**Colossians**

*Christ and Your Work*

*Colossians 3:22 – 4:1*

5 Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free. 9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him. (Eph 6:5-9)

22 Servants, obey in all things *your* masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: 23 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons. 1 ¶ Masters, give unto *your* servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven. (Col 3:22-4:1)

Background / Principles

* Work
  + 8,760 hours in a year
    - Nearly 35% of that time is spent sleeping (some less, some more)
      * Assumes 8 hours of sleep a night
    - Nearly 30% of that time is spent working (some less, some more)
      * Assumes a 40 hour week + 10 hours preparing/commuting/lunch
    - Totals 125,000 hours in a lifetime assuming 50 years of work
  + Confidential surveys reveal that the average American worker goofs off 7 hrs per week--a de facto 4-day week. The same survey reveals that one-half of all American workers admit to chronic malingering (calling in sick when they're not), and that only one out of four give their best effort at work.
* Slavery
  + In the 1st Century, slaves were usually the ones who had been conquered by the Roman Empire.
  + At least every other person you’d meet on the street was a slave.
  + American slavery was rooted in evil prejudice and stealing/kidnapping people from their homeland.
  + Jesus did not address slavery. He came for a far greater cause. To free mankind from the bondage of sin!
* God doesn’t care what you do and how much you make. What He cares about is the HOW and the WHY

How You Work

* Obediently
  + Not with Eyeservice, As Menpleasers
    - Slaves have usually but the one motive, and that is, to avoid punishment, and therefore they only labour to please the master when his eye is on them.
  + Singleness of Heart Unto Christ – heart fixed on pleasing Christ!
  + With Fear and Trembling
  + Do It Heartily with Good Will (Friendly, Helpful, Cooperative), As To the Lord
  + Without Threatening
  + Just and Equal

Why You Work

* It is Service Unto the Lord
* We Will Be Rewarded – Good for Good, Wrong for Wrong