

Sermon Notes

Above All: The Preeminence of Christ in the Book of Colossians "I Surrender All: The Christian's Faith and Life, Part 3" Colossians 3: 22-4:1

BIG IDEA: As believers we are to live all of our lives – by the power of the Spirit – in effort to please and obey our Heavenly master, Jesus Christ.

The _____ enables new life and real change in our personal lives and in our relationship with others.

Some questions that this passage raises...

_____ is big enough to handle hard questions, the Christian faith is certain enough to handle hard questions, and the Bible is sufficient enough to handle hard questions.

In the time that the Bible was written, slavery was not based on race, and scripture itself speaks _____ the industry of kidnapping and slave trading (1 Timothy 1:9-10, etc.).

In the first century (when this letter was written) the reasons that people were enslaved were _____ (prisoners of war, economic reasons, convicted of a crime, born to parents who were enslaved, etc.).

While the system of slavery was different in the first century, it was still wrong and a violation of what it means to be a human made in the _____ of God.

The relationship between husbands, wives, parents, and children are ordained by God in creation. Slavery on the other hand is a _____ system and does not represent God's will from creation.

The Bible speaks to us in both _____ and _____ ways.

The Bible sows the seeds for the eventually _____ of the institution of slavery (Galatians 3: 28; Philemon; 1 Cor 7; etc.).

Now to the text...

The language of v22, grounding the master's scope of authority of the fleeting and fading earth reminds both the bondservant and the master of the limits and restrictions of the master, compared to the above all _____.

In redefining the _____ master of all, the Bible uses the same Greek word for slave δοῦλος to describe believers in Christ (Romans 1:1; Titus 1:1; etc.).

Believers in Jesus have a master and Lord that we are to please: the master and Lord _____.

This passage shows us how Christians are to live their lives as new people - under the Lord and master Jesus – among those who are over or under us in _____.

The new ethic for the believer in Christ requires that we aim first and foremost in our lives, at our jobs, in our homes, at all we do to _____ serve Him.

Whatever we do, whatever task, whatever role we find ourselves in, the believer is to do it as for the _____.

The motivation for a godly disposition toward those in authority:

- (1) Remembering the _____ of the Lord (v24).
- (2) Remembering the _____ of the Lord (v25).

Congregational Scripture Reading – Colossians 1: 15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Blanks: Holy Spirit; God; against; varied; image; manmade; prescriptive & descriptive; undoing; Jesus; true; Jesus Christ; authority; first; Lord; inheritance; justice;

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