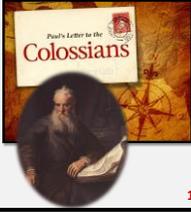


Slide 1

THE LETTER OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS
 COLOSSIANS: ALIVE AND COMPLETE IN CHRIST
 LESSON 16A COLOSSIANS 3:22-4:1 01/17/2021
 THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK

Colossians 3:23
 Whatever you do, work
 heartily, as for the Lord
 and not for men.



1

Shelby Valley
 Church of Christ
 1000 N. 10th St.
 Springdale, AR 72762
 www.shelbyvalley.org

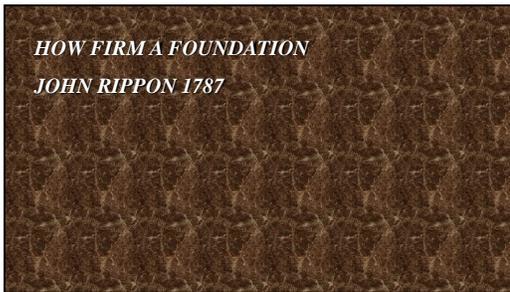
Slide 4

VERSE 1.1: "HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION..." WITHY THEE



Slide 2

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION
 JOHN RIPPON 1787



Slide 5

VERSE 1.2: "WHAT MORE CAN HE SAY..." WITHY THEE

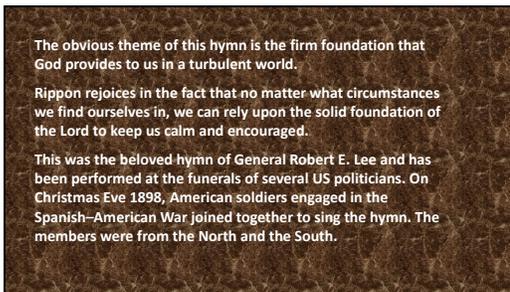


Slide 3

The obvious theme of this hymn is the firm foundation that God provides to us in a turbulent world.

Rippon rejoices in the fact that no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in, we can rely upon the solid foundation of the Lord to keep us calm and encouraged.

This was the beloved hymn of General Robert E. Lee and has been performed at the funerals of several US politicians. On Christmas Eve 1898, American soldiers engaged in the Spanish-American War joined together to sing the hymn. The members were from the North and the South.



Slide 6

VERSE 2.1: "FEAR NOT, I AM WITH THEE..." WITHY THEE



Isaiah 41:10a
 Fear thou not; for I am with thee:
 be not dismayed; for I am thy God:

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VERSE 2.2: "I'LL STRENGTHEN THEE, HELP THEE..."



Isaiah 41:10b
I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Slide 10

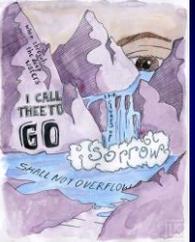
VERSE 4.1: "WHEN THROUGH FIERY TRIALS..."



1 Peter 4:12
Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

Slide 8

VERSE 3.1: "WHEN THROUGH THE DEEP WATERS..."



VERSE 3.1 (NOT SUNG)
When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,
Isaiah 43:2
When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Slide 11

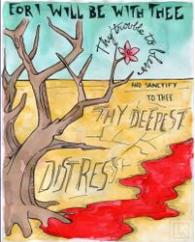
VERSE 4.2: "THE FLAMES SHALL NOT HURT THEE..."



Isaiah 43:2
When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.
Malachi 3:3
And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

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VERSE 3.2: "FOR I WILL BE WITH THEE..."



VERSE 3.2 (NOT SUNG)
For I will be with thee,
thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

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VERSE 5.1: "THE SOUL THAT ON JESUS..."



John 16:33
These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Slide 13

VERSE 5.2: "THE SOUL THAT ALL HELL..."

The soul that all HELL should covenen to SHAKE

Psalm 16:10
For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell;
neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to
see corruption.

Slide 16

Prelude

1.1

*How firm a foundation,
ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith
in His excellent Word!*

Slide 14

SOURCE OF GRAPHICS

overviewbible.com

Slide 17

1.2

*What more can He say
than to you He hath said,
to you who for refuge
to Jesus have fled?*

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*HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION
JOHN RIPPON 1787*

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2.1

*"Fear not; I am with thee.
O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God,
I will still give thee aid."*

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2.2
*"I'll strengthen thee, help thee,
 and cause thee to stand,
 upheld by My gracious,
 omnipotent hand."*

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5.1
*"The soul that on Jesus
 hath leaned for repose
 I will not, I will not
 desert to his foes;"*

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4.1
*"When through fiery trials
 thy pathway shall lie,
 My grace, all-sufficient,
 shall be thy supply."*

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5.2
*That soul, though all hell
 should endeavor to shake,
 I'll never, no never,
 no never forsake."*

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4.2
*The flames shall not hurt thee;
 I only design
 thy dross to consume
 and thy gold to refine."*

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COLOSSIANS OUTLINE	
1:1-2	GREETING
1:3-8	THANKSGIVING
1:9-14	THE APOSTLE'S PRAYER
1:15-20	WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?
1:21-23	RECONCILIATION OF COLOSSIANS TO GOD
1:23-2:3	PAUL'S LABOR FOR THE GOSPEL
2:4-23	DANGEROUS TEACHING AT COLOSSAE
3: 1-4	THE PROPER FOCUS: CHRIST & THE LIFE ABOVE
3:5-4:6	LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE ←
4:7-18	PERSONAL GREETINGS & INSTRUCTION/LETTER END

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
SCRIPTURE
 COLOSSIANS 3:22-4:1 (ESV)

3 ²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

4 ¹ Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
CONTEXT

The workplace. Paul's counsel on slaves and masters has no contemporary significance in our culture, which now considers slavery to be intolerable.

The relationship between employees and employers in democratic societies is so completely different from that of master and slave in the first century that we must exercise extreme caution in making any correlations.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
SCRIPTURE
 COLOSSIANS 3:22-4:1 (PHILLIPS)

3 ²²⁻²⁵ Slaves, your job is to obey your masters, not with the idea of currying favour, but as a sincere expression of your devotion to God. Whatever you do, put your whole heart and soul into it, as into work done for God, and not merely for men—knowing that your real reward, a heavenly one, will come from God, since you are actually employed by Christ, and not just by your earthly master. But the wicked man will be punished for his misdeeds, and naturally no distinction will be made between master and man.

4 ¹ Remember, then, you employers, that your responsibility is to be fair and just towards those whom you employ, never forgetting that you yourselves have a heavenly employer.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
CONTEXT

We cannot make a one-to-one correspondence, where slaves equal employees and masters equal employers, but there are certain principles in these instructions that apply in any setting, including the workplace.

Verse 3:17, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" is a key for how this exhortation can be applied to our world.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
CONTEXT

In the home the Christian is to be different: a different dad, a different mom, a different child.

What is different in the home is also to be displayed in the work setting.

What Paul/God commands is radical for school or businesses.

The real challenge for the church is not economics or politics, rather it is to proclaim the gospel to see the impact that it will have on society.

It is individual action motivated by the gospel that impacts society.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
CONTEXT

The topic of slavery will not be the focus of this lesson.

We will equate slaves with employees and masters with employers in a limited manner and attempt to draw some principles and guidance for our contemporary Christian walk.

It is clear from the text that Paul's focus is on obedience not the topic of slavery.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
CONTEXT

Paul, in his writing, does not challenge the organization or the political situation in his society.

He never got in trouble for such activity. Rather, he always was in trouble for promoting the revolutionary aspects of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Why? The way to change society is to revolutionize the individual.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
THE CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEE

²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. (ESV)

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. (NIV)

The Christian employee is to be the obedient employee.

This is the employee who works hard not only when the boss is watching but also when he is not.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
THE EXTENT OF OBEDIENCE

²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

employees/students obey in everything those who are your employers/teachers

(Yes students, respond in obedience to the teacher whether the assignment is one you like or dislike.)

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
THE CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEE

²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. (ESV)

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. (NIV)

This is the employee who works not only to win the favor of the boss even when promotion or rewards are not in the future.

Many employees do the minimum necessary to attract favor or avoid punishment.

“How can I get the most by doing the least?”
 “How can I look obedient when really I am lazy?”

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
THE EXTENT OF OBEDIENCE

²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Once again, the human tendency is to dismiss a Biblical exhortation by listing and debating exceptions.

Certainly the Christian is to draw the line (maybe resign) if asked to do something that is contrary to God's commands.

However, do not miss the text main point. Be obedient to your teacher or employer.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
THE CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEE

Many justify their dishonesty, their negligence, or their shoddy work because of perceived mistreatment by their employers. They assume that the injustice gives them a license to be dishonest or to use passive aggressive ways of striking back.

One observer says that many people find their jobs futile, boring, and unproductive. When they are plagued by abusive bosses who weigh them down with ludicrous policies and incoherent strategies, they live only for the weekend. Throughout the work week they do as little as possible to get through.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
THE CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEE

Because the boss is a pompous idiot and the company policies unfair, burdensome, and ridiculous, the employees regularly seize every chance to become slack in their duties.

The Christian ethic requires an altogether different approach to our assignments. Every Christian is expected to work heartily out of reverence for the Lord regardless of the circumstances.

The temptation may be to work only to attract attention or to get by with as little as possible. The Christian, by contrast, must give wholehearted service in the workplace in all circumstances, because our work is something done for the Lord.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
THE CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEE'S MOTIVATION

²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. (ESV) ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men (ESV)

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. (NIV)

You are working for the Lord! The Christian has a different motivation than other employees.

The Christian is serving the Lord. If the Christian is not working properly, he/she has forgotten for whom they are working.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
THE CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEE'S MOTIVATION

²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. (ESV)

²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men (ESV)

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. (NIV)

Christian employees are motivated by a sincere heart and reverence for the Lord.

The Christian employee is not a clock watcher (eye service) but is challenged to do his/her absolute best.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
WHY BE OBEDIENT?

²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

We work in the confidence that it will not be wasted but that it will be gathered up by God, who brings everything to its successful culmination.

The Christian will receive an inheritance from the Lord.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
THE CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEE'S MOTIVATION

²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. (ESV) ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men (ESV)

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. (NIV)

Assigned tasks are undertaken wholeheartedly.

This employee may not receive the praise of the boss that may well be due, but he/she is working for the Lord.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
WHY BE OBEDIENT?

²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

This is a great promise for those who have a tough job or receive low wages and little praise.

The Christian has an inheritance in heaven that will never spoil or perish, already stored up.

When you go to rest at night, you can remember that you have an inheritance from the Lord.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN GOD'S EYES
²⁵For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. (ESV)
²⁵But the wicked man will be punished for his misdeeds, and naturally no distinction will be made between master and man. (PHILLIPS)

Which is the greatest wrong? The slave/employee who hold back labor or the master/employer who holds back proper reward?

Remember, Paul is speaking to Christians!

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
COMMANDS TO PRESENT DAY CHRISTIANS

Those who find themselves in a position of control over others should always seek to preserve dignity, fairness, and respect and to avoid treating persons as disposable property.

The common assumption that business is a battlefield in which competitors engage in warfare undermines this goal. Employers do not honor employees as persons but treat them merely as subordinates.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN GOD'S EYES
²⁵For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. (ESV)
²⁵But the wicked man will be punished for his misdeeds, and naturally no distinction will be made between master and man. (PHILLIPS)

As a Christian employer or employee, the expected behavior is different that of the unbeliever.

God will judge both the employer and the employee. There is no partiality/ no distinction.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
COMMANDS TO PRESENT DAY CHRISTIANS

Some managers, both secular and religious, believe they have to destroy a business or institution to save it. They do not seem to care about fairness or justice or what their strong-arm tactics do to the lives of persons involved.

Those who are Christian, however, are held to different standards. Those whose management decisions affect the lives of others should not forget the biblical principle that the measure that you mete out to others will be the measure that you receive.

Always trying to enhance the bottom line may lead one to cross the line of what is moral and just.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
REVOLUTIONARY COMMANDS TO PAUL'S AUDIENCE
⁴Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

In the Roman society, slaves had no standing. The master could do as he pleased including overwork, selling off, or death.

The idea that a slave could decide his behavior was radical.

Remember, Paul is talking to Christians.

As a Christian master, do what is right and fair since you also have a Master in heaven.

Everyone will someday answer to the Lord in heaven.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
SUMMARY

Paul's primary concern is not our relationship with others, but our relationship with God.

Those rightly related to God can be rightly related to others.

The cure for society lies in the individual and not in economics or politics.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
SUMMARY

Paul's concern is about the present and not the future.

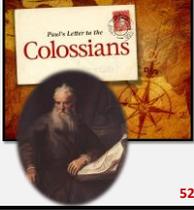
He writes this letter to a local church to help with their daily lives, Christian walk.

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THE LETTER OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS
COLOSSIANS: ALIVE AND COMPLETE IN CHRIST
LESSON 17A COLOSSIANS 4:2-6 01/24/2021
CONVERSING WITH GOD AND MEN - PART 1

Colossians 4: 2 & 6a
² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.
^{6a} Let your speech always be gracious...




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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
SUMMARY

The principles underlying Paul's instructions—submission, love, service, obedience, conscientious work, and fairness—transcend cultural limits and are applicable in any age.

1. The instructions show a special concern for the weaker or powerless members of the pair: wives, children, and slaves.
2. The motivation for behavior is distinctively Christian.
3. Domination of others is prohibited.

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LESSON 16A THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK
FOCUS

3^{1a} If then you have been raised with Christ...
^{17a} **And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus...**

Since you have a new life-

- be a new husband
- be a new wife
- be a new child
- be a new father
- be a new boss
- be a new employeee

This is God's plan.

51