

10 April

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Book of Colossians – week 11

 Let's hear your story

1. What is Paul telling bondservants to do in Colossians 3:22? **(Obey in all things your masters according to the flesh.)**
2. How should their actions be towards their masters? **(v.22; Not eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.)**
3. According to v.23; who do bondservants actually work for? **(The Lord and not for men.)**
4. Was a bondservant entitled to an inheritance from a master? **(No.)**

 Let's go deeper

5. What reward will bondservants receive from the Lord in v.24? **(From the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance.)**
6. What is the promise given in v.25? **(He who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.)**
7. What is Paul's command to masters (employers) in Colossians 4:1? **(Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair.)**
8. How can masters (employers) be just and fair to their workers? **(Just – Not threatening; taking advantage of or manipulating workers.)**
(Fair – Correct wages; decent benefits and not changing agreements.)

 Let's apply this

9. Colossians 4:1; Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Jesus is our example to follow when we either in authority (master or employer) or under authority (bondservant, employee or worker).

To those under authority, is there anything in your heart, head or hands that need to change?

To those in authority, are you giving your workers what is just and fair?

SUMMARY:

Colossians: Week 11 (Enjoy your work)

Read: Colossians 3:22 – 4:1

How did someone become a bondservant:

1. When you are unable to pay back your debt.
2. Through unforeseen circumstances; crisis, sickness or famine.
3. Prisoners in war.
4. Children could also become bondservants.

v.22 – 23; The heart; head and hands of a Christian worker:

- **Heart: v.22; "...sincerity of heart"**

Jesus is God, who came from heaven to earth and He worked as a carpenter with His dad for most of His life. When Jesus started His ministry, He had some men who worked with and for Him. One of the men Judas Iscariot did not have sincerity of heart, he was the accountant and helped himself with the finances. Judas stole from Jesus. Judas had selfishness of heart, and was more concerned about himself.

- **Head: v.23; "...do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."**

Most companies and organisations have an organogram chart with the "boss" at the top. Paul reminds believers that we work for the Lord and not men. Meaning Jesus is always at the top of the "organogram chart;" and while most companies don't put Jesus as the top of their chart, believers need to put Jesus at the top in their minds.

- **Hands: v.23; "...do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."**

Paul encourages believers to work hard, to do a good job, to do their best, to pour themselves out and this also means to not steal, to show up on time, do everything to the best of their ability. To ask their employers, how they can do better at work?

v.24 – 25; In that day, if you were a bondservant, you did not have retirement, nor an inheritance. You didn't own anything and couldn't give it to anyone. Jesus is saying through this Scripture, that He keeps an account. Jesus is the best accountant and He will make sure that you get an inheritance and that you get it eternally. Jesus has a way of taking care of everyone and everything.

4:1; Masters, are those in leadership and in authority.

Bond servants, are employees or workers. Paul has two commands:

1. Give you bondservants **what is just:**

How? Not threatening; taking advantage of or manipulating your workers.

2. Give your bondservants **what is fair:**

How? Correct wages; decent benefits and not changing t's and c's of agreements.