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The God-Honouring Christian Steward & Witness in the Secular Marketplace

We live in a fallen and perverse world even at the marketplace and Matt 5:16 says we are to shine as light for Christ. It is sometimes shared among believers that work is a necessary evil, rather than a blessing from God. This is theologically incorrect. Remember that work was given to Adam before the fall of man in his perfect state and not after (Gen 2:15). **There is no denying that work is an integral part of life.** Paul had said in 2Thes 3:3 that if a person will not work, he should not eat. Let us consider the following principles for the Christian testimony in the workplace:



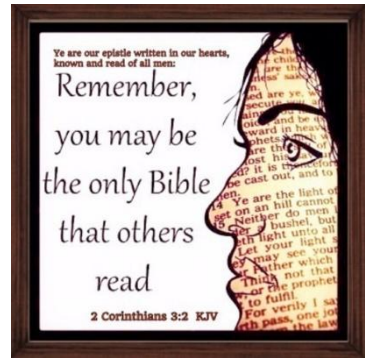
Responsible & Diligent Stewards

In the Old Testament, work was highly honoured especially skilled labour. People who had the ability to make things such as the silversmith, stonecutters, carpenters, clothmakers were especially respected in the Jewish community. Working hard with our hands is satisfying and glorifying to God (Exod 31:4-6, 35:32-35). **The OT condemns laziness and commends honest, hard work and so must every believer practise that too.** Solomon in Prov 18:9 says, 'He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster' and Prov 19:15 says, '*Slothfulness casteth into a deep steep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger*'. Solomon advises in Prov 6:6-8, '*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*'.

Paul in Col 3:23 says, '*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men*'. **Diligence and work excellence should be the motto of the elect of God in the marketplace in life.**

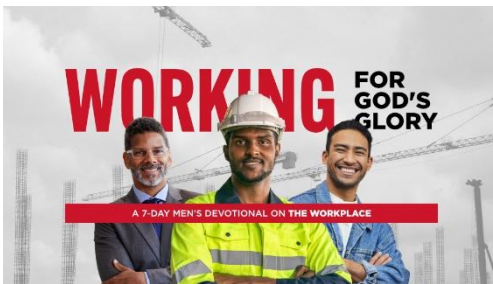
As Christians, we are expected to be responsible stewards to provide for our family (1 Tim 5:8). **A Christian must be responsible to provide for the physical and spiritual well-being of the members of his family and be a good testimony of his**

Christian beliefs. God is sovereign and He provides for our needs and our family through His blessing of our honest hard work in the workplace daily. We are to be light and salt and effectual witnesses and testimonies in the workplace. Paul in 2Cor 3:2-3 says, '*Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart*'. **We could possibly be the only epistle that our non-Christian colleagues will read. How well are you written? Heart-work in religion is as important as hard work in the office.**



Glorify God, not men

There is honour and blessing in labour. Exod 34:21 says, '*Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: in eaving time and in harvest thou shalt rest*'. It is a joy and privilege to labour with our hands for the glory of Lord. The emphasis is normally placed on resting one day out of 7 but note that we are commended to work 6 days as much as we are commanded to rest on one. **The 17th century English Puritans do not see a dichotomy between spiritual and secular work and consider both as glorifying to God and contributing to the good of society. Work in a spiritual sense is to be done as if we are serving and glorifying God in the end.**

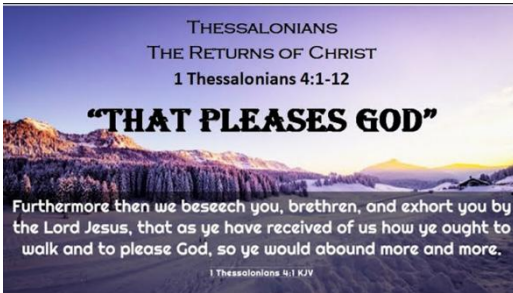


In Col 3:23-24, the Apostle Paul reminds us to do all things to the glory of God without fear and favour of men. We are to do the best in our daily work and be accountable to God and man; and be submissive, not rebellious and not as indolent employees. Good demeanour and speech go a long way toward our **effective witness for Christ, and that includes our attire, our**

contentment, productive labour and a cordial relationship with fellow colleagues, superiors and subordinates. We need to beware of worldly temptations and influences and not to be conformed to the fallen standards of the world. Paul said in Rom 12:1-2, '*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*'

Fairness and Equity in the Workplace

If we are employers (or have a domestic help at home), we are to be fair and just ones. Paul advises in Col 4:1 says, *'Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven'*. We are to pay our staff their wages promptly and fairly. We are to be reasonable, equitable and tactful in dealing with our staff, motivating them to work hard for the company. Keep away from unnecessary office politics, unedifying pep-talk and bad-mouthing of others which are unedifying. God is sovereign, therefore let us leave all things to Him. We are to be



hardworking as a good testimony as what Paul says in 1Thes 4:11-12 says, *'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'*. Rebellion and slothfulness shall never be the marks of a born-again believer in the workplace.

Integrity & Professional Competence

To be a good witness for Christ, we are to be a good example in the marketplace with integrity and professional competence and excel in our work. We are to do our jobs well and to be a pleasant and edifying influence in the office We can also prayerfully invite our colleagues to attend church meetings and gospel rallies and other services (i.e. outreaches and Bible study) whenever possible. Even in National Service or school, we can reach out to fellow soldiers or colleagues with the gospel as the Lord leads. Do not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Paul said in Rom 1:16 *'For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek'*. If there are opportunities of gospel witness, we should not miss it and be ready to share the blessing of everlasting life to our colleagues as the Lord enables us (i.e. with tracts where many of our Chinese workers received and came to our Chinese fellowship). Paul lives this out in his own testimony as given in Acts 28:23, *'And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening'*. Paul effectively shared the gospel to some Jews, and some believed.

Careful Speech and Deportment

Be careful of your speech and dressing as well. You are being watched all the time. The Christian should walk worthy of the vocation wherein he is called (Eph 4:1) . Your godly deportment and demeanour can lead someone to want to know Christ by the inner workings of the Holy Spirit. Remember Dan 1:8. *"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the*

eunuchs that he might not defile himself." **Do not compromise your spiritual values and convictions and they will respect you for that one day.**

Be known for your moral and ethical integrity and stay clear of worldly temptation and immorality. Beware of temptation and worldly seduction and remember what Joseph says in Gen 39:9, *'There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I*

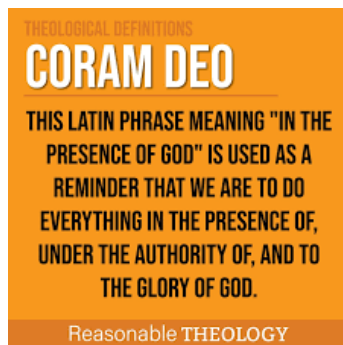


do this great wickedness, and sin against God?' Be upright and reasonable that people would praise God and peradventure come to faith in Christ one day. In Matthew 5:16 Jesus says, 'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven'. Finally, there are intrinsic blessings and reward for honest hard work. Prov 22:29 says, *'Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.'* We will sow what we reap, and our labour is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor 15:58, Gal 6:7-9).



Conclusion

We are called by the Lord to be faithful stewards and effective witness for Him till He comes in the home and the marketplace as well. Finally, as Christians, let us know our primary calling and vocation as Christian witnesses and workers wherever the Lord has placed us and ask God to help us to be that light and salt to those around us for the advancement of the gospel. Set our priorities right first with Christ as our Lord and King. **We are reminded to be ready to give an account of our lives to God (2 Cor 5:10); be it our ministry, secular work, family life, let it be to the edification of the saints in the local church or in society / the world.**



Jack Sin

(For a deeper study of the subject, read Doug Sherman & William Hendricks, Your Work Matters to God, 2000.)

Rules for Christian

MECHANICS, MERCHANTS, &c.

1. I must be *industrious, neat, and orderly* in my shop or store.
2. I must have *order* in the general arrangement of my business.
3. I must study *economy* in all my expenses.
4. I must pledge my *purse, my time, and my influence* for the preservation of *order, intelligence, morality, and religion* in the community.
5. I must identify myself with all the interests of the community.
6. I must be *temperate* in all things—*govern* my passions and *regulate* all my appetites.
7. I must be scrupulously *honest*, and beware of the maxim so common, "*No Principle in Trade.*"
8. I must keep a *Debt and Credit account* of all my monied transactions, never depending on my memory for the correctness of a single pecuniary matter.
9. I must not feel *above* my business.
10. I must be *true and punctual* to all my engagements.
11. I must always *begin* the day with God, and worship God *twice a day* in my family, whatever be the pressure of my business.
12. I must be *polite and obliging* to my customers.
13. I must not urge upon *children* and the *poor* such *quantities or species of goods and wares* as are unsuitable to their *judgment and condition* in life.
14. I must not encourage *lounging* about my shop or store.
15. I must not indulge in habits of *vain and foolish conversation* with my associates.
16. I must not permit *rude conduct*, nor *profane or licentious conversation* in my shop or store.
17. I must not permit my shop, or store, to become the *repository or dispensary of news, rumors, &c.*
18. I must feel the necessity of *constantly improving in knowledge and piety.*
19. I must feel responsible for the *morality and improvement* of my *clerks and apprentices.*
20. I must be the *master* of my own household, and with a watchful eye guard all its interests.
21. I must be perfectly *conscientious* in all things—always doing that which is, *in itself, right*, whatever sacrifice it may cost me.
22. I must never do a seemingly *small evil* to accomplish a seemingly *great good.*
23. I must not forget that *my* faults will often be laid to my *Master's charge.*
24. I must not *differ* with my Christian friends in an *angry manner.*
25. I must not *talk* about the failings of others, especially of Christian friends, in their absence.
26. I must *live* so that all around me may safely follow my example.
27. I must live so as to *reprove* all sin in all men.
28. I must converse *familiarly, frequently, and solemnly* with my "*hands,*" *shop-mates—clerks—apprentices, and comers-in,* on the subject of Religion.
29. I must, if I am a *clerk, apprentice, or journeyman,* be *faithful* to the *regulations and interests* of my employer, (so far as they are just and honorable,) both in his presence and absence, remembering that God sees me.

(3)

Source: <https://slate.com/human-interest/2015/04/history-of-christian-ethics-american-tract-society-sheet-instructing-merchants-in-christian-practice.html>



- Camp Committee, Group Leaders and Campers.
- Speakers for Thematic Messages, Workshop Speaker and Devotions.
- Journeying mercies for campers from overseas - USA, India, Myanmar & Australia.
- A profitable time of learning and edifying fellowship.

COUNTING DOWN...

16 DAYS TO GO

SOVEREIGN HOPE
WORLD PROTESTANT CHURCH

7th CHURCH RETREAT
YELLOW HOTEL, BATAM, INDONESIA

9-12 JUNE 2026
CHURCH CAMP

The Biblical Perspective of the Christian and the Church in a Digital Age

GUEST SPEAKER
DR SCOTT HOLLANDER
Registrar and Associate Professor of Old Testament,
Western Reformed Seminary, Tacoma, USA

A time of learning, sharing and bonding in Christian Fellowship



Monthly Bible Study at All Saints Home (Tampines)
on **Thu 28 May 2026**
by Bro Joseph Chan,
Eld Yue Kay and Team.

Coming Events.....

Knowing What & Why We Believe
Lord's Day Program for April to June 2026

MAY

**24 Biblical Understanding of Christian Service
(Deut 10:12-20)**

**31 Biblical Understanding of the Inspiration,
Canonicity & Sufficiency of the Bible
(2Tim3:16,17, 2Pet 1:19-21, Rev 22:18-20)**

***Evangelistic Outreach at
All Saints Home
(Tampines)
on Sat 20 June 2026, 9am.
(Register with Eld Yue Kay
by 14 Jun.)***



Memory Verse

Deut 10:20 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***Biblical Understanding of Christian Service (Deut 10:12-20)***", continuing the quarterly series on "***Knowing What & Why We Believe***".
3. Next Sunday, Pastor will preach on "***Biblical Understanding of the Inspiration, Canonicity & Sufficiency of the Bible (2Tim3:16,17, 2Pet 1:19-21, Rev 22:18-20)***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Walk Thru the Old Testament (Pastor)
 - Studies in Revelation (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship that meets every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**]. Join us for time of learning on the Book of Samuel and Heroes of the Faith.
6. **SHBPC Church Camp Briefing on Sun 7 Jun after the worship service.**
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [**Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551**].
8. Pray for:
 - **All Saints Home Monthly Bible Study Outreach** (28 May 2026).
 - **SHBPC Church Camp: 9-12 June 2026**. Theme: "***The Biblical Perspective of the Christian & Church in a Digital Age***". Camp speaker: Dr Scott Hollander from Western Reformed Seminary, USA. Venue: Yello Hotel, Batam. Pray for journeying mercies for campers traveling from overseas: Dr Scott (USA), Rajesh (Bangalore), Myitta (Myanmar), Yashu & mum (Adelaide), Joyce (Perth).
 - **Medical: Kin Hoong's daughter Joyce** [chemotherapy], **Kim Meng's mother** [heart condition], **Agnes' parents** [medical conditions & salvation], **Joseph & Lilian's Dil Annabelle Chan** [knee injury],
 - **Dr Jason & Bee Leng** (Taiwan Attachment, 26May – 23Dec), **Dr Sam** [Transition to new appointment in Ningbo], **Yusong** [Scholarship for King's College, London]
 - **Lily Almon** [citizenship application]
9. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.