


Colossians 3:22-4:6

Slaves, Masters, and Final Instructions


Pastor Eric Douma
February 28, 2010



Slaves: Serve As Unto The Lord

Colossians 3:22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, **fearing** the Lord.

- masters on earth = “masters according to the flesh”
- external service = serving only when watched
- Why doesn't the Bible forbid slavery?



Why Did God Not Forbid Slavery?

1. People became slaves as a result of war. Numbers 31:7 ff.; Deut. 20:10 ff.; 2Chr. 28:8
2. People became slaves because of their inability to pay debt:
Leviticus 25:39, 42, 44 “If a countryman of yours becomes so poor with regard to you that he sells himself to you, you shall not subject him to a slave's service. He shall be with you as a hired man, as if he were a sojourner; he shall serve you until the year of jubilee...for they are My servants...you may acquire male and female slaves from the pagan nations that are around you.”

Why Did God Not Forbid Slavery?

1. Banning slavery would have left thousands destitute and unable to survive.
2. God distinguishes between slavery of necessity and immoral slavery:
 - 1 Timothy 1:9-10 "...realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers..." (cf. Rev. 18:13)

ανδραποδισταις = slave dealer

Why Did God Not Forbid Slavery?

3. God provided protections for slaves:
 - Hebrews treated as "hired men" – released on Sabbath year (Exodus 21:5) or year of jubilee (Leviticus 25:39) – which ever came first.
 - Slaves could acquire possessions and use income to redeem themselves (2 Sam. 9:8-9; Lev. 25:49-51)
 - Slaves could not be killed or severely beaten (Exodus 21:20-27)
 - Masters should treat slaves well (Eph. 6:9; Col. 4:1)
 - Christian slaves are brothers and equals (Gal.3:28; Philemon 1:15-16)
 - Slaves: Freedom in Christ no matter what! (1 Cor. 7:21-22)

Slaves: Serve As Unto The Lord

Colossians 3:23-25 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that **without partiality**.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (1 Cor. 3:10-15)

Judgment Distinction	
<u>Bema judgment</u> ← 1,000 years → <u>White Throne</u> Revelation 20:4-6 Matthew 25:31-46 2 nd Cor. 5:10 No Condemnation Only Commendation	Revelation 20:11 No Commendation Only Condemnation

Masters: You're a Slave Too!
<u>Colossians 4:1</u> Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven. <u>Ephesians 6:9</u> And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Devotion To Prayer
<u>Colossians 4:2-4</u> Devote yourselves to prayer, <u>keeping alert</u> in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open to us a door for the word , so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ , for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.
Devote = persist with intense effort Keeping alert = γρηγορουντες to constantly be ready (related to parousia 1 st Thess. 5:6, Matthew 24:42; 25:13) Notice: The word is what reveals the mystery of Christ!

Being Salt And Light

Colossians 4:5-6 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

F.F. Bruce “Moreover, the conversation of Christians must not only be ‘opportune as regards the time; it must also be appropriate as regards the person.’” (1 Peter 3:15).

Summary

Each Christian is to give thanksgiving for God's graces and deference to all in authority whether they be husbands, parents, or masters. Paul concludes the teaching to the Colossians by commanding them to be fervent in prayer for the spread of the gospel and by exhorting them to be salt and light in a dying world. They were to do all these things while having “Maranatha” upon their lips.
