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### Lesson 13

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**3:22-4:1** <sup>22</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism. <sup>4:1</sup> Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

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9.) What is Scripture's position on slavery?

**Colossians 4:1** Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair.

**Deuteronomy 15:12-18** "If a fellow Hebrew, a man or a woman, sells himself to you and serves you six years, in the seventh year you must let him go free. <sup>13</sup> And when you release him, do not send him away empty-handed. <sup>14</sup> Supply him liberally from your flock, your threshing floor and your winepress. Give to him as the LORD your God has blessed you. <sup>15</sup> Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command today. <sup>16</sup> But if your servant says to you, "I do not want to leave you," because he loves you and your family and is well off with you, <sup>17</sup> then take an awl and push it through his ear lobe into the door, and he will become your servant for life. Do the same for your maidservant. <sup>18</sup> Do not consider it a hardship to set your servant free, because his service to you these six years has been worth twice as much as that of a hired hand. And the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do."

**Leviticus 25:39-46** "If one of your countrymen becomes poor among you and sells himself to you, do not make him work as a slave. <sup>40</sup> He is to be treated as a hired worker or a temporary resident among you; he is to work for you until the Year of Jubilee. <sup>41</sup> Then he and his children are to be released, and he will go back to his own clan and to the property of his forefathers. <sup>42</sup> Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves. <sup>43</sup> Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God. <sup>44</sup> Your male and female slaves are to come from the nations around you; from them you may buy slaves. <sup>45</sup> You may also buy some of the temporary residents living among you and members of their clans born in your country, and they will become your property. <sup>46</sup> You can will them to your children as inherited property and can make them slaves for life, but you must not rule over your fellow Israelites ruthlessly."

**1 Corinthians 7:20-24** Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. <sup>21</sup> Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so. <sup>22</sup> For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. <sup>23</sup> You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. <sup>24</sup> Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to.

### Cf. Philemon

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**4:2-6** Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. <sup>3</sup> And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. <sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

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#### Notes:

- v. 2 - "devote yourselves" = PR A = "keep on sticking to/getting a firm grip on"
- v. 5 - "be wise in the way you act" = lit. 'with wisdom walk around'
- v. 5 - "make the most of every opportunity" = better "BY making the most of the (favorable) time" – picture of 'buying up' or 'buying out' = 'get a corner on' (*i.e. buying up all the Beanie Babies*)
- v. 6 – "everyone" = lit. 'each one'

1.) What does it mean to be watchful/awake in prayer? (v. 2)

2.) While our religion is not mysterious, God does reveal great mysteries to us in his Word, which are our privilege to expound before the world. What might we include in such? (cf. Col. 1-2)

3.) Paul instructs the Colossians to pray ...THAT the Lord would open a door for the Word and ...THAT he might reveal it as he should. What does this tell us about our evangelism efforts?

4.) How do we show godly wisdom as we walk about in this world of outsiders?

5.) In what sense should we be ready to "buy up the moment" as we witness?

6.) What does it mean for our conversation to be full of grace and seasoned with salt to answer each one?

**John 1:17** ...grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**John 7:32, 45-56** ...Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him. ...<sup>45</sup> Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?" <sup>46</sup> "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards declared.

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**4:7-18** Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. <sup>8</sup> I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. <sup>9</sup> He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here. <sup>10</sup> My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) <sup>11</sup> Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. <sup>12</sup> Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. <sup>13</sup> I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. <sup>14</sup> Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. <sup>15</sup> Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. <sup>16</sup> After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea. <sup>17</sup> Tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord.” <sup>18</sup> I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

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Notes:

- v. 9 - “faithful and dear (beloved) brother” = Paul’s high estimation of coworkers
- v. 12 – “wrestling” = picturesque description of prayer as ‘agonizing’ – to engage in a struggle
- v. 15 – Note the presence of house churches
- v. 16 – It was assumed that upon reception, Paul’s letter were read aloud
- v. 16 – The Letter from Laodicea is otherwise unknown. Some say it could have been the letter of Ephesians that was making its round from one church to another.
- V. 18 – Paul apparently always wrote the closing greeting in his own hand to certify the genuineness of the letter. He tells the Thessalonians this is his standard practice (2 Thess. 3:17). He wrote the letter of Galatians with large letters (6:11).

1.) Get in groups and use your Bibles to identify...

- Tychicus (Acts 20:4; Ephesians 6:21; 2 Timothy 4:12; Titus 3:12)
- Onesimus (Philemon 8-16)
- Aristarchus (Acts 19:29; 20:4; 27:2; Philemon 24)
- Mark (Acts 12:25; 15:36-40; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24; 1 Peter 5:13)
- Barnabas (Acts 4:36; 9:27; 15:36-40; Galatians 2:9,13)
- Jesus, also called Justus (only mentioned here): A coworker of Paul in Rome.
- Epaphras (Colossians 1:7; Philemon 23)

- Luke (2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24; see also Paul's journeys in Acts 16:8-10ff)
- Demas (Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:10)
- Nympha (only mentioned here) A woman who had opened her house to Christians in Colosse.
- Archippus (Philemon 2) A worker in the church at Colosse, possibly a son of Philmon and Apphia, or at least a member of their household.

2.) Why is it important to inform others about ourselves and take the initiative to stay informed about others?

3.) What makes Christian friendships so extraordinary?