



# Reference Point

## April 2014

### ASSOCIATION of CHRISTIAN LIBRARIANS®

***will be paid in full from the Lord when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you're serving is Christ.***  
**Colossians 3:23-24 [The Message/ASV]**

In 2006, while on a trip to see a number of great libraries in England, I had the opportunity to visit St. Paul's Cathedral in London. What an incredible structure. In the late 1660's, Christopher Wren was commissioned to re-design St. Paul's. According to a legend, he was visiting the construction site one day, unrecognized by the workers. He walked around asking several men what they were doing. One answered, "I am cutting a piece of stone." Another responded, "I'm earning five shillings two pence a day." A third seemed to have a different perspective. "I am helping Christopher Wren build a magnificent cathedral to the glory of God." What a much more worthy motivation.

Why we do what we do and for whom we do it affects the nature of our work. Whom do we work for in our libraries? We certainly work for each other, our fellow employees. We work for our patrons. We work for our institutions. We work for those in authority over us. But ultimately there is one whom we work for who creates a far different motivation for what we do, or should. Paul, in writing to the Colossian church, made it very clear who the boss is. A lot has happened for me in this last year—some exciting, some challenging, some discouraging, some perplexing, some frustrating. But I read once the following: "Instead of living in the shadows of yesterday, walk in the light of today and in the hope of tomorrow." This will only be possible as we affirm that Christ is our ultimate boss and He's in control.

### **Who's the Boss?**

***"Do your best. Work heartily for the Lord rather than for men, confident that you***

***will be paid in full from the Lord when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you're serving is Christ.***

In the realities of our employment experiences, some positive, some negative, some challenging, how are we to serve Christ? Paul's exhortation in Colossians 3 says first that we are to serve Him **heartily**, or more directly, "from the soul," which means with spirit and energy from the inner person. He suggests, second, that we are to serve Him **humbly**, in servitude to Christ, expressing submission to and promoting the interests of others. And third, he encourages his readers to serve the Lord **sincerely**. Sincerity implies integrity, actions matching attitudes. Most of you are familiar with the illustration of the disobedient child who refused to sit down; after a number of threats, he finally sat, but said: "I may be sitting down on the outside, but I am standing up on the inside." Is that how we are as employees, doing one thing on the outside, but with another motive on the inside? That is not working with sincerity of heart.

Please note that if we serve Christ heartily, humbly, and sincerely, we are assured by Paul of God's recognition and God's fairness. In the parallel passage in Ephesians 6, Paul says that whatever good we do, we will receive back from the Lord. He will acknowledge our efforts. And in Colossians 3:24, we are assured that we will be "paid in full" someday. God will assure justice.

Someone has said: "No matter who signs the paycheck, you are really working for God." He is our ultimate boss, and we are admonished to serve Him with spirit and energy, with others in mind, and with integrity, certain that He will acknowledge our efforts and assure our ultimate compensation. So, who's **your** boss?

-Lynn A. Brock

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