



Sermon Notes from 30 September

The Servant's Heart (*Colossians 3:22-4:1*)

by Pastor GL Wong

It is the rule and reign of Christ that shapes within us a servant's heart.

v22 *Bondservants* or *slaves* in the days of Paul were not so because of race but were captives from war. Some sold themselves into slavery because of economic difficulties.

Phil 1:15-16 Slaves were considered property under Greco-Roman law but Paul in his letters, treats them with respect, promoting reciprocal harmonious relationships between masters and slaves.

Real change only happens with a heart change. What does it mean to have a servant's heart?

1. For the employee:

a. **Obey your earthly master (v22)**

Master refers to anyone who has authority over you. Contrary to the counsel of the world, the Bible says to obey your boss in *everything!* It does not mean to compromise your faith and submit to sin (**Acts 5:29**), or follow blindly with no personal opinion. Honour all authority as God's authority!

v20,22 *Obey* means *attentive listening* and *heeding the command*. It is instantaneous (**Mark 4:41**).

Rom 13:1 Obey because you hear the voice of God-given authority.

Col 3:1-3 The Colossians are reminded of the amazing grace that they are *raised with Christ* (given new life), have died to their own sinful selves, and enjoy the security of their salvation (*hidden with Christ*). They have true freedom – not from, but under authority! To enjoy the freedom to obey, always begin with God's grace.

Titus 2:9-10 (ESV) – *adorn*; (NIV) – *make...attractive*. Your obedience, or lack of it affects how others perceive Christ. Share the gospel at work by first demonstrating (*wearing*) obedience.

v22; Heb 4:13 Pure obedience is not about pleasing the boss but a reverence for the *Lord* (Master). A healthy fear of the discipline of the Lord keeps us from doing wrong.

b. **Work for the Lord (v23)**

v24 Work for the true Master, Christ (*Lord Christ*)! Work hard in such a way to achieve competence at work – your testimony! *Every Good Endeavour* by Tim Keller: *One of the main ways that you love others in your work is through the "ministry of competence"*.

v24 The Lord will not fail to give you your inheritance!

v25 The Lord is watching!

2. For the employer:

a. **Treat justly and fairly those working under your authority (Col 4:1)**

All authority is delegated by the heavenly Master (Ps 89:14). It is love from a Christian employer.

b. **Recognise your accountability to your Master in heaven (Col 4:1)**

The risen Christ will return a second time to judge.

Phil 2:7 The word *servant* (*doulos* in Greek) means *bondservant* (Col 3). Jesus the great servant and our Master paid the price for every of our sin. He wants to reign and rule in our hearts. Serve Jesus with a genuine servant's heart.