



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

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

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

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

PERSONAL GUIDE

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



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](#)).

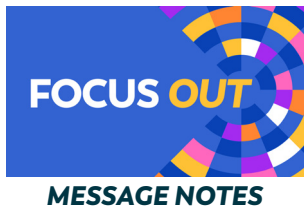
Am I focused **OUT**?

- 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



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

Pastor Tom Lundeen

...when Jesus is first place in our lives and everything we do or say is for His praise 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 relationship 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. 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.

About 25% of Rome's population were slaves.

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

Paul never condones slavery nor revolt against slave owners. 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](#)).

Am I focused **OUT**?

- In Jesus there is ultimate equality.

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**



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