

Relationships : Opportunity for witness

Colossians 3:22-4:6

Be a witness for Christ

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:5-6



- Relationships in family (3:18-21)
- Relationships in workplace
- Relationships with unbelievers

EASTER: EMPTY TOMB



- Easter message
- Come and see....
 - Go and tell...
-
- You will be my witnesses.....
(Acts 1:8)

Colossians: Kingdom people

TRANSFERRED
into the kingdom

Colossians 1:13

"the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

- Acts 2:47, NKJV



Knowing-Jesus.com

Kingdom people: Godly lives

TRANSFERRED into the kingdom

Colossians 1:13

"the Lord added to the
church daily those who
were being saved."

- Acts 2:47, NKJV

Holy people, put on:

- compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness
and patience
- forgiveness and love
(Colossians 3:12-14)



Godly living include a new way of working

- How should slaves work...
- How should masters treat their slave....

Colossians 3

- ²² Slaves(workers), obey your earthly masters (bosses) in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.
- ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,
- ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.

Workers:

- Servant, do what you are told by your earthly masters. And don't do just the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master God..
- Keep in mind always that your ultimate Master you are serving is Christ (Message)
- Obedient
- Hardworking
- As working for the Lord, not men

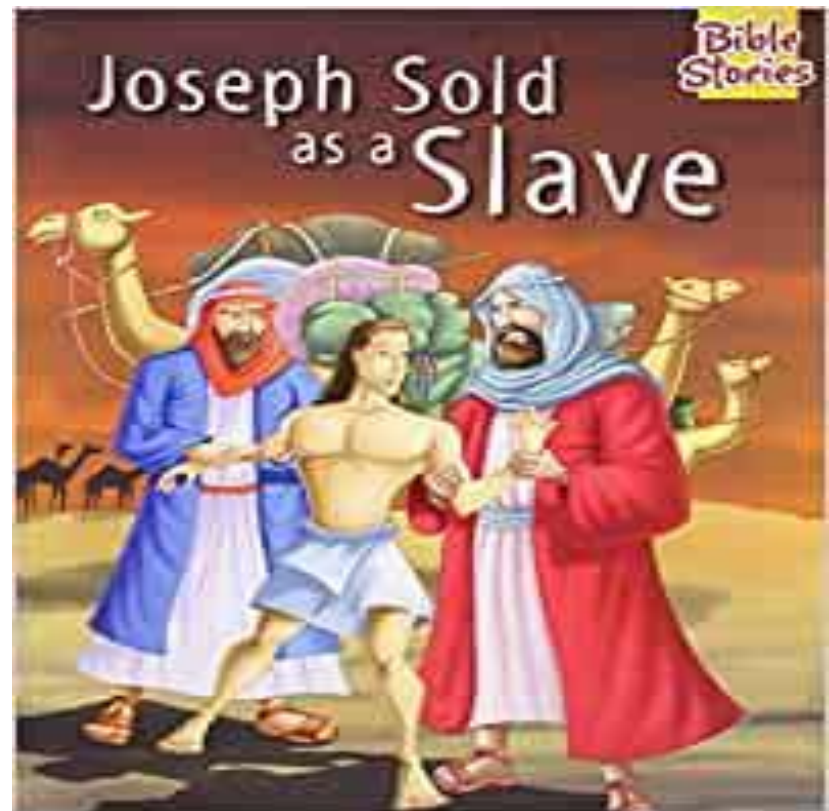
Kingdom incentive for work

- you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward (24)

- Income from work is legitimate, but....
- God's reward should be our main incentive for work

Joseph the slave: Genesis 39

- ² The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered.... ³ When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, ⁴ Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned



Joseph the slave

- No freedom to do his own thing.
- No salary as payment for his work.
- Poor living conditions
- Work wholeheartedly as for the Lord
- Obedient and trustworthy
- Potiphar trusted Joseph with His household

Unreasonable master

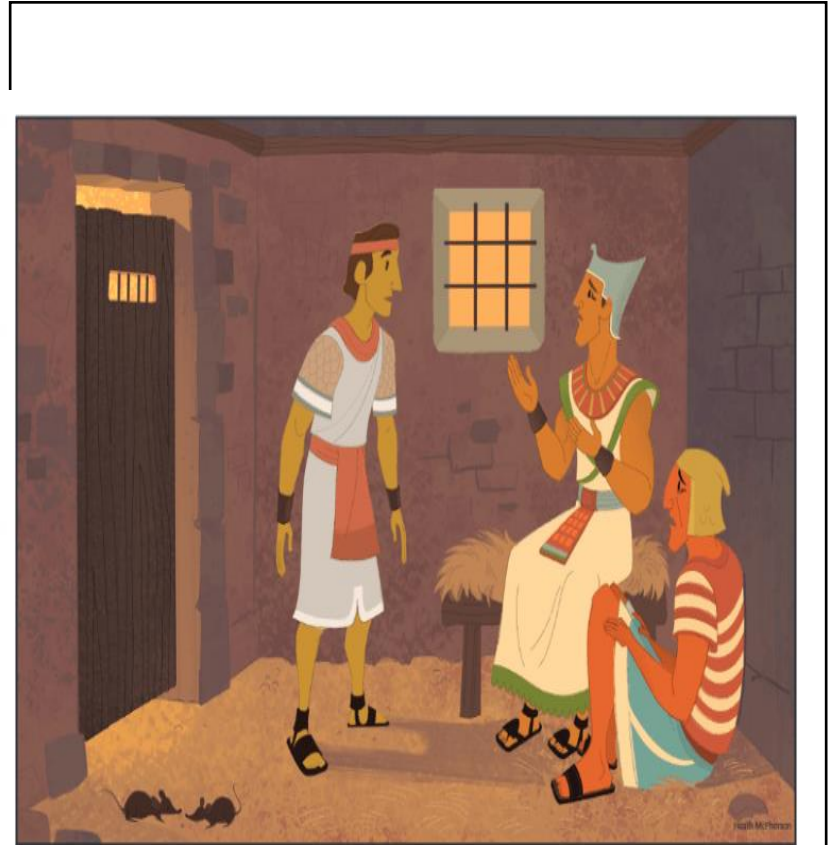
- Potiphar was an unreasonable master
- Unjustly accused Joseph of molesting his wife.
- Put Joseph in jail



God was with Joseph. Genesis 39:2

Prisoner (39:20-23)

- Joseph's master took him and put him in prison.
- the LORD was with him..... granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.
- the warden trusted Joseph



God was with Joseph. Genesis 39:2

Imprisoned (39:20-23)

- Joseph did not show any sign of unhappiness or bitterness at unjust treatment.
- continued to obey and work hard as for the Lord.
- committed the unfair treatment to the Lord

Model worker

TITUS 2:9-10

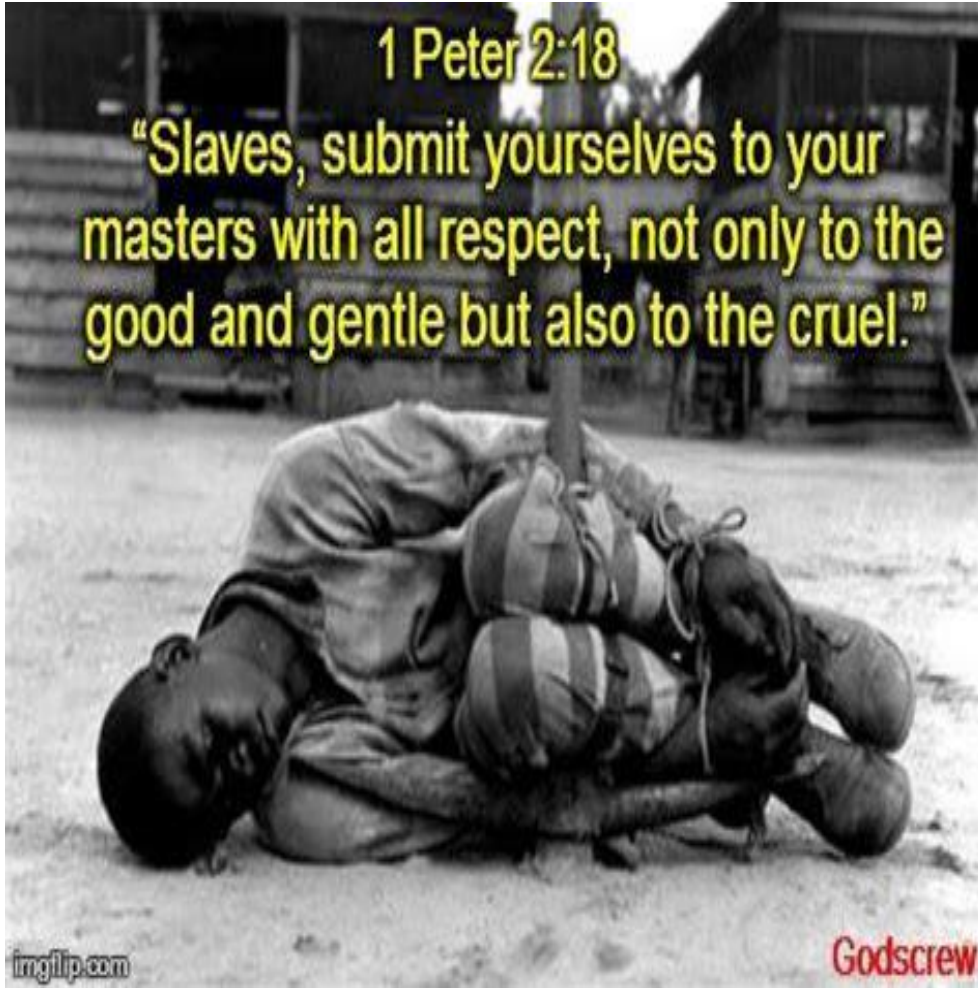
Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

Titus 2:9-10

- No insubordination.
- Stealing.....dishonest
- Be trustworthy
- Be a witness for God our Savior

1 Peter 2:18

“Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the cruel.”



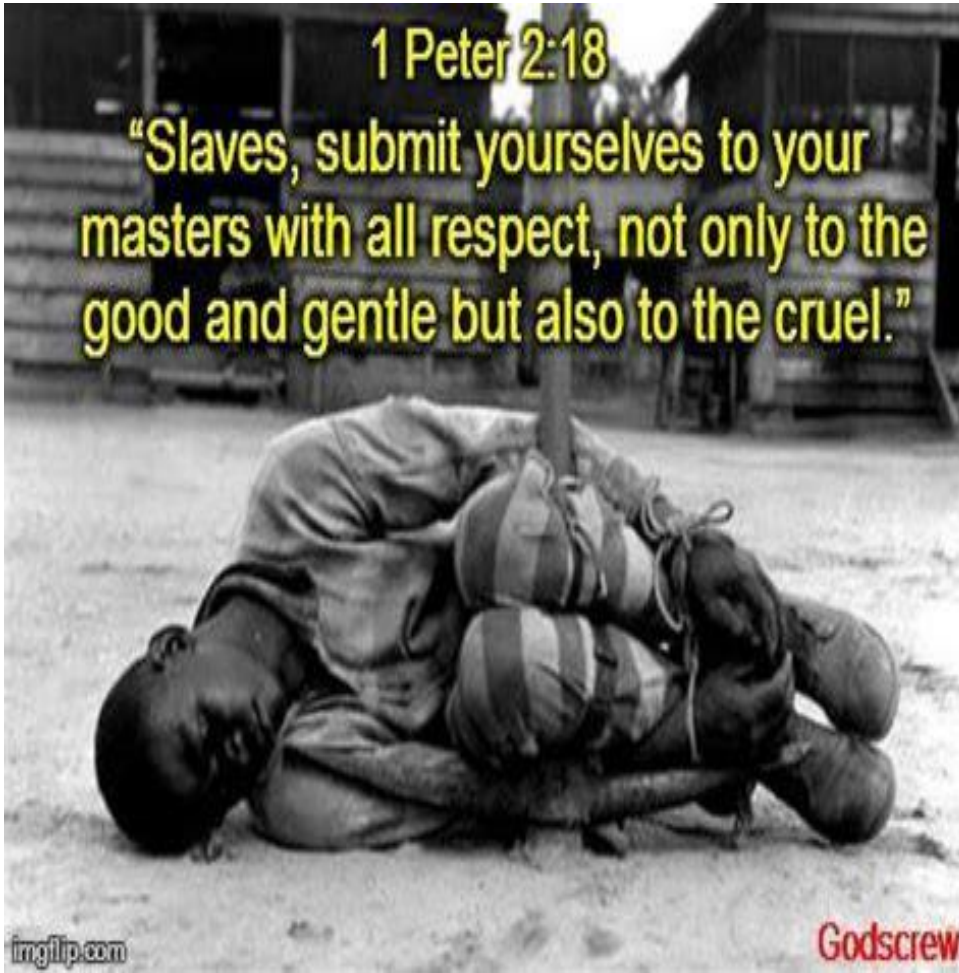
imgflip.com

Godscrew

Submit and respect...
cruel bosses

1 Peter 2:18

“Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the cruel.”



imgflip.com

Godscrew

Therefore, let those **suffering** in accordance with **God's will** **entrust** themselves to a **faithful Creator**, while **continuing** to **do good**.

1 Peter 4:19

BelieveOutLoud.com

Bosses

- Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.
- Slaves were the master's possession.
- Radical call... to provide what is right and fair
- Not a call to abolish but to reformas kingdom citizens

Bosses are accountable

Believing bosses are to:

Show their slaves:

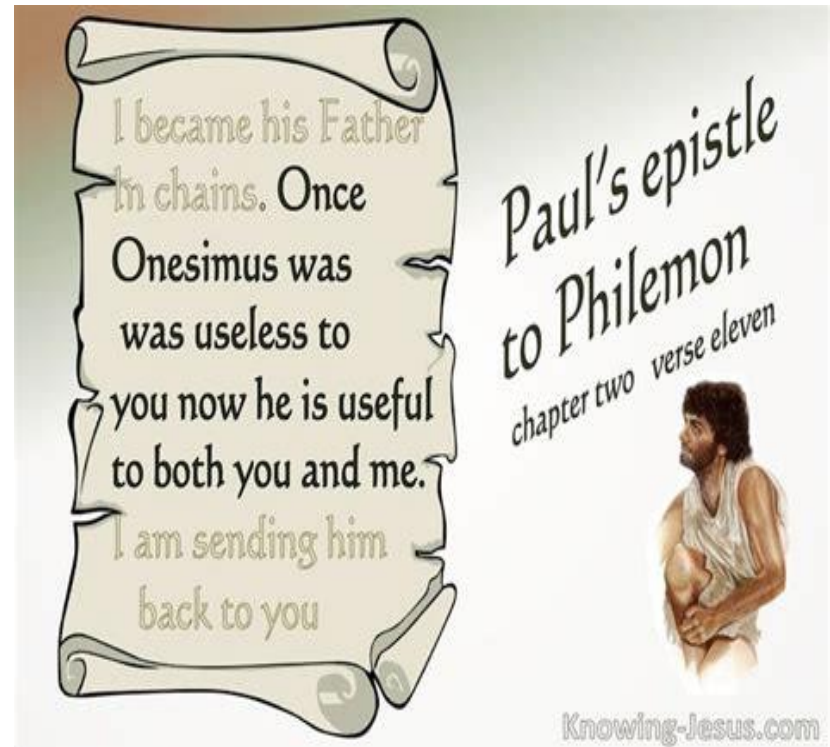
- compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience
 - forgiveness and love
- (Colossians 3:12-14)

Provide what is right and fair.

- Fair wages for work.
- Conducive work environment
- Fair social welfare (include the family)

Philemon, a Christian slave owner in Colossae

- Onesimus, his slave, stole from him and ran away
- became a believer after meeting Paul (Ephesus)
- Paul appealed to Philemon to receive Onesimus back as his slave, to show love and forgiveness for his crime.
- asked to receive Onesimus as 'a brother in the Lord'.



Joseph's revelation (Chapter 45)

- ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers.....“I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that **God sent me ahead of you.** ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land.....
- ⁷ But **God sent me ahead of you** to preserve.....to save your lives by a great deliverance.



God placed him
there

Did God place you there?

Workers,

- Work for the Lord, not for men. Be faithful and trustworthy.
- Work for His reward.
- Trust in His plan and purpose

Acts 10:34-35 NIV
Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right."

Bosses will be judged

Be wise in words and
behavior

Be **wise**
in the way
you act
with outsiders
making the most
of every opportunity.

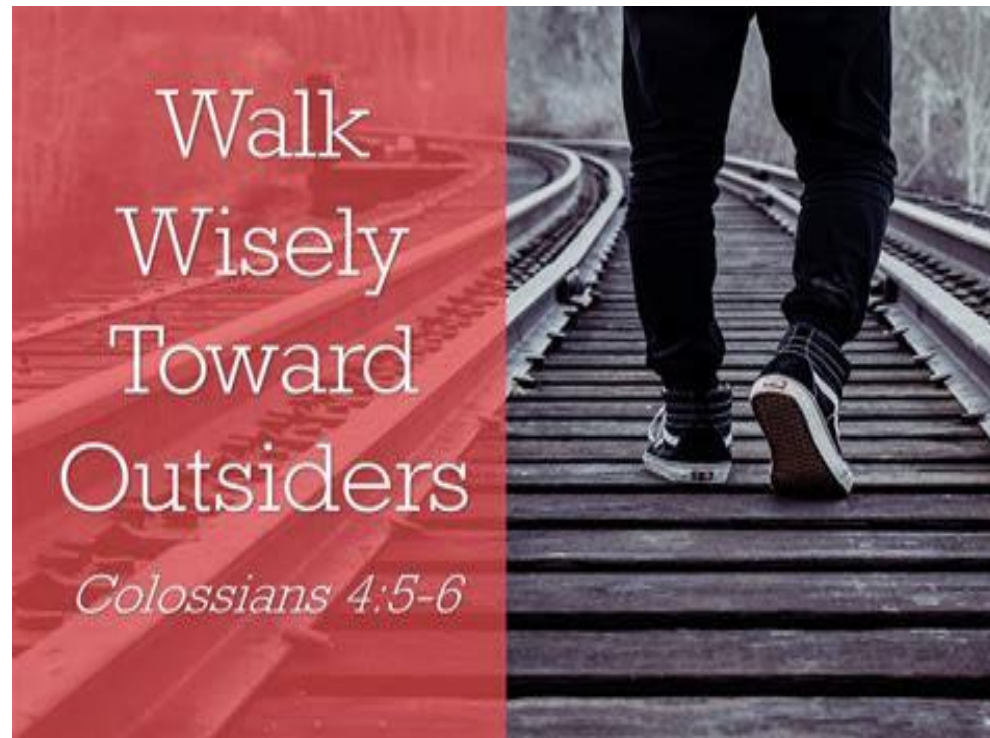
 Colossians 4:5 & 6

©2010 Timothy Artus

Let your conversation
always be full of
grace
seasoned with salt,
so that you may know
how to answer everyone.

Take every opportunity

- No compartmentalization of faith
- Others need to know our faith through our words and actions.
- Students and teachers, colleagues and family



Be wise in words



- How do we share our faith?
- Is it full of grace and seasoned with salt?
- Do we share our story in a condescending or combative way?

Do we witness with

THEREFORE, AS GOD'S CHOSEN
PEOPLE, *holy* AND *dearly*

loved

CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH
compassion, kindness
humility, gentleness

— — — AND *patience* — — —

Forgive AS THE LORD *forgave*.
AND OVER ALL THESE VIRTUES
put on love.

colossians 3:12-14

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- Forgiveness
- Love

PRAYER IS CRUCIAL

Colossians 4:2-4

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 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. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Devote yourselves to prayer

watchful / pray:

- for opportunity to witness
 - proclaim the gospel clearly
 - Epaphras example of 'wrestling in prayer (4:12)
- Effective witnessing: depends on the work of the Holy Spirit
 - Prayer is crucial for effective witness

Summary

Relationships: Foundation

Therefore, as God's
chosen people,
holy & dearly loved,
clothe yourselves
with compassion,
kindness, humility,
gentleness & patience.

***Bear with each other
& forgive one another.***

-Colossians 3:12-13

BibleVerselimages.com



Workers

- Work wholeheartedly as for the Lord. He put you there for a good purpose.
- Seek kingdom incentives for work
- Submit and respect even cruel and unjust bosses
- Like Joseph, trust God to reward you in His own way and time.

God has placed us there.

Bosses are accountable to God,
our Master

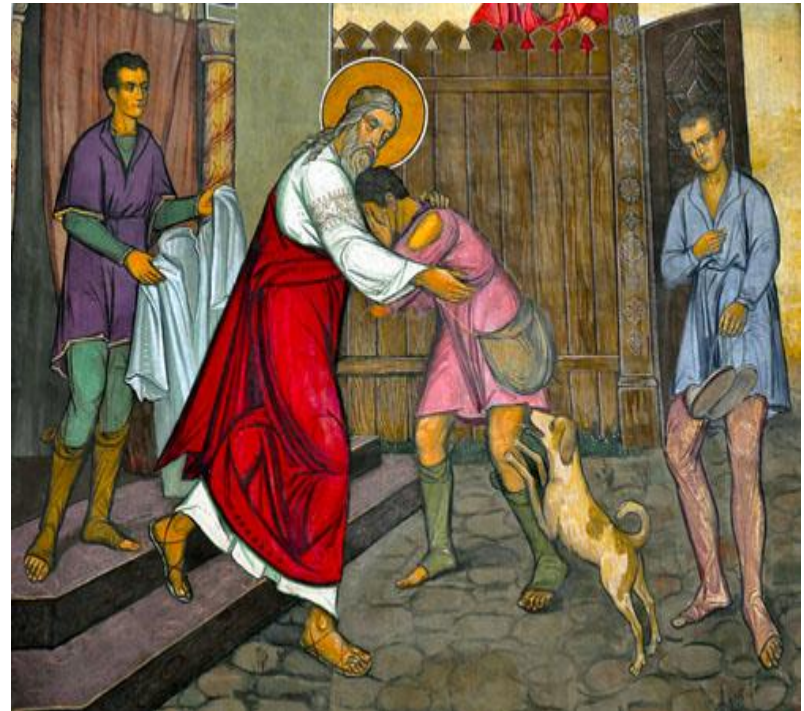
MASTERS

GRANT YOUR SERVANTS

JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS

Colossians 4:1

Knowing-Jesus.com



Bosses and workers are both judged



*For we must all appear
before the judgment seat
of Christ, so that each of
us may receive what is
due us for the things
done while in the body,
whether good or bad.*

(2 Corinthians 5:10 NIV)

You are my witnesses:



Colossians 4:5-6

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

**FROM THAT TIME
JESUS BEGAN TO PREACH, SAYING,**

**“REPENT,
FOR THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN IS AT HAND.”**

MATTHEW 4:17