

The Work of Believers - "Masters & Servants"

Colossians 3:22-4:1

Introduction: Slavery - Masters & Slaves - Colossians 3:22-4:1

Slaves to Masters - 3:22-25 - "Obedience"

Implications: Paul was not concerned with our status in life, rather he was concerned with how we used the status we have for the glory of God.

I take these instructions to mean that I am not the sole decider of what it means to be fair and just.

Conclusion: As an employee, a servant/slave, I serve my master so that they succeed.

How I work as an employee has a direct impact on my Christian witness. (1 Timothy 6:1-2)

Masters to Slaves - 4:1 - "Just & Fair"

Implications: There are no "unaccountable leaders". (Luke 12:48b; 19:26).

Conclusion: How a person uses authority and position matters in the moment and for eternity. God never gives authority or position to dominate or abuse; it is given to display God's love.

Ephesians 6:5-9 - "How can you tell if you have a servant's attitude?" "By the way you react when you are treated like one."

Implication: Who do I see myself working for?

Conclusions: I do not first work for a person, I serve the Lord in my work for someone.

The enemy of proper service can be the people who benefit from my work.

Earthly rewards are brief and of men; eternal rewards are forever and from God.

Is it more difficult for a servant to submit to a ruthless master or for a master to pay a lazy servant? Open doors can and will come if we are faithful in our calling.

Paul is not finished with his imperatives—he has four more, but he has given us 25 to think about as they relate to our inner thought life and our relational life in the family, the workplace and the household of faith.