May 12, 2013 Sermon Application Handout
"Whistle While You Work"
Ephesians 6:5-9

1. Before you begin, take a moment to pray and ask God to help you not only to read His Word but to observe and obey His statutes (Psalm 119:145)!

2. Read Ephesians 6:5-9 in one sitting. Who is Paul addressing? How do verses 6-9 connect to Chapter 5:21 through Chapter 6:1-4?

I. The Perspective of the One Doing the W_____.

3. According to Ephesians 6:5, Christian slaves are to respond to their earthly masters with constant obedience. Today we may certainly apply these words to the Christian employee today. As you consider your role as a worker, what is the first characteristic of your constant obedience to your earthly boss to be like according to verse 5?
Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh,

   - With fear and t_____(See 1 Cor 2:3; 2 Cor 7:15; Phil 2:12)

4. Give a practical example of what it means to have this type of attitude in the work place. Do you exhibit this kind of attitude? Why or why not?

5. What is the second characteristic of a worker's obedience to be according to verse 5?
Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh,

   - With a sincere h_____(See 2 Cor 11:3)

6. As you reflect on your role as a worker, would you say that you have undivided attention and have as a single motive to do the best job possible? If not, what is your focus at work? Who would you say you are devoted to?

7. According to verse 8, what encouragement does Paul give to slaves if they do good toward their master, if done as to Christ? How does this encourage your own heart as a worker? How does this motivate you to do good work?

8. What is the third characteristic of a worker's obedience to be according to verse 6? *Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh,*

   - Not by way of eye-_____ as men-_____ but as slaves of C_____(Gal 1:10).

9. As you reflect on your role as a worker, what are you like when the boss is around or not around? In other words, do you just give your best only when the boss is watching? If this describes you, what would you say your motivation is?

10 What is the fourth characteristic of a worker's obedience to be according to verse 7? *Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh,*

   - With good w_____ render s_____ as to the Lord (Col. 3:23).

11 As a Christian worker, list out ways you could perform your good work as a ministry to Christ, to the glory of God. What if you detest the tasks assigned to you? Are you still to perform them with the same attitude? Why or why not?

12 Reread verses 5-7. Who is our respect, sincerity of heart, and service directed to? When we look beyond the human authority, whom do we serve ultimately (See Col 3:22)?

13 When we labor as unto the Lord; what are we adorning? In other words, what do we have an opportunity to make beautiful? (See 1 Tim. 6:1; Titus 2:9, 10)

14 Do you see your work as a mission field? Why or why not? How might you let others see Jesus in your labor?

II. The Perspective of the One Giving the W_____.

15 According to verse 9, what is the first thing listed that the earthly masters are to do toward their slaves? What does Paul mean by this?

16 If you are in the role as boss (master), list out ways you do your best for your employees as you expect them to do their best for you? What motivates you to do this?

17 Take a moment to read Ruth 2:1-18. How does Boaz greet his workers? What was his attitude like toward Ruth? What are some principles you can glean and incorporate into your own life as a boss?

18 What is the second command listed in verse 9 to masters?

19 Instead of threatening punishment as a way to motivate slaves (workers), what is a far better kind of motivation? (See Leviticus 25:43 & Colossians 4:1).

20 Read Matthew 25:21. What does Jesus say a Christian ruler is to be like first and foremost? How does this motivate you? What do you need to change in your leadership role as a result?

21 According to Ephesians 6:9, when servant and master (employee and boss) treat one another with respect, sincerity of heart, and with good will; who's the one who gets lifted up? What are some dangers when we fail to remember this important truth?

22 Write down a specific application you will make in your life today as a result of your reading.

Resources:

- *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Word* by Timothy Keller

The purpose of one's vocation, whatever it might be, is serving others. It has to do with fulfilling Christ's injunction to love one's neighbor. -Martin Luther