

January 26/27, 2008

**Study Questions**  
*Complete in Christ: A Study in the Book of Colossians*  
**The Sufficiency of Christ at Work**  
**Colossians 3:22-4:1**  
Pastor Bryan Clark

## Opening Discussion

1. Studs Terkel in his book “Working” states: “This book, being about work, is, by its very nature, about violence—to the spirit as well as to the body. It is about ulcers as well as accidents, about shouting as well as fistfights, about nervous breakdowns as well as kicking the dog around. It is, above all (or beneath all), about daily humiliations. To survive the day is triumph enough for the walking wounded among the great many of us” (p. xi).

Discuss this statement. Do you agree or disagree? Does this statement reflect how most Americans view work? Why or why not?

2. What has been your own personal experience with work? Share both positives and negatives.
3. What do you think is an accurate “theology of work?”

## Bible Study

1. Read Colossians 3:17, 22-4:1. What is the connection between 3:17 and the discussion about slaves and masters? There is not a direct correlation between slaves and masters and employees and employers. However, the general principles of the text would certainly apply to our lives at work.
2. What is the expectation of employees (slaves)? What would justify our doing less than our best at work? If you are paid to do your best at work and do less, is that stealing from your employer? Why or why not?
3. Statistics show the average person wastes 20% of the time he or she gets paid for. That means the average person is paid for 5 days of work and only really works 4. Do you think that is true?
4. If the statistic in question #3 is true, what are the possibilities for Christians to be a significant witness at work simply by having a better work ethic?
5. As a believer, the key to conducting oneself differently at work is to remind oneself of what we know according to 3:24, 25. What do we know and how does the sufficiency of Christ change how we view what we do at work each day?

6. What is the responsibility of employers (masters) according to 4:1? What does it mean to be just and fair?
7. Is there a difference in the marketplace between what is legal and what is morally right? Explain.

## **Application**

1. On a scale of 1-10 how would you rate yourself as an employee/employer? What specific things could you do to raise that score?
2. What practical things can you do to keep these important principles in mind as you go through your work week?
3. Does anyone in the group have an “I’m not sure what to do in this situation at work” question that the group might be able to help with? Sometimes we may want to do the right thing at work, but knowing what the right thing is gets complicated both for employees and employers.