

The Christian View of Work

Bob McCoy

Introduction: Three representative illustrations of the contemporary view of work

Text: Ephesians 6:5-9

Main Idea: This passage encourages us to adopt “two lines of vision” regarding work and then draw some conclusions about work in general.

I. As “slaves”/workers – See beyond your “situation” into heaven itself

- develop “situational awareness”

A. Work for the Right Reasons — our Motivation

B. Work in the Right Way ——— our Manner

C. Work for the Right Rewards — our “Means”

Implications of this teaching against the backdrop of 1st century world thinking about work... specifically, that of Aristotle, Varro, and Cato

Apply: How do you “see” your work?

II. As “masters”/supervisors – See yourselves as “servants” of Christ

- the need for “servant awareness”

A. “Treat” for the Right Reasons – our motivation

B. “Treat” in the Right Way – the manner of our supervision – respectfully

C. “Treat” in light of the same Rewards – the reward for everyone

III. As “stewards” – Seeing our “work” in light of eternity – general thoughts

- the need for integration & inspiration

- A. Work as Idolatry – work as all there is/divorced from all constraints
- B. Work as Identity – work that defines who we are – “human doings”
- C. Work as Integration – work as “calling” & means to a “good end”
- D. Work as Inspiration – the examples of Brother Lawrence & Michelangelo

Conclusion: _____