



Week 7: Colossians 3:22-4:1

### **HIS WORK**

Paul sends the letter to the Colossians to speak to the early Christian community in Colossae, highlighting the supremacy of Christ and the completeness believers find in Him. Addressing theological concerns and offering practical advice for living a faithful Christian life, Paul encourages the Colossians to stay true to their faith and reject false teachings. Here in Colossians 3:22-4:1, he specifically addresses the relationships between slaves and masters, urging them to act with justice and respect, knowing these relationships are ultimately accountable to God.

### **THE SCRIPTURE: COLOSSIANS 3:22-4:1**

<sup>22</sup>Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

<sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

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

<sup>41</sup> Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

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<sup>1</sup> Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

<sup>2</sup> Bondservants – this broad term encompasses the serving and slave class within the Roman empire.

## LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 7

### OPENING QUESTIONS

1. What was your favorite job ever? What was your least favorite? Why?
2. What kinds of things make you feel most fulfilled at your job, or role in life?

### DIVING DEEPER

3. According to Colossians 3:22-4:1, who are the different groups of people Paul addresses regarding work and relationships? Look at the broader context earlier in chapter 3. What other kinds of people are addressed? Do you see a pattern?
4. What two commands does Paul give to bondservants in verses 22-25? Even though we are not bondservants, are there underlying principles from these commands that we can apply into our lives?
5. What might it look like if someone were working just to "people please" others? Have you ever found yourself doing this?
6. What reasons does Paul give for why bondservants should work wholeheartedly?
7. Why would keeping an eternal perspective change our attitude towards work?
8. What instructions does Paul give to masters/employers in 4:1? How does this compare to the command given to bondservants?
9. Imagine you are an entrepreneur and want to integrate Colossians 3:22 and 4:1 into your staff values. How could you succinctly rephrase each of them to best capture what Paul is conveying?

10. Reflect on Jesus' teaching about leadership in Matthew 20:25-28. What additional principles does He present? How can those in authority at work follow Christ's example?
  
11. Consider again Colossians 4:1. Why is it important for Christian leaders to be just and fair, knowing they too have a Master in heaven? How can this perspective promote integrity?
  
12. What are some practical ways we can encourage one another in the truth that we are ultimately serving the Lord Jesus in our vocations, not just working for our own earthly rewards?