



FOR PEOPLE ON THE GROW "In the Marketplace" Colossians 3:22-4:1

No. 5035

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Christians are required to live on earth before they get to heaven, which means that Christianity has to be related to culture. Slavery was an integral part of first-century Greco-Roman culture and the church had to deal with it.

I. The Situation Paul Confronted.

- A. His Hebrew background.
 - 1. Slavery an O.T. fact of life. Exodus 20:10
 - 2. Slavery as a partial solution. Leviticus 25:35ff
 - a. Family integration. b. Social protection.
 - 3. Slavery as a benevolent institution.
 - a. Religious privilege. b. Guaranteed release. Leviticus 25:39ff
- B. The Colossian situation.
 - 1. Rome's population over 60% slaves.
 - 2. Prisoners of war made slaves.
 - 3. Rome released thousands – economic chaos.
 - 4. Both slaves and free in congregation.

II. The Solution Paul Offered.

- A. He did not condone it.
- B. He did not condemn it.
- C. He did confront it.
 - 1. In terms of status. Galatians 3:26-28; 1 Corinthians 7:20-24
 - 2. In terms of attitude. Philemon vv. 16-18
 - 3. In terms of work ethic. Colossians 3:22ff
 - a. The key is Lordship. b. "Kyrios" – Lord, Master.

III. The Application We Make.

- A. A matter of masters.
 - 1. Masters on earth. v. 22 2. A Master in heaven. 4:1
- B. A matter of mutuality.
 - 1. Workers obey. v. 22 2. Masters provide. 4:1
- C. A matter of methods.
 - 1. Not with eye service. v. 22 2. Not as man pleaser.
- D. A matter of motivation.
 - 1. Sincerely not devious. v. 22
 - 2. Spiritually not materially. v. 22
 - 3. Wholeheartedly not halfheartedly. v. 23
 - 4. Eternally not temporally. vv. 24-25
 - a. Eventual reward. v. 24
 - b. Eventual repercussions. v. 25
- E. A matter of maturity.
 - 1. A maturity of understanding.
 - a. What you know. v. 24; 4:1
 - 2. A maturity of application.
 - a. Living on earth. b. Living for eternity.