

## **A Study in Colossians, *finale***

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Ministered Wed., 4/29/20

### **Introduction Summary**

This *final study* covers **Colossians 3:22-4:18**. It teaches godly work ethics and the reward available to employers and employees. It covers staying where God assigns us. Lastly, we see the value of prayer for all people and honoring those that are in authority.

- I. **Col. 3:22:** In today's society, the term *masters* refers to *employers*. The Bible speaks against slavery and indentured servitude. It's important to read in context.
  - A. Master (Gk. *Kurios*) means authority. Employees must do right by employers.
  - B. We are called to patiently endure even wrongful suffering (1 Pet. 2:18-21).
  - C. We will all give an account for our God-given assignment (Rom. 12:2).
  - D. The example Jesus left for us: He even forgave them in the end (1 Pet. 2:21-23).
  - E. When God places us, we can't leave just because they don't treat us right.
  - F. We carry God's name and teachings in our behavior (1 Tim. 6:1).
  
- II. **Col 3:23:** We do our job heartily – with gusto. Our view is that we work for God.
  - A. God has every right to direct us in His plan.
  - B. With a good attitude, we can deal with whatever comes our way.
  - C. Testimony: I've counseled many who were having trouble on their job. After spiritual guidance and prayer, God placed them in a better job, in some cases with triple the pay.
  
- III. **Col. 3:24:** We do that *knowing* we shall receive the reward. It should be double blessing for those who work in ministry.
  - A. We do God's will *knowing* we will get the reward (Eph. 6:5-8).
  - B. We don't work for a person; we serve God Who asked us to serve them (1 Cor. 7:22).
  - C. God has every right to tell us what to do (1 Cor. 7:23).
  - D. We must stay where we've been called (1 Cor. 7:24).
  
- IV. **Testimony:** When we began pastoring our church in a small store-front, a large ministry invited us to start a church in a beautiful part of the country. It sounded great. My wife and I wanted to say yes. After praying about it, God said, "No." God brought success to our church because we stayed in His choice for us.

- V. **Col. 3:25-4:1:** The employer has the same responsibility as the employee. We must show respect and not misuse our authority. We will answer to God for all we do (Eph. 6:8-9).
- VI. **Col. 4:2:** Persevere in prayer whether we're the employer or the employee. We should pray for our employees, employers, and pray about our assignment.
- A. The *unjust* judge avenged the woman (Luke 18:1-8).
    - 1. We do not have to badger God.
    - 2. On the contrary, when we go to God He will hear and answer our prayer.
  - B. Be grateful for all things God has done.
- VII. **Col. 4:3-4:** Pray for the preacher. Satan attacks the five-fold ministers more than anyone.
- A. Ministers have high stress levels. We all have to do the Word of God (1 Cor. 9:27).
  - B. Pray that they have an opportunity to bring forth the Word.
  - C. Pray that we have an opportunity to bring forth the Word on our job.
  - D. Pray in particular that the minister says everything he/she should say.
- VIII. **Col. 4:5-6:** Don't lose time. We allow the Holy Spirit to lead us.
- A. Grace in verse six means acceptable.
  - B. Seasoned with salt means speak with love, patience and anointing.
  - C. Be prepared to answer anyone about how good God has been to us.
  - D. Honor the King, Prime Minister or President (1 Pet. 2:15-19).
- IX. **Col. 4:7-18:** This refers to specific individuals who were a blessing to the church at Colosse.

### **Closing Summary**

As we do our work unto the Lord, we will experience His overflowing blessing. Read the New Testament, the Epistles and Gospels. Reading in context helps us understand the full meaning of Scripture. Then meditate upon these things so that we can receive the reward that has been laid up for us.