

**TITLE: Living Genuinely and Sincerely, with Zest and Gusto**

**TEXT: Colossians 3:23-24**

*“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”*

**Colossians 3:23-24**

*“\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ people live heartily as unto the Lord.”  
(Answers at bottom of outline).*

Equipping people to pursue Christ passionately (so they will not be captivated by the barren promises of a worldly system which ALWAYS operates on the law of diminishing returns), so we can impact the culture with the Good News.

*“By this faith Christians believe to be true everything revealed in the Word, recognizing it as the authority of God Himself. They also perceive that the Word is more excellent than every other writing and everything else in the world because it displays the glory of God in His attributes, the excellence of Christ in His nature and offices, and the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit in His activities and operations. So, they are enabled to entrust their souls to the truth believed.”* **1689 Baptist Confession**

*“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”* **Hebrews 11:6**

*“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”* **Romans 8:31-34**

(In believing the Scripture I had) *“a struggle to accept with passion...with joy. Picture me with ground teeth stalking joy — fully armed too as it is a highly dangerous quest.”*

**Flannery O' Connor, The Habit of Being**

*“If we consider the unblushing promises of reward ... promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at sea. We are far too easily pleased.”* **C.S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory**

*“If we were to meet a truly humble person, Lewis says, we would never come away from meeting them thinking they were humble. They would not be always telling us they were a nobody (because a person who keeps saying they are a nobody is actually a self-obsessed person). The thing we would remember from meeting a truly gospel-humble person is how*

*much they seemed to be totally interested in us. Because the essence of gospel-humility is not thinking more of myself or thinking less of myself, it is thinking of myself less. Gospel-humility is not needing to think about myself. Not needing to connect things with myself. It is an end to thoughts such as, 'I'm in this room with these people, does that make me look good? Do I want to be here?' True gospel humility means I stop connecting every experience, every conversation, with myself. In fact, I stop thinking about myself. The freedom of self-forgetfulness. The blessed rest that only self-forgetfulness brings."*

**Tim Keller, The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness**

The reward:

1. Thanksgiving/Joy
2. Purpose
3. Legacy

I am going to \_\_\_\_\_ for the reward of joy in the Lord.

What is the next step?

Answers for the top of the outline: *"Heavenly-minded and reward-seeking"*