

JESUS KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE.

Preliminaries

- God created marriage and the family to teach us about Himself and to maximize our joy.
- Sinful, broken humans created slavery which violates Jesus' teaching to love your neighbor as yourself.
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to the highest ideals of Freedom: Christ frees us from our sin and brokenness to be what we could never be apart from Him.

"The teaching of the apostle here and elsewhere clearly sowed the seed for the emancipation of slaves and the end of the institution."¹

Colossians 3:22-4:1

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.

²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. ^{4:1} Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

How to work in a tough environment

- Your boss is not your **Ultimate** Boss: Work hard for the Lord's sake – 3:22-23
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- There's a **greater** inheritance than your Retirement Plan – 3:24
knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

- No matter the level of **power** and **influence** you achieve, remember there is a Greater Master and a Greater Kingdom – 3:25-4:1

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¹ R. R. Melick, *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon* vol. 32, (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1991), 316.