

# Work Under the Supremacy of Christ: Colossians 3:22-4:1

Pastor Adam Hall ☞ Dryden First Baptist Church ☞ May 1, 2022

Colossians 3:22-4:1 ESV

<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.

**4** Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

## Introduction

- do you remember the \_\_\_\_\_ dwarfs song about work?

- hi-ho, hi-ho it's off \_\_\_\_\_ we go

- but that was a little too \_\_\_\_\_ for our work culture so somebody made an alternate version

*I OWE, I OWE, SO OFF TO WORK I GO EVERY DAY, THERE'S MORE TO PAY THE BILLS THEY CHOKE, I'M ALWAYS BROKE I OWE, I OWE, I OWE, I OWE, I OWE.*

- many people are \_\_\_\_\_ with their work and their jobs

CBC reports, "Most Canadian employees are ready to quit their jobs"

A new survey found that nearly three quarters of respondents would be willing to leave their current jobs. Research conducted by Nielsen on behalf of human resources software company Ceridian found that nearly three quarters of respondents were either looking for work, or would consider jumping ship if approached with the right opportunity.

Among 1,001 Canadians and 1,000 Americans surveyed for the company's annual Pulse of Talent report, 37 per cent said they were either actively or casually looking for a new job, and 36 per cent say they'd consider a new position if recruited.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, better pay was the reason cited most often for accepting a new job — but not by a landslide. After compensation, people were most likely to leave because they didn't find their work interesting, followed closely by not feeling respected, and by lack of opportunity to take on new responsibilities.

- according to this survey, 73% of the people are not happy in their jobs and would leave their job

- those statistics are alarming

- I am not here to say “stay in your job” but I do want to encourage you, as Paul does in this passage, to see your job as where the Lord has placed you so that you can do ministry

- if all you are thinking when you go off to work is “I owe, I owe so off to work I go” you are not doing all things for the glory of the Lord

- yes we do need money to survive and that is one of the reasons why we work

- but we also need to know a few things as we go to work

- 1) the Lord commands us to reflect His glory wherever we go

- 2) the Lord has placed us in our workplace to declare the greatness of Jesus Christ

- I can speak first hand that some of the professing Christians that we employed in our family business were some of the worst working employees that we ever had

- that was not true of every professing Christian that we employed but it certainly was true for some of them

- Christian, let it be said of us that we are the best and most dedicated workers, so much so that your employer wants to hire more people from our church

- the Lord calls the Christian to a different standard and we are given a higher calling

- that calling, as explained in this passage, is to see our work as to the glory of God

- God is not a physical earthy boss but the Lord calls us to work for our employer as we work for the Lord

- before we get into the book of Colossians it is important to mention 4 important points about slavery and work

1) the slavery that is found in the New Testament is not equivalent to the \_\_\_\_\_ that we had in the United States

- in fact there is a book called "Slavery as Salvation", by Dale B. Martin, which highlights that a person who entered into slavery during \_\_\_\_\_ times actually enhanced their life instead of starving to death

2) the slavery mentioned does not fully \_\_\_\_\_ our work environment in Canada but it certainly does apply to how we see work from a Christian perspective

- obviously none of us are slaves and slavery is \_\_\_\_\_ in Canada

3) Paul's teaching on slavery is not an \_\_\_\_\_ of slavery

- many people try and \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible because they say that the Bible promotes slavery

- some Christians in the past have used the Bible to \_\_\_\_\_ their use of slaves

- but when you carefully look at the \_\_\_\_\_ on slavery you do not see such slavery being commanded or promoted

- what we see in the passages on slavery is more of how to \_\_\_\_\_ as a Christian if you are a \_\_\_\_\_

- we also see in the book of Philemon and the book of 1 Corinthians Paul advocating for the \_\_\_\_\_ of slaves

**1 Corinthians 7:21-23** Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) <sup>22</sup> For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. <sup>23</sup> You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men.

4) even in the garden of Eden where Adam and Eve had \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship with God there was \_\_\_\_\_ to be done

- Adam was placed in the garden to be a steward of the garden

**Genesis 2:15** The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to - \_\_\_\_\_ it and keep it.

- Adam was placed there to \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrew word to serve) and to keep the garden

- this would mean that there would be pruning and \_\_\_\_\_ for creation!

- but after the rebellion of Adam and Eve, work became a \_\_\_\_\_ for Adam
- these are the effects of living in the sin \_\_\_\_\_ world that we all live in
- work became a burden for Adam and all \_\_\_\_\_

**Genesis 3:17-19** And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' - \_\_\_\_\_ is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are \_\_\_\_\_, and to dust you shall return."

- but because of \_\_\_\_\_ and His wonderful grace, we can have a redeemed - \_\_\_\_\_ towards employment even in a dead end job that nobody wants to work

- we are in the section where Paul is addressing the \_\_\_\_\_ of the household (Colossians 3:18-4:1)

- Paul has already addressed 4 groups of people
- Paul gives commands for husbands and \_\_\_\_\_ (3:18-19)
- Paul gives commands for children and \_\_\_\_\_ (3:20-21)
- and now Paul gives commands to the slaves and masters (3:22-4:1)

### 1) (3:22-25) Slaves

### 2) (4:1) Masters

### 1) (3:22-25) Slaves

- there are 5 important \_\_\_\_\_ that we need to grasp about Paul's teaching on - \_\_\_\_\_

a) Slaves (employees) are commanded to be \_\_\_\_\_ to their masters (bosses)

**(3:22) Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters,**

- the ESV translates the Greek word " \_\_\_\_\_ " as "bondservants"
- the slave is to \_\_\_\_\_ the master in all things
- such a command in our culture is seen as \_\_\_\_\_ beyond belief
- but in biblical times for a slave to addressed in a letter would have been \_\_\_\_\_
- just by the fact that Paul mentions slaves in this \_\_\_\_\_ proves that they are in equal standing with other people \_\_\_\_\_ God

- the slave was an individual with no \_\_\_\_\_ in society but now in Christ they are equal with others who in Jesus Christ

- we might have different \_\_\_\_\_ in society but in Jesus Christ your \_\_\_\_\_ does not matter

**Colossians 3:11** Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in \_\_\_\_\_ .

- Paul commands these \_\_\_\_\_ slaves to obey their masters in all \_\_\_\_\_

- Peter addresses this issue of slavery and \_\_\_\_\_ in his first book and hear what he says

**1 Peter 2:18-21** Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the \_\_\_\_\_ and gentle but also to the \_\_\_\_\_ .

- \_\_\_\_\_ commands these slaves to obey their \_\_\_\_\_ even if they are unjust

- I know in our culture if we have an \_\_\_\_\_ employer our inclination is to sue them for compensation

- but Peter ties this \_\_\_\_\_ behavior shown to slaves to Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

- Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ in all His dealings and was treated terrible

- that terrible treatment of the \_\_\_\_\_ led to the salvation of sinners

**1 Peter 2:21** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an \_\_\_\_\_ , so that you might follow in his steps.

- we need to highlight how Paul addresses the \_\_\_\_\_ in Colossians 3:22

- he calls them “ \_\_\_\_\_ masters”

- this is in contrast to what Paul says in Colossians 4:1 where there is a Master or Lord in \_\_\_\_\_

- in our modern context there are earthly \_\_\_\_\_ but there is one heavenly boss the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Christ

not by way of eye-service, as people- \_\_\_\_\_ , but with sincerity of heart, - \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.

- here we see how slaves are to \_\_\_\_\_ their masters

- they are not to give just \_\_\_\_\_ -service which means you are only working when someone is \_\_\_\_\_

- we all have probably done this, when the boss is around you are “killing it” (working \_\_\_\_\_ ) and when your boss is not there you are “chilling it”(being \_\_\_\_\_ )
- these \_\_\_\_\_ are not to be people-pleasers which means trying to please your \_\_\_\_\_ when they are watching you
- Paul is \_\_\_\_\_ these slaves, and us who are employed, to \_\_\_\_\_ hard when the boss is watching and work \_\_\_\_\_ when the boss is not watching
- I was told that a boss in the construction industry uses \_\_\_\_\_ to check up on his workers to make sure they are not loafing around
- but how much more do we need to be mindful of how we \_\_\_\_\_ and work knowing that the Lord sees \_\_\_\_\_ and knows all
- this verse ends with the reminder that they are to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord
- this means that you have \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord or you cherish the Lord

#### b) Work is to be considered worship

**(3:23) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,**

- some here might be wondering how such a horrible thing as work can be considered something holy like \_\_\_\_\_
- but here in Colossians 3:23 we see this reality
- whatever we do, and yes, that means even the worst of jobs, we are to \_\_\_\_\_ heartily for the Lord
- when we work, we are to work with all our \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord or work as \_\_\_\_\_ as we can for the Lord
- here we see that \_\_\_\_\_ is not to be done for ourselves, not for money, not for social status, but first and foremost for the \_\_\_\_\_
- Paul has \_\_\_\_\_ talked about doing all things for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ in Colossians 3:17
- Colossians 3:17** And \_\_\_\_\_ you do, in word or deed, do everything in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- Paul addresses these \_\_\_\_\_ that they are to serve their masters as if they are \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord

- this idea goes back to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Eden, where work was seen as giving -  
\_\_\_\_\_ to God and not as a burden

c) The Lord in heaven rewards

**(3:24) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.**

- we might not \_\_\_\_\_ just how shocking such a statement would have been to  
a \_\_\_\_\_

- slaves were people of no status and I can assure you no one \_\_\_\_\_ to be a  
slave

- but here we see that slaves, who are in \_\_\_\_\_, will be given a reward of an  
inheritance

- slaves did not receive \_\_\_\_\_

- sometimes we fail to see the blessed hope of \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ, which is  
eternal life with \_\_\_\_\_

- we all get caught up the moment of thinking that all that \_\_\_\_\_ is what we  
experience on earth

- we get caught up in many \_\_\_\_\_ ideas about life

- we think that the person who has the most stuff wins

- we think that the person who has the most \_\_\_\_\_ is the most blessed

- but we fail to look at things from a Biblical \_\_\_\_\_ where although life  
on earth is important, our time on earth is only a moment

- these \_\_\_\_\_ slaves will receive an inheritance from the Lord

- this inheritance that Paul is referring to is the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven

- Peter talks about this inheritance that \_\_\_\_\_ in heavens in 1 Peter

**1 Peter 1:3-5** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his  
great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and  
unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith  
for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- we know that \_\_\_\_\_ Christians have faced much more difficult times than we  
have faced in the past \_\_\_\_\_ years

- many Christians have had a very traumatizing life here on \_\_\_\_\_ due to  
persecution

- but praise the Lord, He gives a bountiful \_\_\_\_\_ to His people

- this reward given to Christians is a living \_\_\_\_\_ and cannot be taken away

#### d) Work is serving the Lord

**(3:24) You are serving the Lord Christ.**

- here is something else that might seem hard to \_\_\_\_\_ when you work hard for your earthly master or your boss
- you are \_\_\_\_\_ serving them, you are serving the \_\_\_\_\_
- some think that when you are \_\_\_\_\_ for an employer you are serving them and making them money
- but Paul would not fully \_\_\_\_\_ with that conclusion
- when you work \_\_\_\_\_ for the your employer you are \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord
- when you work as someone who is \_\_\_\_\_ to please the Lord, and not man, you are certainly \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord

#### e) The Lord punishes wickedness

**(3:25) For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.**

- Paul ends this section of instructions to slaves with a \_\_\_\_\_
- Paul had already encouraged them that if they persevered with the Lord they would experience an \_\_\_\_\_ (Colossians 3:24)
- but now Paul issues a warning that the person who commits \_\_\_\_\_ or commits sin will be shown wrong, which is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
- Paul could be speaking to both \_\_\_\_\_ and slaves in this verse as we see in the parallel passage on \_\_\_\_\_ and masters in Ephesians **Ephesians 6:8** knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a \_\_\_\_\_ or is free.
- but more than likely in \_\_\_\_\_ 3:25 he is just addressing the slaves
- this verse truly applies to all people who walk or live their life in persistent sin
- they will be \_\_\_\_\_ by the Lord
- Paul \_\_\_\_\_ to us the holiness of God here in this verse
- the Lord is a holy God who hates sin and the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ sin
- we see this all throughout the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament – the Lord is a \_\_\_\_\_ God who \_\_\_\_\_ sin



- because of \_\_\_\_\_ , the Lord removes Adam and Eve from the Garden and they dwell East of Eden (Genesis 3)
- the Lord is grieved that He has made humanity and punishes the earth with a flood \_\_\_\_\_ of their persistent sin (Genesis 6-8)
- this is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ reasons we as Christians should read the Old Testament so that we can see the \_\_\_\_\_ and righteousness of the Lord
- here again we see how the Lord treats humans \_\_\_\_\_ , it does not matter your social \_\_\_\_\_ if you rebel against the Lord, and persist in that rebellion, God will \_\_\_\_\_ your sin
- the Lord gives \_\_\_\_\_ against God what they deserve

## 2) (4:1) Masters

**(4:1) Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.**

- now Paul goes on to address the masters and how they are to \_\_\_\_\_ those under their care
- the \_\_\_\_\_ given here would have been radical in first century
- slaves often were treated \_\_\_\_\_ as we see in this quote from a Philosopher called Xenophon

*Xenophon "Is it not the case that they control any inclinations toward lechery by starving them? And stop them from stealing by locking up the placed from which they might take things? Prevent them from running away by putting them in chains? Force the laziness out of them with beatings?"*

- that is how many \_\_\_\_\_ were treated
- but Paul says \_\_\_\_\_ were to treat their slaves justly and \_\_\_\_\_
- this means treating them properly and \_\_\_\_\_ for them
- these masters are given a \_\_\_\_\_ at the end of the verse
- they themselves have a \_\_\_\_\_ or Lord in heaven
- although these masters have people under them, they all need to realize that someone is \_\_\_\_\_ them, the Lord who is in \_\_\_\_\_
- the gospel of Matthew focuses upon the \_\_\_\_\_ being in heaven

- think of the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ "Our Father in heaven"
- this means not \_\_\_\_\_ is the Lord sovereign but He is \_\_\_\_\_
- the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven and examines all people

## Application

### 1) All Humans Apart From Christ Are Slaves To Sin

- sometimes we can get worked up about the issue of slavery in the \_\_\_\_\_ and forget that apart from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God we too are slaves
- we are all \_\_\_\_\_ to sin

- Paul writes very clearly about our sinful \_\_\_\_\_
- the law \_\_\_\_\_ our sin and reveals to us that we are \_\_\_\_\_
- the law reveals to those who \_\_\_\_\_, lie, lust, covet or have any other gods other than the Lord, that they are \_\_\_\_\_
- we are \_\_\_\_\_ sinners who \_\_\_\_\_ God's law
- sin keeps us \_\_\_\_\_ under its authority until we are given \_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus Christ

- Paul writes about this in \_\_\_\_\_

**Galatians 3:22-24** But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. <sup>23</sup> Now before faith came, we were held \_\_\_\_\_ under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be \_\_\_\_\_ by faith.

- there is \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ
- Jesus Christ takes the curse of the law upon Himself by \_\_\_\_\_ the punishment of sin on the \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- if you are \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ you are still in the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and still under the anger of God for your sin
- the law of God \_\_\_\_\_ this truth about you
- the law of God reveals that we all need Jesus Christ to die in our \_\_\_\_\_ so that we can \_\_\_\_\_ God's grace
- \_\_\_\_\_ Christ and His work done on your \_\_\_\_\_ on the Cross
- Jesus Christ sets prisoners \_\_\_\_\_, so cling to His work done for you!

- if you \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, know you have this freedom and the wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ of the hope of heaven
- you can say with confidence “my \_\_\_\_\_ are gone, I’ve been set free, Jesus Christ has \_\_\_\_\_ me”

## 2) Work for the Lord!

- Christian, we are given these \_\_\_\_\_ from God even though we are not in \_\_\_\_\_
- this passage teaches us some amazing \_\_\_\_\_ about the Lord and how we are to live and \_\_\_\_\_ as a Christian

3:22 – we need to be diligent at work even though nobody is looking

- you are commanded to fear the Lord or to revere the Lord
- the Lord is to be respected by every area of our lives

3:23 – we need realize that our whole life is to be centered around the Lord

3:24 – the Lord rewards His people

- those who are in Christ and are obedient to Christ will receive an inheritance

3:25 – the Lord is Holy and punishes sin

4:1 – those in authority are to treat those under them with fairness and equity

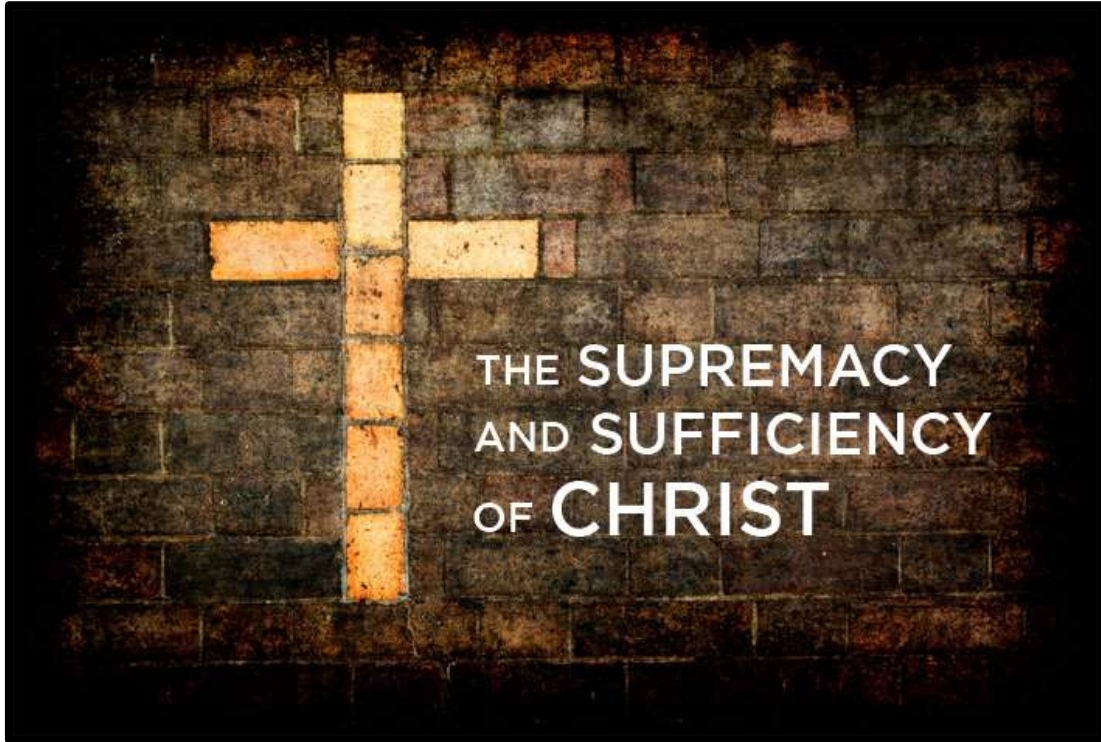
- there is a Lord who is in heaven and He is a Holy and Sovereign God

- with these exhortations and amazing truths about the Lord, stop seeing your work as a burden and start seeing it as a ministry

- when you go to work say to yourself, “Lord, I am serving you here”

- look for opportunities to share the greatness of Jesus Christ

Sunday, May 8 @ 10:30  
Colossians 4:2-6



Interchurch

Thankful  
Grateful  
Blessed

**Friendship Tea**

At the Centre  
Tuesday, May 31, 2022 @ 7:00 pm  
Hosted by  
Dryden First Baptist Church

Please RVSP Alison Robinson: 323-0813 or 937-6904  
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