

SERVITUDE AND STEWARDSHIP “THE LIFE OF THE OX”

Colossians 3:22-4:1

22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters 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. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

4:1 Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

3 concepts Paul is teaching that we need to graft into our lives:

- Living "The Life of the Ox"
- Understanding the "Purpose in everything"
- Application "Showing The love of the lamb"

2 reasons Paul is teaching these concepts:

- There was an issue He was giving guidance and correction for.
- He expected them to do something about it.

THE LIFE OF THE OX (LIFE OF SUBMISSION)

What is the Ox? - Beast of burden, not known for anything but His work. Complete servitude doesn't stop, doesn't take a day off, and doesn't complain. Its diligent, it works, and it works hard for its MASTER. The ox was made by God to serve purpose, works unto the Lord.

Who lived the Life of the Ox? - Paul. If there's one thing we're sure of, it's his word lined up with his life.

1st Corinthians 9:19-22

Doulos - Greek for slave - one that had become free, but PUTS themselves back into service for the master they love. That master is Jesus, Paul put himself BACK into slavery, into servant hood to Christ after Jesus freed him

Galatians 4:12 – “I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you. You did me no wrong.” Paul pursues the purposes of the Kingdom, by putting himself into slavery in HOPES that they might become like Him.

Galatians 1:10 – “Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.” He made himself a slave to everyone of every background because he knew there was an inheritance, he knew there was reason. He was doing it unto the Lord; he was the Ox to its master.

PURPOSE IN EVERYTHING

Put on my heart - It doesn't matter what you're doing, or who you're doing it for on earth, everything has eternal purpose -Inheritance in Christ

You can have a good inheritance or a bad one, a full one or a diminished one. There is a prayer and fasting parallel in Matthew 6.

PURSUE THE FULL INHERITANCE THAT IS OF CHRIST. If you're serving, do it with everything unto the Lord. Like we've talked about thus far, if you're leading, do it **RIGHT**

1 Peter 5 2-4. Don't even act in the wrong way to other people, have a different disposition.

THE LOVE OF THE LAMB

How did Christ do this for us? He did it by laying down His life.

1 John 3:16 – “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

1 John 4:12 - if we're loving on one another then God is inside of us, and we're pouring out what's inside of us. What's on your inside, what's in your heart is what you're going to give. If you don't have that love inside, you can't give it on the outside. Whether you are a servant or a leader (the influencer, not the influenced), you lay your life down. This is an act of laying down of your own life for the purposes of the kingdom so that you can show the greatest love that was shown to you. In essence you are showing Christ and showing His love!

This is the same concept as someone who is super generous, they're emulating Christ's giving and in doing so people **SEE A DIFFERENT THING IN THEM.** That's the whole point behind chapter 3 - to be set apart; which creates questions, which creates opportunity. Someone who serves is emulating Christ's servitude, someone who puts himself aside as a leader to lead emulates Christ's leadership. You emulate Christ by laying your life down, and in doing so show and personify the Love of the Lamb.

Understand the **Purpose in Everything**, and live the **Life of the Ox** in order to show the **Love of the Lamb.**

Paul expected them to take his teaching, learn it and do something about it. It's got to be the same for all of us. Run with the Word, don't just get fat here - He's eternal king, not the burger king.

Are you going to run with it?