

TAKE THIS JOB
AND SHOVE IT

NEW SERIES ALWAYS 2PT

LOVE



Take This Job and Love It
1 Peter 2:18-21

I want to make you a promise today: If you can learn and master the four principles in our text, your job will never be the same. The tedium, tension, and labor will give way to a higher motive that will bring authentic joy and deep satisfaction.

Take This Job and Love It
1 Peter 2:18-21

As Peter addresses slaves in the ancient Roman world, let's apply it to a much more modern and humane situation - your place of employment.

If you are no longer in the work place, you no doubt know someone who is.

This is good material to pass it on to people you know that may be struggling in the workplace

Take This Job and Love It
1 Peter 2:18-21

50 percent of Christians have never heard a sermon on
work

70 percent have never had a theology of work or
vocation

If you learn these principles and they become part of
the fabric of your work ethic, it will change your work
life

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

1. A Practical Command (v. 18a)

You could translate *servants* as *slaves*; slaves were the workforce of the Roman Empire

The word *master* is *despotés*, somebody who has unlimited and absolute authority over another person

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

1. A Practical Command (v. 18a)

Slavery 2,000 years ago was an established institution;
half of the Roman Empire was slaves

Some masters were great masters; others were not

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

Aristotle

"A slave is a living tool, just as a tool is an inanimate slave"

Roman nobleman

"The only thing that distinguishes a slave from a beast or a cart is that a slave can talk"

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

The New Testament taught enough principles that eventually slavery was undermined in the Roman Empire

Other anti-slavery movements came up, usually led by Christians: William Wilberforce, John Newton

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

1. A Practical Command (v. 18a)

Principle #1: work hard and work well

Be the kind of worker that any employer would want
to hire

"With all fear" (v. 18) = respect; don't be bitter or
negative

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

2.A Potential Complication (vv. 18b, 20)

Not every boss is good or gentle

Harsh (v. 18) is the Greek word *skolios*, a twisted person

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

2.A Potential Complication (vv. 18b, 20)

Principle #2: life is a mix of good and bad; use both to advertise

We as believers should be thankful we have jobs

Beyond that, you should say, "I believe the Lord put me here"; it elevates your position and changes your attitude

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

Principle #2: life is a mix of good and bad; use both
to advertise

Believers ought to have an attitude of gratitude

Gratitude is the attitude that sets the altitude for living
and for working

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

3.A Powerful Consideration (vv.19-20)

If you're a bad worker and you get punished for it, so what?

You deserve it

But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, God is really pleased with that

Why do you work?

To please God

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

American workers admitted to goofing off 20 percent
of the time

Sometimes the suffering you have is undeserved

In that case, be patient and endure

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

This is commendable with God

Daniel: Daniel 6

Joseph: Genesis 39; 50:20

How can a person live victoriously when treated like
this?

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

Principle #3: take God to work with you

Be the kind of worker whose eye is on the Lord, not
on the clock

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

Leave at the end of the day saying, "I worked for God today"

"God needs violins to send His music into the world, and if any violins are defective, God's music will be spoiled" —Antonio Stradivari

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

4.A Personal Calling (v. 21)

The good news? You were called to this

You are following a suffering Savior, which means
you're going to be called to suffer

Philippians 3:10

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

Principle #4: God's plan isn't that you just show up,
but that you grow up

This job isn't just to satisfy you or supplement you; it's
to shape you

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

Three Benefits of Suffering

Suffering keeps you pure

Suffering keeps you humble; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Suffering keeps you dependent

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO LEARN TO LOVE YOUR JOB

Your prayer life is never better than when life hurts

Is it any wonder that God allows or prescribes periods
of suffering?

Does the process hurt? Yes, but the submission brings
a great sense of freedom at the end