

Series: *Colossians: The Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ*
Part 2: *Living out the Sufficiency of Christ (chapters 3-4)*
Lesson: *All Wrapped up in Jesus, Part 5 - Our Employment*
Text: Colossians 3:22-4:1 (L13)
Date: Sunday, April 15, 2012



INTRODUCTION

Most Bible students recognize that the most obvious parallel of the master/slave relationship in post-slavery American Christianity is in the workplace with the employer/employee relationship. Therefore, it simply will not do for an employee to excuse his ungodly behavior with, “But you don’t understand my boss,” or “but this isn’t the occupation that I wanted to be doing,” etc.—nor is it appropriate for an employer to argue away his harshness with the thought, “They deserve it because they’re so lazy,” etc.—for even in bond-slavery, Christ expects certain behavior from those whom He redeemed and whom His Father is recreating into the image of the Son (cf. I Peter 2:18).

See, we need to wrap up even our employment in Jesus Christ. Our study next week will consider Jesus-wrapped community involvement, and for most of us, that involvement starts in the workplace. So, lest the “doctrine of God our Savior” be maligned by those who see us most and know us best (cf. Titus 2:9-10), we must be careful to allow “Christ who is our life” (Colossians 3:4) to penetrate our workplaces, whether we are employers or employees.

The concentration of Jesus’ title “Lord” in the section on slaves/masters in 3:22-4:1 is not accidental. The point Paul is stressing is that Jesus Christ is involved even in the institution of slavery, as the ultimate “Master”; or, we could say that He is involved even in the workplace, as the ultimate “Supervisor.” Thus, the key phrase in this passage is found in verse 24—“you are enslaved to the Lord Christ” (cf. Titus 1:1). As we will discover, this is true of both slaves and masters, of both employees and employers—believing workers and bosses both “serve the Lord Jesus.” And when this becomes the mental framework in which we engage in our work, then our employment truly becomes Jesus-wrapped.

In Colossians 3:22-4:1, Paul addresses both roles—employees and employers—and provides for each one keys for Christ-wrapped employment.

KEYS FOR CHRIST-WRAPPED _____ (3:22-25)

1. _____ (v. 22a)

2. _____ (vv. 22b-23)

a. _____-*arising*

b. _____-*directed*

3. _____ (vv. 24-25)

a. A _____ *promise*

b. A _____ *warning*

Application:

KEYS FOR CHRIST-WRAPPED _____ (4:1)

1. _____

2. _____

Application:

CONCLUSION

To simply summarize, believing employees and employers should wrap-up their workplaces in Jesus Christ.