

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

LESSON 8: CHAPTER 3:22 to 4:18

6 DECEMBER, 2013

VERSE 22 “**Servants, obey in all things.**” This applies to the master/slave relationship or the employer/ employee relationship. The subordinate member of that relationship must obey the one in authority over him “**in all things.**”

If your employer wants you to do something illegal or sinful, then find another job. Joseph said to his master’s wife “**how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?**” (Gen. 39:9).

“**Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers.**” Christians should do their best work at all times, not just when the boss is watching. Do right even when nobody else knows it (except the Lord). Do your work “**in singleness of heart, fearing God.**” God deserves your best.

VERSE 23 “**...do it heartily, as to the Lord.**” If you keep this in mind as you are laboring, you’ll never be a slacker.

VERSE 24 Do your work knowing the Lord has a reward for you in glory. It will be worth it all when we see Jesus. Colossians 2:16 applies to the servant also. Keep your mind stayed on the Lord while you work and you’ll be able to stay on the high ground.

VERSE 25 The cross reference is Galatians 6:8. You reap what you sow. No one gets away with sin.

BIBLE REFERENCES ABOUT WORK: Proverbs 10:4, Ecclesiastes 9:10, 10:18, Ephesians 4:28, Ephesians 6:6, Colossians 3:22.

CHAPTER 4

VERSE 1 Masters must be fair with their servants. Remembering that God is over them will help them to be just and fair.

VERSE 2 “**Continue in prayer.**” Prayer is the first thing a Christian will give up on the road to backsliding. We continue doing the things that other Christians can us doing (eyeservice, menpleasers), but nobody knows if we’re praying at home or not.

Cross references: Romans 12:12, First Thessalonians 5:13, Luke 18:1-8.

Don’t be impatient and give up praying too soon. God has good reasons for delaying His response to our prayer. We are to pray, watch, and give thanks. “**Watch in the same with thanksgiving.**”

VERSES 3-4 Paul requests prayer. He asks the Colossians to pray that God will open a door for the gospel.

- VERSE 5** Use wisdom when dealing with the unsaved. You may be their only chance to hear the gospel. Be polite, gracious, kind, and respectful. The natural man can understand that.
- VERSE 6** When speaking to the lost, grace is of primary importance. Salt (exposing sin) is needed, but should not overpower your message of grace.
- “That ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”** This requires more than just knowledge of the Scriptures. It means knowing the right things to say at the right time because you’re full of grace and wisdom.
- VERSE 7** We ought to aim to be like Tychicus. Could anyone count you as **“a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord?”** Look around. Who do you know like that?
- VERSE 8** I sent brother Tychicus to tell you how I am and to find out how you are.
- VERSES 9-11** Onesimus will be traveling with Tychicus. He is a Colossian. Aristarchus (in prison with Paul) says hello. Marcus may come for a visit. Jesus called Justus may also come. Some of this group were Jewish converts and some were saints saved from Gentile nations.
- Paul said that these 5 men **“only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God.”** Paul touched a lot of lives. But at this time, he could only count 5 good men who were sold out to Jesus.
- VERSES 12-13** Epaphras was a Colossian who was **“always laboring fervently for you in prayers.”** Not many Christians could count their prayer time as “fervent labor.” He’s a rare sort. He’s praying that his fellow Colossian believers will be complete in God’s will for their lives.
- VERSE 14** Greetings from Dr. Luke and Demas (2 Tim. 4:10).
- VERSE 15** More greetings sent to **“the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.”** Notice that the church is “IN” his house. The church is not the building. It is the people in the building. See Romans 16:5.
- VERSE 16** The Colossians were instructed to make sure the church of the Laodiceans also read this letter. Notice also that there were other letters that Paul wrote that were not included in the Bible.
- VERSE 17** A man named Archippus is singled out for reproof. **“Make sure you fulfill your ministry.”**
- VERSE 18** **“The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.”**