

LIFE GROUPS—Week of Feb. 8, 2026 (Study 17)

“Work Ethics” Colossians 3:22-4:1

The advice Paul provides in this section was revolutionary, because it ultimately brought the downfall of slavery as an institution. Also see Gal. 3:28. At the time, his advice had impact on families who had slaves. The Roman Empire was said to have some 60 million slaves, or about half the population (Hughes, Colossians, pp. 129-130). But, wherever the Gospel of Christ had gone, slavery was uprooted and eliminated (MacDonald, Believer’s Bible Commentary, p. 2015).

1. What is the instruction given in 3:22-25?
Who is addressed?

2. How would you summarize this instruction?

3. What does it say to employees today?

4. What is the instruction given in 4:1?
Who is addressed?

5. How would you summarize the instruction here?

6. What does this say to employers?

7. How does our culture view work and the relationship between employers and employees?