

CORE STRENGTH

WE BRING OUR "A" GAME - EXCELLENCE REFLECTS GOD

Feb 5th, 2017

I. Crossroads Core Values - Building the Church

- A. **We Want To Be With Him** - His Presence Means Everything
- B. **We Do Life Together** - Relationships Make Us Stronger
- C. **We Pull on the Leash** - Big Faith, Big Risks, Big God!
- D. **We Live Generously** - Freely we receive, freely we give.
- E. **We Bring Our "A" Game** - Excellence Reflects God
 - 1. **Excellence** - *Webster* - Excellent, Superior, higher quality, first class

II. Col 3:18-25

A. V23 -

- 1. **WHAT** - **Do** - *poieo* - To make or do; produce results, construct, build
- 2. **HOW** - **Do** - *ergazomai* - to work, engage in an activity involving considerable effort and labor.
 - a) **Prov 12:24** 24 The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.
 - b) **Prov 13:4** 4 The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.
 - c) **Prov 21:5** *NLT* 5 Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.
 - d) **Heartily** - *ek* - Out of or originating from; *psuche* - breath, spirit
- 3. **WHERE** - **To the LORD and not to men** - Who is it "to"?

a) V22 -

- (1) **Eyeservice** - *ophthalmodouleia* - slave to the eye, needs watching; to serve with a view to impress others or call attention to oneself.
 - (a) *ophthalmic* - eye, vision;
 - (b) *douleia* - slavery, to be a slave to

- b) **Prov 29:26** 26 Many seek the ruler's favor, But justice for man comes from the Lord.

B. V24 -

- 1. **Knowing** - *eido* - To understand or comprehend

2. **Receive** - *apolambano* - To receive from someone what is due
3. **Reward** - *antapodosis* - What is given in exchange for what has been done.
4. **Inheritance** - *kleronomia* - Valuable possession received upon the death of the benefactor.
 - a) **Heb 11:6** 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him

III. 3 People who walked in Excellence: Joseph, Daniel & Solomon

A. **Joseph - Gen 39:1-5** -

1. **Successful** - *tsalach* - Push forward, make progress, prosper
2. **Prosper in his hand** - Doing something, working
 - a) **Ecc 9:10** 10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.
3. **Favor** - *chen* - To bend or stoop kindness, mercy or generosity to an inferior
 - a) **Prov 3:3-4** 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, 4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.
 - b) **Luke 2:52** 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

B. **Daniel - Daniel 6:1-3**

1. **Distinguished** - *netsach* - To glitter from afar, to stand out above the rest.
 - a) **Prov 18:16** 16 A man's gift makes room for him, And brings him before great men.
2. **Excellent** - *yattiyr* - preeminent, exceed, excel
3. **Aristotle** - *"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."*

C. **Solomon - 1 Kings 10:1-9**

1. **Fame** - *shema* - Something heard, rumor, report