

Sustaining Revival: A Study on Ephesians  
Lesson 22 “The Gospel in the Workplace”

I. Introduction - We are studying the book of the *Ephesians* focusing on how to sustain revival.

A. The revival in Ephesus was the largest new testament revival recorded in Acts. Over 100,000 people were saved in a city the size of Greensboro within two years. Ephesus became a revival center in the first century. Multiple churches were planted out of this church including all 7 churches in the book of Revelation.

B. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus in A.D. 60 about five years later to establish them in truth after the goosebumps had worn off so they could have a sustained experience with God and continue to increase in person revival.

C. The first three chapters of Ephesians focus on positional truth (who we are in Christ, seated in heavenly places, how much God loves us, etc). The last three chapters of Ephesians focus on practical application or how we should live out of who we are.

D. Tonight we are going to talk about another one of the practical things Paul talks about how Christians can share the gospel. We are going to talk about how to share “The Gospel in the Workplace.” The key to this is we don’t share primarily through our bold preaching as much as we do our humility and spirit of excellence.

II. The Gospel in the Workplace

A. **Ephesians 6:5**

1. **Verses 5-8** deal with how a bondservant (in modern day - an employee) should serve their master (employer).
  - a. Before we go further, some have used these passages to say the Bible was in favor of slavery. This is not the case. Paul didn’t preach about overturning slavery because it would have been impossible to do in his day. Paul also realized even if a person was freed from slavery to a human master, they could still be in slavery to sin/the curse of the law. Paul’s focus was seeing people delivered from the greater threat to freedom.
  - b. Christians were some of the biggest proponents of the abolition of slavery in the 1800’s.
2. **Verse 5** employees should serve their masters as unto Christ. Work for the boss like you are working for Jesus no matter the pay or how the boss treats you.
6. **Verse 6** Not with eyeservice means don’t just work hard when you are being watched. Work hard all the time because Jesus is always watching. Work with a spirit of excellence. **This is the will of God!**

- a. **Daniel 1:19-20** The king had ordered that Daniel and his friends be fed from his table, however, they requested to eat according to the Hebrew diet (asked to be tested for 10 days and then have their appearance examined). **God proved himself faithful. Ex:** Ameriquest story
- b. Nebuchadnezzar has a dream interpreted and wants the Chaldeans to both give and interpret his dream. **Daniel 2:5-7.** Daniel gives and interprets the dream about this great image (head of gold - Babylon, chase arms of silver - Persia, belly and thighs of bronze - Greece, legs and feet of iron - Rome. Nebuchadnezzar falls down and worships God and promotes Daniel and his friends - **Daniel 2:46-49.**
- c. Spirit of Honor - In **Daniel 4**, Nebuchadnezzar has another dream and he doesn't realize it, but it's about his demise. He basically dream he's going to go crazy and live like an animal for a period of time because of his pride. Look at Daniel's heart as he gives the interpretation - **Daniel 4:19** and **Daniel 4:27.** His heart breaks for this evil leader because he loves and honored him.
- d. When do we not obey the boss? When they tell us to sin against the word of God. Ex: **Daniel 2** and **Daniel 6.** Daniel

7. **Verse 7** reiterates we work for the Lord in our places of employment.

8. **Verse 8** This passage says that we receive from the Lord for the good we do for our employees in the workplace.

- a. **Psalm 75:6-7** Promotion comes from God, not the boss.
- b. Daniel's life illustrates this. He was promoted multiple times throughout his life as he served ungodly kings. **Daniel 6:3.**
- c. Daniel's faithfulness to God caused the gospel to spread in Daniel's day. **Daniel 6:25-28.**

**B. Ephesians 6:9** This passage deals with the master/boss. Believing boss's needs reveal the nature of God to those who work for them.

- 1. A godly leader doesn't rule by intimidation, but leads and empowers by serving. Jesus was the greatest of all yet he served. **Matthew 20:27.**
- 2. Great leaders reveal their care for their people and equip them and this inspires greatness in their people. Jesus never threatened. He loved, invested, equipped, trained and inspired.
- 3. This is how I try to treat each of the folks who works for me and/or leads ministries in this church.

III. Conclusion - The way we live our life in the public place matters just as much as the message we proclaim. Our actions speak louder than our words. If we love and serve people with honor as unto the Lord, Jesus will be promoted and it will give us an opportunity to share the gospel. Greg Mohr/Debbie Moore example.

A. Pray Closing Prayer

B. Offering Verse: **Proverbs 11:25**

C. Call Up Prayer Team