

## THE MASTERED LIFE

### **Text: Colossians 3:15 - Colossians 4:1**

The English poet William Ernest Henley wrote, "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul." These lines may seem inspiring, but in fact they ultimately become depressing because, in truth, we do not have the power to overcome hardships, difficulties, or even minor tasks and responsibilities in life unless Christ is Captain and Lord of our future and Lord of our souls. In a word, we need to be "mastered." We need "Mastering" in mind, in our homes and in our motivation.

### **I. Peaceful Existence**

#### **A. Within Yourself**

*"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts..."* (Colossians 3:15a). The word for "rule" is the Greek word "brabeuo" which means to be an umpire to decide, determine, to direct, arbitrate and control. In other words, when Jesus "calls the shots" He designates a peaceful arbitration over our lives. Jesus said, *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"* (John 14:27).

#### **B. Within the Church**

*"...to the which also ye are called in one body..."* (Colossians 3:15b). We are called to be cooperative. Amos said, *"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"* (Amos 3:3). David said, *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"* (Psalm 133:1). The Lord is serious about our getting along. He says, *'That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another'* (I Corinthians 12:25). The word "schism" in Greek is "schism" which means a split or gap, division, rent, or tear.

#### **C. Within the World in Which We Live**

*"...and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him"* (Colossians

3:15c-17). A thankful and a Word-filled heart will sing and give praise to God creating a peaceful environment.

## **II. Domestic Tranquility**

### **A. Personal Accountability**

*“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord”* (Colossians 3:18). Six times the phrase, *“own husbands”* is used in Scripture. Wives are accountable to their own husbands, not their boss, their pastor or even their dads. This truth is symbolized in the marriage ceremony when the father gives his daughter away.

### **B. Personal Responsibility**

*“Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged”* (Colossians 3:19,21). As the head of the home the husband is under great responsibility to love his wife as Christ loves the church. *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it”* (Ephesians 5:25). As the head of the home the fathers need to make sure they don't become emotionally or physically abusive or overly tease and become sarcastic, thus provoking the children into a state of discouragement.

### **C. Offspring Obligation**

*“Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord”* (Colossians 3:20). Jesus said, *“...I do always those things that please him”* (John 8:29c). This should be the goal of children toward their parents as well.

## **III. Living as unto the Lord**

### **A. No Matter What Station**

*“Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God”* (Colossians 3:22). In Matthew 6:1 and 5, Jesus warns against doing things only to be seen of men. In Matthew 6:4, 6, and 18 Jesus points out when we do right in the secret, God will reward us openly. Our one great motivation for service should be: *“I am doing this as unto the Lord!”* Even the unfortunate people who are in a society that holds people in human bondage, are given hope. Even in the most confining and hurtful life styles, the freedom that we all have in Christ sets us free to be a witness even in the hardest circumstances.

### **B. No Matter What Task**

*"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men"* (Colossians 3:23). Knowing Jesus changes everything. This means that all of our labor is for Christ's ultimate glory. If I am a cook, I cook for the Lord. If I am a Marine, I am God's Marine. If I am a doctor, I am God's doctor. If I am a nurse, I am God's nurse. If I am a car dealer, I am God's car dealer. If I am a farmer, I am God's farmer. If I am a judge, I am God's judge. In 1850, James Garfield was converted in a camp meeting. The next day he was baptized and gave this testimony: "Today I was buried with Christ in baptism and arose to walk in the newness of life." He was a serving elder in his church and when he became the twentieth President of the United States he said, "I resign the highest office in the land to become President of the United States." Whether a pauper or a president, we should do all that we do heartily for the Lord!

### **C. Knowing What Really Matters**

*"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons. Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven"* (Colossians 3:24-Colossians 4:1). The Bible tells us that God is keeping the record. Job said, *"Also now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and my record is on high"* (Job 16:19). Because God is keeping the record, employers must be Christ-like toward their employees because we have a Master to whom we must give account, *"...for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ"* (Romans 14:10b).

Let us all live a Christ-mastered life! This is what really matters!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.