatest challenges that you would surely encounter is that of preserving your Christian testimony in the midst of the overwhelming temptations in and around the workplace.

Temptation is ever lurking around us, so every Christian must be watchful and careful. The Scriptures warn, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). And let us not forget what James said, "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:14-15).

As we think about the workplace and the common dangers that Christians face, there are two words that stand out:

Temptation: Devil's trap



"conform" and "compromise". We all know that temptation is an allurement, an enticement, a desire, or an urge to engage in any act that is against the will of God. Its presence is especially evident at the workplace where the pressure to conform and to compromise is very great, and hence it is not uncommon for Christians to fall into temptation and eventually sin.

The urge to conform

There is a common saying that goes like this: "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." More often than not, the workplace is made up mostly of a non-Christian workforce with Christians comprising the minority. Given such a situation, it is not unusual for one to be exposed to some unethical and sinful practices at the workplace. Very often,

the Christian worker may be drawn to his colleagues' habits and lifestyles that run contrary to personal convictions as well as biblical principles and standards.

Among the common unethical practices are the following:

- a) Lying – giving out misleading and false information, as in the case of one who takes sick leave when he is not sick, falsification of office records, etc.
- b) Cheating – like the practice of having somebody clock in and out (on your behalf) at the office daily time recorder when you are actually late in reporting or have not reported at all.
- c) Stealing – it comes in many forms, ranging from the more obvious act of taking away company resources (including money) to the subtle practice of using your working hours in doing personal matters (and getting paid for it!).
- d) Corruption – engaging in under the table (illegal) transactions for personal monetary gain.
- e) Bribery – the act of giving or receiving gifts (often expensive ones) for a “favour” or a “service” rendered.

While Christians are supposed to uphold the principles of the Bible and bear a good witness to others, it is sad to see that many would rather conform to the “norms” and go with the flow.

We often hear this line: “Since everybody's doing it, then it must be alright; I might as well do it too!” Enticed by the profit and benefits that come along, and the comfort of not being marginalized and marked out as “different”, many a Christian has succumbed to the urge to conform to unbiblical practices at his workplace.

However, the Bible tells us in Ephesians 4:17-24, “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

As Christians, much is expected of us! We have a high standard that is patterned after God's holiness and righteousness that should be manifested in our conduct. In the words of the Apostle Paul, we read, “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15).

Realize then, that giving in to the urge to conform is tantamount to lowering our standards, if not letting down our guard, making us vulnerable to even more temptations.

The urge to compromise

With standards and guard lowered, it will not be difficult for one to compromise. It is at this point that he starts to reason within himself and justify his desire to give in to temptation and fall into sin, laying

aside his personal convictions and the biblical principles that he has held on to.

It is when one contemplates, “Yea, hath God said?...Ye shall not surely die!” This is reminiscent of the Fall of man in the Garden of Eden. It still rings true today. Every time a Christian compromises and engages himself in some worldly and sinful pleasures saying, “I deserve a break...I must enjoy...I must have time to unwind...eat, drink, and be merry! After all, I’ve been working hard, you know?”



And so, in addition to the urge to conform to unethical practices in the workplace, the Christian may succumb to the urge to compromise and fall into such sins like:

- Sexual immorality
- Smoking, drinking and taking drugs
- Gambling
- Senseless merrymaking (disco parties)
- Covetousness, and many others!

I wonder how many lives and testimonies have been ruined all because Christians gave in to temptation and compromised their biblical convictions. Do not err, my beloved brethren! Temptation seemingly promises satisfaction and happiness but actually brings about frustration, pain, sorrow and loss.

Conclusion

Knowing the subtlety of temptation, may every Christian be watchful. Realize that falling into temptation is a matter of personal choice. Yes, people and circumstances may contribute to the

temptation (aside from the devil), but that’s the most they can do – try to tempt you. The final say rests upon you, as it is

you who decides whether to give in to temptation or not. Remember, “every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed” (James 1:14).

Thus, the deciding point is whether you will walk in the Spirit or fulfil the lust of the flesh; whether you would pursue after righteousness and holiness or be entangled in sin; whether

you would choose to glorify God with your obedience or gratify yourself in sinful pleasures through your disobedience.

Let it be that when you have the urge to conform, it would be that urge to conform to our Lord and Master, to be more and more like Him in all that you do and say. And when you ever have the urge to compromise, may you be strong and firm in your convictions, not giving in but resisting temptation with the strength of our Lord. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

May all our pursuits and plans in life, whatever be our aspirations and desires, including all that we do at the workplace, be done to the glory of God.



A Most Important Work

by Eliezer Ortega

“Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed” (John 6:27).

In this sin-cursed world, working from day to day is an integral part of man’s life. This, in effect, supplies his daily necessities. It is God’s intended purpose for man to toil and labour. And when our needs are met, that should be enough. So wrote Paul in 1 Timothy 6:8, “And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.”

However, the world has always been finding ways to stir up the fleshly desires of men, subverting even their godly ways of earning a living. Because of the pressure, enticement and allurements of this world, man has also deemed it essential to acquire what

the world has to offer. And soon it dawns upon him that by working more and more, it can be possible for him to indulge in the luxuries and pleasures of this world besides meeting his basic needs. This breeds discontentment, greed and materialism in the hearts of many. Thus, man becomes

preoccupied with work when he sees more work as a means to more money. Man, in his covetous state, goes beyond God’s intended purpose for work as his outlook towards work becomes warped.

Jesus warned in Luke 12:15, “Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” Realize that the more we amass earthly possessions, the more our hearts are enslaved by them. The problem gets deeper when we consider how earthly riches can make



life on earth so comfortable that it will distract us from longing after heaven. In the parable of the sower, Jesus spoke about how the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches can cause us to neglect the Word of God and render us unfruitful (Matthew 13:22).

Whether he is a mere worker or an enterprising employer, many a Christian has succumbed to this tempting pattern of chasing after earthly riches. He may appear to be devoted to serving Christ, but deep inside his heart, he may already be following the mammon god. We must be aware that the Lord Omniscient knows every motive and intent of our hearts, even with regard to our work. One commentator says, "Christ knows not only what we do, but also why we do it."

Such was the case with the Jews in Jesus' time. After experiencing the miracle of the feeding of five thousand people with five barley loaves and two small fishes, many of them came to Jesus purportedly to follow Him. But "Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled" (John 6:26).

Though the Jews may appear to be seeking Him, their intentions were to

gratify the pleasures of their flesh rather than believing in His works and truly following Him. Paul also referred to such people in Philippians 3:18-19, "(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)"

The Lord Jesus Christ, in response to these people who were pretentiously seeking after Him, said in John 6:27a, "Labour not for the meat which perisheth..." This is the Lord's rebuke regarding wrong attitudes, perspectives and goals towards work. Earthly labours are not to be limited only to the perishable, temporal satisfactions in life. There is a far more important objective than this because "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). So there is a spiritual side to all things, including our work, isn't it?



The corruptible things of this world are not worthy to be given greater importance over the eternal things of heaven. The Lord Jesus gave emphasis to this in His Sermon on the Mount, saying, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

The Lord denounces earthly labours done with the sole purpose of personal gratification. When we devote all our energy to working for the things of this world, our pursuits in life would all be in vain. “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36).

While we work in order to supply our necessities, yet even these things should not cause us too much worry and concern, for the Lord will undertake these things for us. Did He not say, “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:31-33).

There is a far greater duty and concern that man must attend to. That is why the Lord Jesus said, “Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life” (John 6:27). This must be the duty which man should really take heed to. We should be totally devoted and desirous to labour “for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life”.

This meat is described as that “which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed” (John 6:27c). The meat refers to the gospel truth – the salvific work done by the Lord Jesus Christ through His life, death and resurrection, which is offered to all men for the

forgiveness of sins. This bears the stamp and seal of approval of God the Father.

To possess “that meat which endureth unto everlasting life” requires one to simply put one’s faith in Christ Jesus. The Lord said later in the same passage, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life” (John 6:47). So faith is the only requirement for us to have “that meat which endureth unto everlasting life”.

It must also be noted that our faith in Christ is the result of God’s work in us. Hence, Jesus said in John 6:29, “This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.” Dear reader, when God’s Spirit works within you to point you to Jesus Christ, the Saviour, do not resist, but believe immediately.

The precious eternal life is endowed only to those who believe in the Gospel and receive Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Therefore, the most important work is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Only those who truly believe on Christ can produce the work that pleases God. May every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ declare Him to others that they also might believe and be saved.



BIBLE TRIVIA - GENESIS 47

Sarah Yong

READ THE TEXT FROM YOUR BIBLE. IDENTIFY THE WRONG WORD IN EACH SENTENCE AND CIRCLE IT. THEN WRITE THE CORRECT ANSWER IN THE BOXES PROVIDED.

1. In the third year of famine, many people came again to Joseph to ask for food. S _ _ _ _ _
2. As they had no money left, they offered to sell their houses in exchange for seed. I _ _ _ _
3. So the Egyptians sold their fields and the land became Joseph's. P _ _ _ _ _ 's
4. Only the rulers did not have to sell their land. p _ _ _ _ _
5. Joseph gave the people fruit to sow the land. S _ _ _ _
6. He commanded them to keep three parts of the increase and give the fifth part to Pharaoh. f _ _ _ _
7. The people were grateful and offered to be Pharaoh's soldiers. S _ _ _ _ _
8. So Israel dwelt in the land of Canaan, had possessions and prospered. E _ _ _ _ _
9. By now, Jacob was an hundred forty and seven years of age, so he called Benjamin to his side and spoke to him. J _ _ _ _ _
10. He requested not to be buried in Egypt but in the burying place of his brother. f _ _ _ _ _

Answers to Vol. 10, Issue 1 - Bible Trivia - Genesis 47

p. 25- 1.(B); 2.(C); 3.(B); 4.(C); 5.(B); 6.(B); 7.(E); 8.(E); 9.(A); 10.(D); 11.(A); 12.(A); 13.(E); 14.(C); 15.(C); 16.(E).

God Answers Prayer

A real incident from the life of Jonathan Goforth, a Canadian missionary to China.

Bibliography: 'Goforth of China' by Rosalind Goforth.
The stories are retold by Sis Ruth Low.
Illustrations are done by Sis Mabel Lim.

Jonathan Goforth began a new mission station in Changte, China.

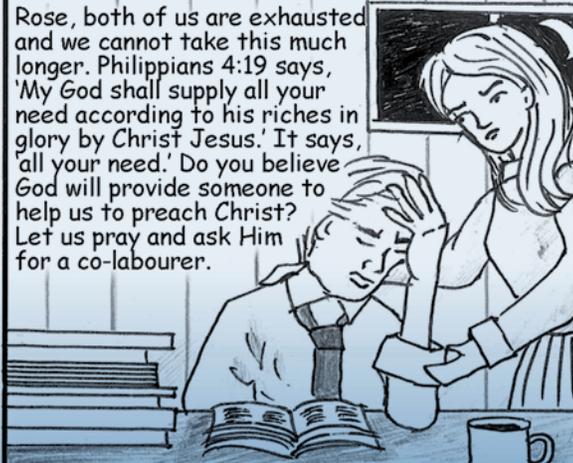


He had to constantly oversee the development of the new building. He and his wife also had to preach God's Word everyday to the thousands of men, women and children who came to listen. The Goforths were very busy.



After about three weeks of hard work, they became very tired.

Rose, both of us are exhausted and we cannot take this much longer. Philippians 4:19 says, 'My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.' It says, 'all your need.' Do you believe God will provide someone to help us to preach Christ? Let us pray and ask Him for a co-labourer.



We don't have any converts and we have promised not to ask for help from the other mission stations. How and from where is God going to send someone? It is like praying for rain from a clear sky!



But God heard and answered Jonathan's prayer. The next day, a converted gambler and opium slave called Wang Fulin appeared at the mission station. After he had become a Christian, he was no longer allowed to work as a public story-teller. His family became very poor to the point of having to eat leaves off the trees.



Quickly, Goforth made sure this poor man was fed and dressed properly. Goforth also decided to test him for a few days.



From the beginning, it was clear that Wang was a man sent in answer to prayer. His experience as a public story-teller helped develop his gift of speaking. This was of great use at the mission station. Men came to know Christ through his preaching.



More and more people came to listen to Wang and Goforth. Finally, after 3 years, the Lord took him home. Wang was fondly remembered as the "Spirit-filled preacher".



More labourers are needed even today. So Jesus said, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38).



Children, just like the way God answered Jonathan Goforth's prayer for an evangelist, God can also answer your prayers if you pray according to His will. One of the greatest needs of our time is faithful and fervent preachers. Will you not pray that God will raise more men to preach?



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with Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy

Knowing God

September 2010

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"...everything was in abundance - fellowship, spiritual feasting and physical feasting."

"...I thank God for inspiring Rev Koshy to expound on the theme 'the Glory of His Grace...As we went through the lessons, I was constantly amazed at how rich and extensive is God's grace in our lives...I especially enjoy the not so 'demanding' retreat schedule where family with young kids like us can have ample time to have some family activities and rest. The programme was well planned that the participants were much refreshed...I certainly look forward to the next retreat, and, God willing, we would like to join again."

For more information, please call Bro Stephen Yap (9274 0003), or the office (6741 1910), or email your enquiries to bw_retreat@biblewitness.com, or visit us at www.biblewitness.com/retreat.