

“Working God’s Way”
Colossians 3:22-4:1

Paul’s final words about domestic duties may have concerned the ancient slave and master relationship, but today they are still very applicable to any person with any type of job.

A word to workers, 3:22-25

***How to obey?**

- in all things, 1:16, 17, 18, 20, 23, 3:14, 17, 20 =
- not eye service, Eph. 6:6 =
- sincerity of heart =
- fearing the Lord (fits w/23b idea)
- work heartily (from the soul)
- as for the Lord (4x in three verses). Note repeated contrast of doing work *for the Lord* versus *pleasing men / for men*. What is Paul pounding away at? See Eph. 6:5,6, 1 Tim. 6:1,2

***Why to obey?**

A motivating factor is given as earlier in 18, 20, 21. Knowing for whom we ultimately work for should spur us on to work hard, and this fact implies what? See vs. 24, 25 and cf. Eph. 6:8, 2 Cor. 5:10. Why a warning here for slaves / employees?

Common Excuses: *But I hate my job! My boss is a goof! The pay stinks! Favoritism makes my job unbearable! The hours are terrible! I’m just working here till something better comes along! We’re union!*

A word to bosses, 4:1

***What to provide?**

- justice
 - fairness
- Eph. 6:9 says to *not threaten*. Philemon = appeal to a master

***Why to provide this?**

--*knowing you to have a master in heaven* implies what? Note the parallel of Eph. 6:9b to Col. 3:25b. Both the worker and the boss have to answer for how they carry out their role.