

# Challenged & Blessed

Paul's Message to the Church



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Colossians 3:17 - 4:6

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(New Living Translation)

<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

*Instructions for Christian Households*

<sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord.

<sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.

<sup>20</sup> Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.

<sup>22</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. <sup>24</sup> Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.[a] <sup>25</sup> But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites.

<sup>4</sup> Masters, be just and fair to your slaves. Remember that you also have a Master—in heaven.

*An Encouragement for Prayer*

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

<sup>3</sup> Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

<sup>5</sup> Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be gracious and attractive[b] so that you will have the right response for everyone.

**What difference does it make?**

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