

The Book of Colossians

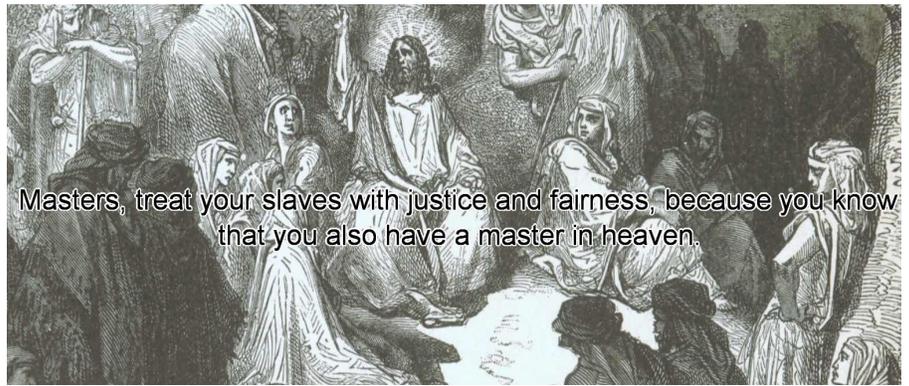
Theme:

“ALL YOU NEED IS
CHRIST!”

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Date: 11-4-18 **Lesson:** 7

Text: Chapter 4:1-6



TEXT:

4:1 Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a **Master in heaven**.

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. **3** At the same time, pray also for us, that **God** may open to us a door for the word, to declare **the mystery of Christ**, on account of which I am in prison— **4** that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. **6** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

STUDY NOTES:

(v. 1) Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

-Relationship between Christians of all different social strata (**Lev 25:43,53; Eph 6:5-9**)

-Master in heaven

(**Matthew 20:1; 24:45-51; Luke 8:24; 17:13; John 15:20; 1 Pet 2:1; Jude 1:4**)

(vv. 2-4) 2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

-Prayer (**Lk 11:1-13; 18:1-8**)

-Open door for the Gospel (**Matt 7:7,8; Acts 14:27; 1 Cor 16:9; 2 Cor 1:12; Rev 3:8,20**)

- the mystery of Christ (**Rom 11:25-36; 16:25; 1 Tim 3:16; Eph 1:9; 3:3-6; 1 Cor 15:51**)

(vv. 5,6) 5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

-Be wise (**Eph 5:15,16**) and Use very opportunity; Graceful talking (**Eph 4:29**)
and Salt (**Mt 5:13; Mk 9:50**)

-Giving an answer for your faith (**1 Pet 3:15**)

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Since we all have the same Master in heaven, how does this shape our relationships with others?
2. Where are the open doors for our congregation to walk through here in Norman?
3. What are the ways in which we as Lutherans train ourselves to speak and answer others for Jesus?

LUTHER'S WORKS – Christ as Lord and Master – Vol. 14 p. 344

“This, then, is the meaning: When **Christ the Lord reigns** with His iron scepter and crushes the old man through the Word of the cross, according to the will and command of the Father, who has subjected everything to Him, you must recognize yourself as subjected to Him. However, you are subjected in fear, that you may bear His cross in patience and humility. And be concerned, lest, if you refuse to bear His hand and counsel, you become wicked, like those spoken of in Ps. 78:9: “The sons of Ephraim are turned back on the day of battle.” You will be subject when you know that you never suffer undeserved punishment but deserve much greater punishment. The proud are smug in their opinion that they deserve only blessing. Like Job, they are not afraid, because they rely on their works (Job 9:28). Therefore they do not stand in the time of trial; but, as Matt. 7:24 ff. said about the house of the foolish man that was built on sand, they collapse in a great fall and become worse. Accordingly, this fear is a great part of the cross in the whole of life and in all our works; in fact, it is almost the whole of the cross.

Surely we should, with the apostle in Rom. 5:3, glory in our tribulation and rejoice with trembling. From all this it can be inferred that the service and praise of God is twofold. There is a service in security and a joy in the Lord without fear. This exists among the smug hypocrites. They are pleased with themselves. They do not see themselves as worthless servants, for they have great merit. Of them it is written in Ps. 10:5: “Thy judgments are on high, out of his sight,” and then soon after (Ps. 36:21): “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”⁶³ They always perform righteousness without judgment. They will not permit **Christ to be Judge**, before whom all should tremble and in whose sight no living man is justified (Ps. 143:2).

Service with fear and joy with trembling is found in the righteous, who always do righteousness and judgment. They mingle them together. They are neither without judgment, which terrifies the righteous and makes them despair of their own works, nor without true righteousness, by which they trust and rejoice in the mercy of God. The occupation of their whole life is to accuse themselves in all matters, to justify and praise God in all things, and thus to fulfill Prov. 28:14: “Blessed is the man who is always fearful,” and likewise 1 Thess. 5:16: “Always rejoice in the Lord.” Thus they are crushed and humbled between the upper and lower millstone (Deut. 24:6); and after the husks are removed, they become the purest wheat of Christ.”



"I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church."
—Rom. xvi. 1.



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