Colossians 3.22-4.1

"Trust God is Just"

Nov 27th, 2016

v22 ~ Bondservants, Obey

- "masters according to the flesh" ~ Closest equivalent today <u>maids/butlers</u>
 - Another is <u>employer/employee</u>
 But people may choose to leave
 - We can still learn from both / These situations reflect rule and submission
- Last time we focused on 8 words
 - o "Wives submit" ~ "Husbands love" ~ "Children obey" ~ "Fathers, don't"
 - Wives were counseled to submit last time / Now men are (from the heart)

v23 ~ Maintaining a Good Attitude

- "do it heartily, as to the Lord"
 - o Having a good attitude towards an employer or boss can be difficult
 - It can be difficult to express openly (blue / white collar environments)
- We all (husbands, fathers, wives, children) must conquer selfishness and pride

v24 ~ "from the Lord you will receive the reward"

- Paul tells us we have to look past our earthly circumstances
 - And after all, it's God that controls our circumstances
- God will reward us according to our thoughts and actions
 - He speaks of "sincerity of heart" and says we're to "do it heartily"

God is Fair and Just

- Read v25 ~ "he who does wrong will be repaid"
 - o "Aren't you pleased to see people get what they deserve?"
 - Popular movies often convey this / An injustice must be made right
 - But in books/movies the reader/viewer often has the God-perspective
- But in the real world only God has the God-perspective
 - o Esther portrays justice / But it intentionally lacks God perspective
- Read 4.1 ~ God will judge us all
 - Husbands / wives / children / fathers / employers / employees

We may not personally see the scales of God's justice at work
We have reason to distrust / doubt earthly judges and rulers / they're only men
But God commands us to trust Him / to know by faith that justice will prevail
But we're reminded each week that we benefit from God's patience with sinners