

TEXT: Colossians 3:23-25

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men: Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.”

TITLE: STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

INTRODUCTION

ILL. C.S. Lewis: The Subtlest of all Snares:

“The organizers of charities lose their love for poor people.”

APPL. . . Put another way: “The church goer forgets the real meaning for going.”

T.S. . .If Christians are not careful, one can lose the significance of our calling. Excellence is like that; if you don’t strive to do your best, you get bogged down in a mundane sub-Christian commitment.

T.S. . . Striving for excellence is making-up your mind to do what God instructs you to do.

ILL.. *Heb. 11:4; “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain...”*

Why? Excellent – Rejection *Rom. 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”*

APPL. . . God told them what to bring and Abel obeyed the word of God and Cain did not. Abel obeyed the word of God and his sacrifice is called Excellent.

APPL. . . Striving for excellence is doing the word of God.

I. WE STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE BECAUSE WE SERVE THE LIVING LORD.

He deserves the best of our TIME, ABILITIES, ENERGY – OUR BEST EFFORTS.

ILL. . . Winston Churchill's first speech to the House of Commons three days after his election as Prime Minister at the Beginning of W.W. II.

“I have nothing to offer but blood, sweat, toil and tears. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have many many long months of struggle and of suffering ... you ask what is our policy? It is to wage war by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us . . . You ask what is our aim? I can answer in one word – VICTORY!”

APPL. . . God is worthy of our all our very best!

Prov. 3:9 *“Honor the Lord with all your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops,” (NIV).*

Psa. 145:3 *“Great is the Lord and most worthy to be praised: his greatness can no one fathom,;”(NIV).*

Rev. 4:11 *“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”*

APPL. . . Lord, “Help us strive for excellence in all we do for you are worthy.

II. WE STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING WE DO

EXPL. . . This desire gives new meaning to everything you do

... Priority: Your pursuit of excellence will assure you assign priority to everything in life.

... Purpose: Your job is not just a way to make a living; its an assignment from the Lord.

... Peace: Why should you give your best? Because our Lord gave His best. He gave all He had – His life!

When you know you've done your best, you will have real peace in your heart

APPL . . . You honor Christ by doing your very best at every task.

T.S. We wear the Logo: WFKJ “Working for King Jesus.”

III. WE STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE BECAUSE WE HAVE THE REWARD OF EXCELLENCE.

John 14:1-3 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

I Peter 1:4 “To an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”

Conclusion

“... for you serve the Lord Christ.”

Mal. 3:17 “And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son that serves him.”

God, may we strive for excellence in everything we do.