

## **Colossians 3:22-4:1**

### **The Christian Society**

#### Introduction:

Last Lord's Day we dealt with the Christian Home. We saw what the Lord expects of Wives, Husbands, Children, and Fathers. When the home is in a state of chaos and confusion, society will suffer because of it. But when the home acts in a Christian manner it affects the society with the light of wisdom and the preservation of law and order. Paul's practical theology comes through in this Colossians text very clearly. It is all because God has given the home as well and Society a creative ordinance will bless both of these institutions for the sake of survival and for the glory of God.

#### I. **Exhortations to Slaves**

##### A. **The existence of slavery (From Egypt to America)**

##### B. **Philemon Context:**

1. Onesimus becomes a Christian through the Apostle Paul's ministry.
2. Philemon owes his very soul to the Paul because Paul led him to Christ.
3. Paul appeals to Philemon that Onesimus will return home to you.

##### C. **Government: Is there a better form of government than Slavery? Ans.**

##### **Yes.**

1. There is no distinction in Christ – Note. Col. 3:10-12
2. If God's providence changes where there is opportunity to escape slavery, take it! **Turn To: I Corinthians 7:20-24**

##### D. **Beware of overthrowing the slavery:**

1. Slaves must obey their masters and be in submission to them unless they are commanded to do evil things.
2. Slaves must obey their masters because this is pleasing to God – v.22b.
3. Christians must learn to be content – Phil.4:11; I Tim. 6:8; Heb. 13:5
4. Christians must work and go about their business with "sincerity of heart" I Tim. 6:1

##### E. **Type of workers:**

1. Faithful workers will receive a substantial reward
2. Unfaithful workers will receive their just punishment – v.25; Gal. 6:7,8

#### II. **Exhortations to Masters – 4:1**

##### A. **Positions of authority – Rom. 13:1**

1. Greater responsibility – Luke 12:48
2. Jesus is our Master:

##### B. **Examples:**

1. The Centurion's Faith: Matthew 8:5-10
2. The unmerciful Servant – Matthew 18:23-35

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