***Colossians 3:23-24 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.***

Two Sunday’s ago, we spoke about surrender to God, through Jesus Christ. Last Sunday, we talked about submission to God in Jesus Christ. We realized that submission is a part of surrender. Without submission, there is no surrender. This Sunday, we’re looking at service to God, by serving others, because we serve the Lord Christ. They’re all intertwined, one being part of the other. We all know that tides in the ocean rise and fall. The tide does this naturally, gravitating, in response to the moon. Likewise, when Christ becomes our Light, truly our Light, and when we are surrendered and submitted to Him, we gravitate toward service. The clearer our surrender, the greater our submission, the more we are drawn to serve. Likewise, our service wanes as we move away from our focus on Christ.

Last week, we ended with *Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed,*do*all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.* This verse hinges on the variety of things we do. In all things, serve because the peace of God rules and the word of Christ dwells within us. It holds a similar idea to Matthew 5:16, *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.* We do all to glorify God, that others may see and glorify Him as well.

In our scripture this morning, we have a nearly identical verse in verse 23 - *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men****.*** Why repeat? This verse holds a very different idea, hinging on the word do. The idea in this verse is internal. The other was external. What is the driving force of the service? Do the service, and do it heartily, excitedly, with a sense of joy and exhilaration. Do it because of inward values, not because of outward compulsion. Do it to be seen by God, not by men. When we have surrendered fully, we submit. In that submission, we become bondservants to Christ. Ephesians 6:6 tells us - *not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.* When we work for the Lord, the Lord sees and the Lord rewards. How do we know this? *1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.* We abound in the work. God sees and God rewards. Even when others don’t notice, even when others seem not to appreciate, even when thank you notes are nowhere to be found, we work for the Lord. *Hebrews 6:10 For God*is*not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name,*in that*you have****ministered*** *to the saints, and do* ***minister****.* Our service must come from a place of inward principles, or we will simply give up at the least challenge. Does this mean we will never grow tired and want to give up? No. We’re human and resisting the weariness that comes with being human is always a challenge.

Verse 24 starts *Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance.* The word knowing here means certainty. It’s used throughout the New Testament to mean See. We hold in our hearts a certainty that we will receive a reward from the Lord. Romans 8:14 tells us *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.* Romans 8:15 tells us that we have received the Spirit of adoption. 1 Peter 1:4 tells us that this inheritance is *incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you*. Remember, God is not unjust to forget our work of ministering to others. He sees. He rewards. Not just in heaven, but here on earth as well. Likewise though, He sees when we turn away, our light grows dim, and our heart grows bitter. He sees us in our diligence and He sees us in our lack of diligence.

Verse 24 finishes *For you serve the Lord Christ.* We let the peace of God rule, let the word of Christ dwell, we surrender and submit, driven by the desire to serve in our hearts, not as people pleasers, but knowing that God sees and God rewards… why? Because we serve the Lord Christ. When we call the shut in, visit the lonely, write to the prisoner, grieve with the widow, lend a helping hand to a neighbor, choose to go on missions trips, serve diligently in the church, we do everything because of that inner knowledge that Christ loves us. He is head. We are hands and feet. As His hands and feet, we serve as He would have served, because we serve Him.

This week, let’s examine ourselves and our service to the Lord Christ. Let all of our service flow from our love of Jesus, letting our light so shine that others see and want to know Jesus too. Let it all come from that inner place, where God’s peace rules and Christ’s word dwells. In the end, Christ did not consider it robbery to take the form of a bondservant so that He might be sacrificed that we may live forever with Him. Let us lay down our lives in service to others so others may meet the Christ that rose for them.