



**RIVERSIDE**  
CHURCH



# FOCUS **OUT**

***"HEIGH-HO, HEIGH-HO..."***

Mar 10, 2024  
Pastor Tom Lundeen



**MYRC.CHURCH**



## MESSAGE NOTES

# "HEIGH-HO, HEIGH-HO..."

Pastor Tom Lundeen

...when Jesus is first place in our lives and everything we do or say is for His \_\_\_\_\_ alone, it will have a positive impact on every relationship and personal encounter we have.

Note [Colossians 3:17](#)

Paul spends more time writing about slaves and masters and their \_\_\_\_\_ to each other and to God than he does writing about wives, husbands, children, and parents combined in Colossians (note [Colossians 3:22-4:1](#)).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in the Roman Empire

Slavery has impacted every generation, every \_\_\_\_\_, every culture, every nation, and every people group from the beginning of human history until today.

Chances are very high that somewhere in your \_\_\_\_\_ was someone who was once enslaved.

About \_\_\_\_\_% of Rome's population were slaves.

While not regarded as sub-human, they were seen as \_\_\_\_\_ and had no personal rights.

Paul never condones slavery nor \_\_\_\_\_ against slave owners. But he clearly was subtly and \_\_\_\_\_ undercutting slavery in all his writings (note [1 Corinthians 7:21-23...](#)).

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Plan for Work

Many of us have the mistaken idea that work itself is a necessary evil and result of the \_\_\_\_\_ of human sin.

\_\_\_\_\_ sin entered the world, God gave human beings work to do (note [Genesis 2:15](#)).

God Himself is \_\_\_\_\_ working (note [John 5:17](#)).

The reason why work is often hard, \_\_\_\_\_, and not always fun/fulfilling is the result of the curse of human sin (note [Genesis 3:17-19](#)).

Working is consistently portrayed as a Christian \_\_\_\_\_ (note [Ephesians 4:28](#) and [1 Thessalonians 4:11-12](#)).

### 3. So What's the \_\_\_\_\_ of Colossians 3:22-4:1 for Us Today?

...research shows \_\_\_\_\_ of our life (\_\_\_\_\_ hours) will be at work, how we navigate our workplaces and colleagues and managers and bosses and employees is a huge issue for any Jesus follower.

- A. All of us are \_\_\_\_\_ doing our work for Jesus (note [Colossians 3:22-24](#); [4:1](#); [3:17](#)) - ...it's important for every Jesus follower to recognize that our lives aren't divided into \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. It matters that we have a good work \_\_\_\_\_ and that we always seek to do our best, because our ultimate performance review comes from Jesus - and our greatest \_\_\_\_\_ comes from Him (note [Colossians 3:24](#)).
- B. Jesus followers are \_\_\_\_\_ on the outside, but we are the \_\_\_\_\_ inside (note [Colossians 3:11](#); [Galatians 3:26-29](#)).

### *Am I focused **OUT**?*

- In Jesus there is ultimate \_\_\_\_\_.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital\* or hard copy). \*[MYRC.LINK/CONNECT](#) or text **riverside** to **94000**



**SMALL GROUP**  
guide on the back



Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*Who was your best friend when you were growing up and what made them so special to you?*

1. Pastor Tom said that, "Slavery has impacted every generation, every ethnicity, every culture, every nation, and every people group from the beginning of human history until today." Does this statement surprise you in its scope – why or why not?
2. Read [Colossians 3:22-4:1](#) and [1 Corinthians 7:21-23](#). Pastor Tom points out, Paul wrote more about the relationship of slaves to masters than he did about family relationships, yet he "clearly was subtly and deftly undercutting slavery in all his writings..." Still, why not just call for an end to slavery? Instead, he called for Jesus-following slaves to be excellent slaves: why?
3. Read [Genesis 2:15; 3:17-19](#), [John 5:17](#), [Ephesians 4:28](#) and [1 Thessalonians 4:11-12](#). Have you viewed work as a "necessary evil," or as a "Christian virtue?" How has your view affected your attitude toward work?
4. Pastor Tom pointed out that "1/3 of our life (90,000 hours) will be at work..." How does being a Jesus follower impact your workplace interactions and relationships with colleagues, managers/bosses, and clients/customers? (See [Colossians 3:22-24](#); [4:1](#); [3:17](#).)
5. "It matters that we have a good work ethic...seek to do our best, because our ultimate performance review comes from Jesus..." What are some practical steps you can take to walk in this mindset, whatever your work environment may be, and how can your group encourage and support you?

*Day One:* [Luke 23](#); [Psalm 67](#)

*Day Four:* [1 Thessalonians 2](#); [Isaiah 67](#)

*Day Two:* [Exodus 17](#); [Proverbs 5](#)

*Day Five:* [Job 5](#); [Acts 11](#)

*Day Three:* [Hebrews 2](#); [1 Samuel 18](#)

## PERSONAL GUIDE

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from  
Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*



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## 1. Slavery in the Roman Empire

Slavery has impacted every generation, every ethnicity, every culture, every nation, and every people group from the beginning of human history until today.

Chances are very high that somewhere in your genealogy was someone who was once enslaved.

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But he clearly was subtly and deftly undercutting slavery in all his writings (note [1 Corinthians 7:21-23...](#)).

## 2. God's Plan for Work

Many of us have the mistaken idea that work itself is a necessary evil and result of the curse of human sin.

Before sin entered the world, God gave human beings work to do (note

[Genesis 2:15](#)).

God Himself is always working (note [John 5:17](#)).

The reason why work is often hard, exhausting, and not always fun/fulfilling is the result of the curse of human sin (note [Genesis 3:17-19](#)). Working is consistently portrayed as a Christian virtue (note [Ephesians 4:28](#) and [1 Thessalonians 4:11-12](#)).

### 3. So What's the Relevance of Colossians 3:22-4:1 for Us Today?

...research shows 1/3 of our life (90,000 hours) will be at work, how we navigate our workplaces and colleagues and managers and bosses and employees is a huge issue for any Jesus follower.

- A. All of us are ultimately doing our work for Jesus (note [Colossians 3:22-24](#); [4:1](#); [3:17](#)) - ...it's important for every Jesus follower to recognize that our lives aren't divided into sacred and secular. It matters that we have a good work ethic and that we always seek to do our best, because our ultimate performance review comes from Jesus - and our greatest bonus comes from Him (note [Colossians 3:24](#)).
- B. Jesus followers are different on the outside, but we are the same inside (note [Colossians 3:11](#); [Galatians 3:26-29](#)).

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