

STUDY GUIDE F O R SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORKPLACE

Chapter One: No One Can Serve Two Masters

Groundwork

Read Chapter One.

In your own words, write a single sentence that summarizes the main point of this chapter.

Read Colossians 3:22-25.

Note any points from Chapter One you'd like to discuss with your group:

1. _____ (p. ____)
2. _____ (p. ____)
3. _____ (p. ____)

Groupwork

James 1:8 : "...a double-minded man" is "unstable in all he does."

How does James' description speak to the situation of the businessman quoted in the opening paragraph of chapter one in the book? (see p. 11)



Christians with thoughts similar to those of the businessman might experience what kinds of instability?

Matt. 6:24—"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other."

In Matt. 6:24, Jesus was speaking about God and money. Does the impossibility of serving two masters also apply in the context of a Christian working in a so-called "secular" job? If so, how?

Eph 6:5-8. "Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free."

How do Paul's instructions to slaves in Ephesians 6:5-8 point the way toward solving the "two masters" dilemma in the workplace?

In his book, *Doing God's Business* (p. 2), R. Paul Stevens quotes an executive as saying: "I suppose if I'm really going to be committed as a Christian I need to go into full-time Christian service and become a pastor or missionary."

Have you experienced a struggle similar to that of the executive quoted to the left? If so, describe your struggle.

From the book: ". . . these sacred/secular distinctions of the Jewish law were only temporary" (p. 15).

What categories does the book cite (see pp. 15-16) as examples of the sacred/secular distinctions that faded away under the New Covenant?

From the Book: "*The New Testament draws no sacred/secular lines between Christians in full-time service and those in other types of work. In fact, the Bible does not contain the phrase, 'full-time Christian service'*" (p. 18).

Why did Christ's coming into the world make these Old Covenant distinctions obsolete?

To say that only pastors and missionaries, etc., are engaged in "full-time Christian service" suggests what conclusion about the *great majority* of Christians?

Such a conclusion might lead to what kinds of harmful effects?

Among your co-workers, what might you have seen or heard that suggests many of them find their work meaningless?

From the book: *"A large part of our task as Christians . . . will be to help men see the meaning of their work in light of what Christ has accomplished"* (p. 19).

Do you agree or disagree with the quotation from the book shown at left? Explain your answer.

Read Daniel 6:20

- He served God full time.
- He served God part time.
- His job had nothing to do with serving God.

Check the box (to the left) that best describes Daniel in his job as a government employee:

Explain why you chose the box you checked.

Heartwork

- Human traditions
- Comments by other Christians
- Teaching from Christian leaders
- Family expectations
- A desire to be noticed and appreciated
- Other: _____

If you have personally struggled with feeling as if you're a second-class Christian because you are not in "full-time service," check any influences (to the left) you think may have led to the tension.

Keeping in mind the points covered in Chapter One, write out a prayer in which you express to God your heart on the subject of your everyday work.
