

Col. 3:22-4:1 - Study Guide

Written by Tim Black

Saturday, 28 July 2007 06:03 - Last Updated Saturday, 28 July 2007 06:08

Colossians 3:22-4:1 - “Slaves and Masters”

Study Guide

Passage Outline

1.

Slaves vv. 22-25

1.

Addressees

Slaves,

1.

Command

obey

Extent

in everything

Who to obey

those who are your earthly masters,

How to obey

not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers,

but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

23 Whatever you do, work heartily,

as for the Lord and not for men,

1.

Reason: God's future justice

Your reward

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Evildoers' repayment

25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

1.

Masters v. 4:1

1.

Addressees

4:1 Masters,

1.

Command

treat your slaves justly and fairly,

1.

Reason

knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

For Discussion

1.

What are some of the forms of slavery that have existed in human history?

2.

What aspects of the slavery Paul addresses still exist in our employer-employee relationships today? How does the phrase “in all things” apply the workplace today?

3.

What would you say is Paul's general response to slavery? Consider 1 Cor. 7:20-23, Philemon 8-10, 17-18; Col. 3:11.

4.

How does Paul transform slaves into employees, and employees into servants of God, in this passage?

5.

What is "eye-service?" What would it mean to serve your employer with a "*divided heart*?"

6.

Does Paul teach that it is more important for a servant to bend his *back* or his *will*?

7.

Give an example of a time the knowledge you were serving the Lord made you more willing to do a difficult job.

8.

What does Paul mean when he says slaves will receive "*the inheritance*?" In what way is it a "*reward*?" Is it a reward you

deserve

? Consider Col. 1:12; Luke 17:10.

9.

Who would expect to be shown partiality—slaves or masters? Consider Lev. 19:15.

10.

What do the words “**justly and fairly**” mean? Can masters believe they have no obligations to their slaves? How can an employer treat an employee “**justly and fairly**?”

11.

Why should a master or employer do this? Consider Lev. 25:42; 1 Cor. 6:19-20, 7:23.

12.

How does your Master in heaven treat you?

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