

In Ephesians 6, verses 5-6, is a passage that is very appropriate today. It is addressed to slaves, and the closest thing to slaves in our society is workers like you and me. Substitute the word, "worker," for "slave" and listen to what God has to say.

Now that's interesting. He's saying, "Even though your boss is a two-legged monster who is about as pagan as anyone you've ever seen, do your work for him as though you are doing it for Christ."

You may say, "You don't know my boss or you'd never suggest that. I work in a pagan office for a pagan company. There is no way that Christian principles will ever change that."

In the Old Testament we've read about Daniel ever since we were children in Sunday School. Daniel was taken from Jerusalem where he was surrounded by people who believed what he believed, that there was only one God. Then he was carried away captive to Babylon. Now he is in a totally pagan environment. As time passed, King Nebuchadnezzar appointed him a government official. He became a government bureaucrat. If you wanted to get as far away from God as you can, become a government bureaucrat. Serve in that kind of environment and you'll be about as far away from God as you can possibly be.

But as Daniel worked in his government office, sitting behind his government desk, doing all his duties as a government bureaucrat, he was able to serve God. King Nebuchadnezzar respected his faithfulness to God as Daniel rose higher and higher among the leaders of the country.

But when King Nebuchadnezzar died, the Babylonian Empire began to disintegrate, and finally it was conquered by King Darius. Once again Daniel's outstanding qualities were recognized, and he was soon appointed one of the highest officials in all the land. But there came a time when pressures were put on him to do things that were against God. So Daniel said, "That's enough. That's as far as I can go." King Darius, who had become his friend, was forced to have Daniel thrown into the lion's den. You know the story. God shut the mouths of the lions, and Daniel was unharmed. The next morning, Darius came rushing to the lion's den, expecting to find the mangled bones of Daniel.

Daniel 6:20 tells of King Darius' reaction the day after. He says, "When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, 'Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?'"

Isn't it interesting that Daniel worked in a pagan environment, for a pagan office, for a pagan king, and yet, the one thing the pagan king knew about Daniel was that Daniel served God continually. Do your fellow-workers know that? Do you try to serve God continually in the environment of your work? Have you seen yourself as a walking temple of God? Have you been able to put God first where you work, so that your fellow workers know that you are trying to serve God?

You say, "Well, Daniel was extra-ordinary. I'm just ordinary." If you're ordinary, thank the Lord. He made more ordinary people than He did anybody else. He didn't make very many geniuses. He didn't make very many five talent people. But He made a lot of ordinary people. God delights in taking ordinary people and infusing them with extra-ordinary power. And when an ordinary person goes to an ordinary workplace, determined to be faithful to God, God can do extra-ordinary things through him or her. And God always is glorified when that happens.

3. All of us are ministers .

Now the third thing we need to see is that all of us are ministers, no matter whom we are or where we are. At times people say, "I wish I could do what you do. I wish I

were a preacher." The first few years of my life were spent in the workplace, as a mechanic, on the farm, fixing vacuum cleaners, driving a bus, mowing lawns, being a Wal-Martian, and I know where you're coming from. I know a bit about the language and the things that go on in the secular workplace, and I'm very thankful that God called me out of that into the ministry.

But God wants you to understand that I am no more a servant of God now than I was then. The Bible teaches that all of us are ministers no matter what our job description or workplace might be. If you're a Christian, you're a minister of God.

Now God may call you out of that to a mission field, or to a preaching ministry, or whatever. And if He does, you need to respond. But you will be no more a servant of His than you are right now. Your ministry is now, wherever you are, that's your sphere of ministry.

You say, "Well, I'm a victim of circumstances. I have this job because I couldn't get the one I wanted. I have to make a living, so here I am, and I hate every minute of it."

Daniel was a victim of circumstances, too. Let me ask you, "Why was Daniel in Babylon?" And of course, the answer is that the Babylonian army took him to Babylon. But notice, in Jeremiah 29:7 God says, "I have carried you into exile." "I have carried you from Jerusalem to Babylon." Here is Daniel in a pagan place, surrounded by pagan people, but the Bible says that that is exactly where God wanted him to be.

We've heard the old adage that "one bad apple can spoil the whole barrel" so long that we think that bad always wins, and good never does. But the Bible teaches that we can overcome evil with good. If you're in a secular workplace, working next to a pagan, then see that as a God-given opportunity to influence that person for good. That person whom you work with every day, whose eyes you look into, whose voice you hear, who's shared hopes and dreams with you, who's told you about the new car they've bought and about their kids and family, doesn't it make sense that that person is the one God would like to see you leading to the Lord?

That's lifestyle evangelism - when you go to work and see that place and those people as your God-given opportunity for service.

Now let me give you 4 suggestions for witnessing for Christ effectively.

A) Don't Brag .

Don't go to work and brag about how wonderful your Christian life is. Don't brag about how righteous you are and how much sin you have overcome, and how you used to drink and carouse and be unfaithful, but now you are a model husband or wife and you don't drink anymore. Don't brag. That will only turn them off.

Self-righteousness has always been repulsive. It simply won't work. Don't brag. Take a lesson from the Pharisees. They turned off more than they turned on to God.

B) Don't Nag .

Don't carry a big Bible under your arm, and every time somebody cusses pull it out and say, "Look here. It says, 'Thou shalt not swear.'" Every time they brag about what a hangover they have, don't pull it out and say, "Look, it says, 'All drunkards are going to hell.'" Don't do that. All you're going to do is turn them away. You may think that you are being bold. No, you're not being bold. You're simply turning them away.

C) Don't Lag .

So don't brag, and don't nag, and don't lag. As a Christian it is important for you to do your work and do it well, to set an example for others, to be there on time,

maybe even early, to do your job and maybe a little bit of their job if they're falling behind, to help them out in any way you possibly can.

If you're lazy, if you're slothful on the job, then that's a poor testimony for the Lord. So do your job and do it well, as if you are doing it for Christ.

D) Don't Sag .

Be really careful not to go back to your old way of life. Be really careful not to listen to their language and start to use it yourself. Be really careful not to see the bright lights of a far country and be enticed. Make sure you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.

Then, if you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, if you don't use their language, if you react in a different way to problems and difficulties that come, sooner or later they will come up and say, "I notice you're different. What has caused the difference?"

They will, because inside they're hurting. Inside they're looking for answers and solutions. And if you can mirror what Christ can do in a life, sooner or later the door will swing open for you to share gently and tenderly your testimony with them. Just be there every day setting that solid consistent Christian example.

Conclusion

Back in that 29th chapter of Jeremiah, God gave instructions to the children of Israel as to how they should behave in a pagan environment when they were taken from Jerusalem to Babylon. He said, "Now here is how I want you to live as my children." Listen to these very plain and practical words beginning in vs. 5.

He said I want you to "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." [5-7]

Those are very practical instructions, and very up to date as Jeremiah passed on the thoughts of God to a people in exile.

We're in exile. "This world is not my home. I'm just a'passing through." Jesus is building a real home for me, and I'm anxiously awaiting that home.

But in the meantime, I'm here. And while I'm here, God says, "Settle down. Build a house. Plant a garden. Get married and have children. Find wives for your sons, and marry off your daughters. They too will have children. Go out and work and prosper, because as the city prospers you, too, will prosper."

You see, He is saying, "You be God's person. Be different, and yet blend into society. Don't give in to their way of doing things. Daniel didn't. Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego didn't. They went so far, and then they said, 'This is as far as we can go.'"

There were fiery furnaces, and there were lion dens. But God saw them through all of that, and He'll see us through, too, if we'll just settle down, build houses, get married, have children, go to work, and be the stable part of society until finally society realizes it needs changing. And we're the ones who have the message of change, the message of Jesus Christ.

You carry it in your heart this morning. So carry it to the workplace next Tuesday. Someone desperately needs to hear that message. I hope that in some way you can see your workplace as a sacred place, where you can serve the Lord, where you can witness your faith with those who don't know Jesus.

If you're here this morning and Jesus is not your Lord and Savior today, then we extend His invitation. We pray that you'll respond to Him. That you'll know that Jesus

Christ went to the cross and died for your sins, that He was buried and on the third day He arose from the dead, victorious and triumphant. And He offers His sacrifice as payment for all your sins.

We offer that invitation and pray that you will respond as we stand and as we sing.

Be A Servant! Observing Labor Day

Some people think the Bible is merely a collection of old stories like Jonah and the Whale and Noah and the Ark. Those of us who know and love the Bible as the Word of God know that it is so much more. It's a very practical guide for living. Everything you need to know about how to live is found within its pages.

For instance, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 speaks about the importance of working hard at a job. Since most of us have a job or have had one, or will have a job, it's very practical advice. At some time or another, you're probably going to have the experience of applying for a job. Be careful what you put on your application. You only have one chance to make a first impression.

Here are some actual statements from job applications.

1. I served as an assistant store manager.
2. Education: I went to school on a full scholarship.
3. I am very detail oriented.
4. I am a rabid typist.
5. I was involved in ruining an entire Midwest division.
6. Reason for leaving previous job: Pushed aside so Vice- President's girl friend could steal my job.
7. Question on a Federal Government job application: "Do you favor the overthrow of the United States government by force, subversion, or violence?"

Apparently, the applicant thought it was a multiple-choice question so they wrote: "C. Violence."

Labor day is celebrated all over the world, most often in May (May Day) as a day to celebrate the achievements and strides made by laborers. The first Labor Day observed in the U.S. was in 1882 in NYC, but it wasn't made a national holiday until 1894, just days after the horrific Pullman Strike in Pullman, IL.

Employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company, who made railroad cars, went on a wildcat strike after the company drastically decreased the employee's wages because of diminished sales caused by the Economic Crisis of 1893. This strike caused a shut down of practically all railroad transportation west of Chicago to a halt. Within 3 days of the Pullman employees walking off the job, 40,000 railroad workers walked off the job as a sign of solidarity. It crippled America.

President Grover Cleveland sent in U.S. Marshals and 12,000 soldiers to break up the strike. Of course, this controversial move is still debated as to its constitutionality, but never the less, the strike was broken up. Thirteen strikers were killed, 57 wounded and over \$6 million of property had been damaged.

In the wake of the Pullman Strike, Cleveland, wanting to bring some reconciliation to the workers involved in the strike, had congress fast track Labor Day as a national holiday. Six days after the end of the strike, we had ourselves a national holiday. Enjoy it!

God Bless You!
Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, September 6, 2015

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

No Evening Worship

Monday, September 7

Labor Day-NO Food Kitchen tonight!

Wednesday, September 9

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Youth Study.....6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir7:30 pm

Thursday, September 10

R Team.....6:30 pm

Saturday, September 12

Doug Hutcherson Memorial 2 pm

Beth Moore Simulcast at Frazier Baptist Church.....8:30 am

Sunday, September 13, 2015

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel, Ken Kirkpatrick, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 16

Youth Study6:30 pm

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Adult Choir7:30 pm

Thursday, September 17

G Team.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

All September — Missouri Missions Offering Emphasis

September 7 — Labor Day

— We will not serve at the Food Kitchen this month.

September 8 — Stewardship/Leadership Dinner

September 12 — Memorial for Doug Hutcherson 2pm

— Simulcast with Beth Moore at Frazier Baptist

September 20 — Luncheon and Business Meeting at Noon

September 22 — SJBA Annual Meeting 7:00 pm

September 23 — See You At the Pole

September 27 — Diversicare (Saxton Woods) 2:30 pm

October 2-3 — Women of Faith Simulcast, Wyatt Park Baptist

October 4-8 — Senior Adult Revival

October 5 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

October 17 — T4T Training, Journey Baptist Church

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and

Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will not have evening service tonight due to Labor Day weekend.

**Wednesday Night Prayer
and Bible Study**

We will be meeting this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Please make plans to attend. Prayer and Bible Study matter!

See You At the Pole

SEE YOU AT THE POLE day is Wednesday, September 23, at 7:00 a.m. local time.

Food Kitchen

Because of Labor Day we will not serve at the Valley Food Kitchen in September. Put October 5th on your calendar!

Missouri Missions Offering

We will be emphasizing Missouri Missions throughout the month of September. Prayerfully consider how God would lead you to give.

Memorial Service

September 12, 2015, there will be a memorial service held for Doug Hutcherson here at the church at 2 pm.

**Living Proof Live
Ministries Presents ...**

A Beth Moore Simulcast

This simulcast will be held on September 12, 2015. At this time, Frazier Baptist Church is the only one registered. To register for this event or for more information visit their website:

<http://www.frazierbaptist.com/bethmoore.html>

The event begins at 8:30 am with the first session beginning at 9:30 am.

September Birthdays!

Steven Buckley—September 20

(Please add Steven's Birthday to your calendar.)

Merle McCoy—September 12

(The family is requesting cards be sent to: Merle McCoy

402 South Avenue
Highland, Kansas 66035)

THANK YOU

Thank you for your recent donation to our food pantry. We appreciate your faithfulness in giving.

God Bless You, Maggie Wall

Patee Park Baptist Church

Food Pantry

Luncheon and—Business Meeting

Sunday, September 20, at Noon

Please plan to attend and fellowship with us as we share a meal and also conduct the business of the church.

For the Record-

Attendance: August 30, 2015

Sunday School.....	50
Visitors.....	4
Total.....	54
Contacts Made.....	6
Morning Worship.....	56
Children's Worship	N/A
Sunday Night	11
Wednesday Night	21

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget.....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received...	\$ 3,000.08

Offering Received by Mail:

Eric and Shelly Thompson

September Counting Team:

Larry McKahan and Mike Green

September Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

September Birthdays:

05...Nellie Reynolds
12...Grant Schottel
20...Elmer Mayse
20...LoLeta Middleton
20...Tim Waters
20...Steven Buckley
21...Joyce Izer
22...Rachael Molloy
23...Kenny Kirkpatrick
29...Lindsey Rasmussen

September Anniversaries

No anniversaries are recorded for the month of September. If we have missed yours in error, please let us know. Thanks.

Prayer Requests ...

Pat Puckett—health issues
Linda Rails—Doris' Richardson's sister
LoLeta's Family in Doug's death
Shirley Wilson—recovery

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...