

Colossians 4:1-4

Masters to Slaves,
Then Prayer for Paul

Roger's summary from last week

- 1] In view of the fact, therefore, that you were raised with Christ, the things above be constantly seeking, where Christ is, on the right hand of God, seated; and
- 2] The things above be constantly setting your mind upon, not the things on the earth; and
- 3] for you died, and your life has been hidden with Christ in God; and
- 4] Whenever the Christ is made visible, our life, then also you with Him shall be manifested in glory—

So therefore,

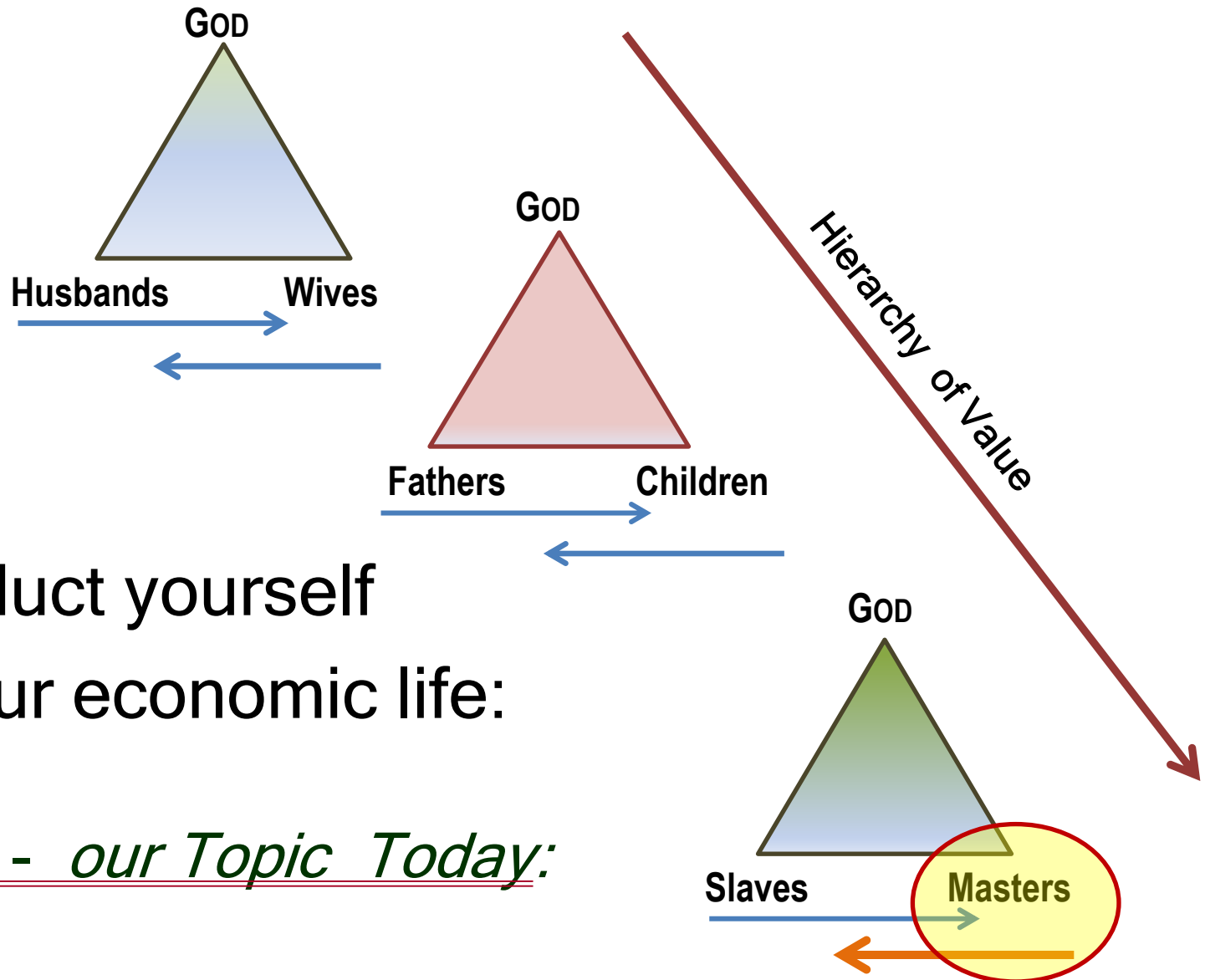
Since you are freed from all the encumbrances of the sin nature & flesh, and because of your newness of life in Christ;

I, Paul, implore you to live in harmony with the above principles

As you:

(my addition to this for this week)

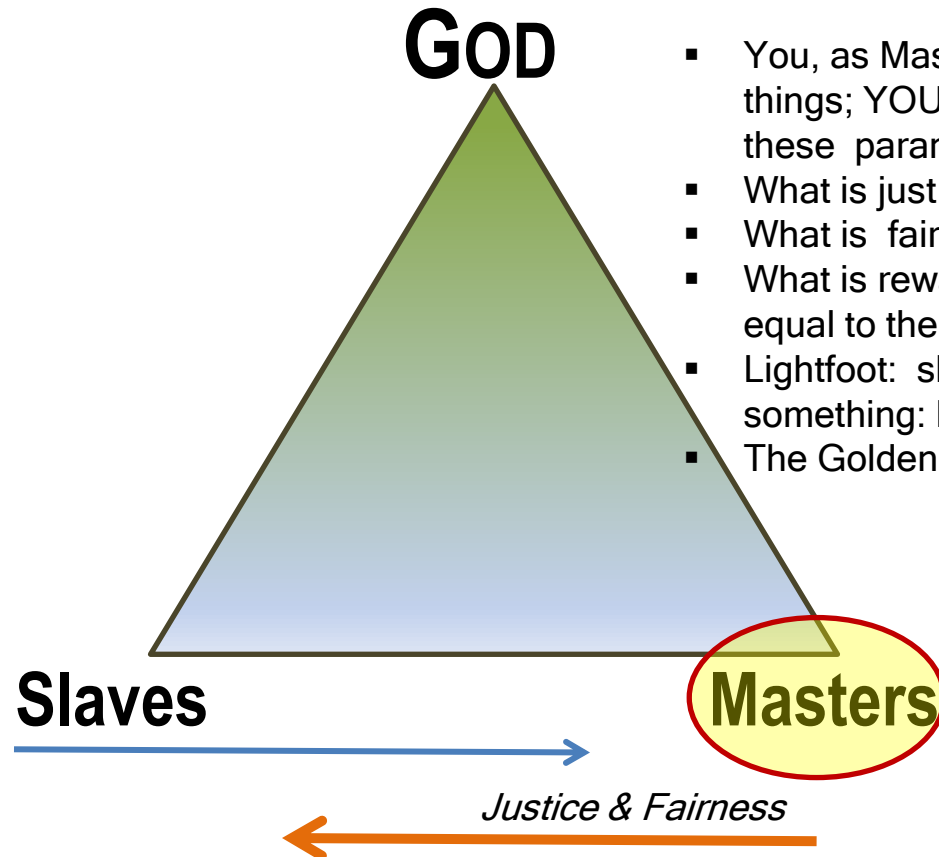
- Conduct yourself in your family life:



- Conduct yourself in your economic life:

Col. 4:1- our Topic Today:

Conduct yourself in your economic life:



- You, as Master must render these 2 things; YOU are the one deciding these parameters. Pres. Midd. Imp.
- What is just and right?
- What is fair?
- What is reward/compensation is equal to the task?
- Lightfoot: show yourself to be something: FAIR, EQUITABLE
- The Golden Rule

Colossians 4:1

Philemon

Phm 1:10

I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment,

Phm 1:11

who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.

Phm 1:12

I have sent him back to you in person, that is, sending my very heart,

Phm 1:13

whom I wished to keep with me, **so that on your behalf he might minister** to me in my imprisonment for the gospel

Phm 1:14

but without your consent I did not want to do anything, **so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion but of your own free will.**

Phm 1:15

For perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever,

Phm 1:16

no longer as a slave, **but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you,** both in the flesh and in the Lord.

Philemon

Phm 1:17

If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me.

But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, **charge that to my account;**

Phm 1:19

I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand, I will repay it **(not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well).**

Phm 1:20

Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

Phm 1:21

Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say.

Phm 1:22

At the same time also prepare me a lodging, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given to you.

Phm 1:23

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,

Survey of Pauline Epistles:

As to: Paul requesting PRAYER for himself & his ministry

EPISTLE:

ASK FOR PRAYER?

Romans: YES: (15:30-32) *by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and find refreshing rest in your company*

I Corinthians: No

II Corinthians: No

Galatians: No

Ephesians YES

Parallel passages; High correlation

Colossians: YES

I Thessalonians: YES: only "Brethren pray for us"

II Thessalonians: YES: *'that the word of the Lord would spread quickly, just as it did in you, and that we may be delivered from perverse and evil men'*

I Timothy: No

II Timothy: No

Titus: No

Philemon: No

Ephesians & Colossians: side by side

Col 4:2

Devote yourselves to prayer, **keeping alert** in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;

Col 4:3

praying at the same time for us as well, **that God will open up to us a door for the word**,

so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;

Col 4:4

that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

COMPARE TO:

Eph 6:18

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, **be on the alert** with all **perseverance** and petition for all the saints,

Eph 6:19

and pray on my behalf, **that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth**, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

Eph 6:20

for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

POINTS OF CONNECTION:

- **ALERTNESS**
- **DEVOTEDNESS/ PERSEVERANCE**
- **THAT GOD WOULD OPEN:** door or mouth for utterance
- **MAKE IT CLEAR/ MAKE IT KNOWN**
- **CONTENT:** the mystery of Christ / the mystery of gospel
- **I AM IN CHAINS / IMPRISONED:** for the mystery of Christ/ the mystery of the gospel.

Col. 4:2-4 Study on Prayer for Paul:

I. **Devote:** *yourselves to prayer.* proskartereō: a strong word for maintaining the constant attention to a thing; unremitting care to a thing. Persist in it with intensity and strength. To busy oneself with it. **PRESENT/ACTIVE/IMPERATIVE**

Used: 1) Acts 1:14: the praying of the disciples, Mary, Jesus' brothers in the Upper Room after the ascension of Christ.

2) Mark 3:9: 'and He told his disciples that a boat should *stand ready* for Him because of the crowd, so they would not crowd Him.

II. **Alertness:** to stay awake; watchful with vigilance. What it's not: Luke 9:32: 'now Peter, (James & John) had been overcome with sleep, but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory....'

III. **Open a Door:** 'that God would open unto us a door of utterance..'

Whose job is it to open the door? Rev. 3:7: " And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens" 8: "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name."

Merryman says here: RE: prayer for unbelievers - Do not pray for one's salvation but that God would open a door for proper hearing of the gospel, that the content of it may be communicated clearly by someone in the unbeliever's life.

Col 4: 2-4: Study on prayer for Paul, cont.

IV. Content = Mystery of Christ:

Col. 1: 26-28:

'Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now **is made manifest** to his saints:

To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; ***which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.***

Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus'

Eph. 3: 6-10

to be specific, that the ***Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,*** of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. 8: To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, ***to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,*** 9: and to **bring to light** what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; 10: so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

V. Make Manifest / Make Clear:

"make all see" NASV: "make it clear" KJV: "ye may understand" NOTE: Eph. 3:9 above: "bring to light"

Note the symmetry to JOHN 17:

3: "This is eternal life, **that they may know You**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 6: "**I have manifested Your name** to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; 7: Now they have **come to know** that everything You have given Me is from You; 8: for the **words which You gave Me I have given to them**; and they received them and **truly understood** that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.