April 9, 2014 "Encouragement toward Things to Embrace" Colossians 3:12-25

- I. Encouragement for Your Character "Therefore, God's chosen ones, holy and loved, put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, accepting one another and forgiving one another... Above all, put on love-the perfect bond of unity. And let the peace of the Messiah, to which you were also called in one body, control your hearts. Be Thankful." (12-15)
- **II. Encouragement for Your Spirit** "Let the message about the Messiah dwell richly among you, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God." (16)
- III. Encouragement for Your Relationships (18-21)
- IV. Encouragement for Your Workplace (22-25)
 - Energetically "but work wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord" (22)
 - Enthusiastically "Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men." (23)
 - Expectantly "reward" (24) "no favoritism" (25)

Col 3:12-25 Therefore, God's chosen ones, holy and loved, put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, (13) accepting one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also *forgive*. (14) Above all, *put on* love--the perfect bond of unity. (15) And let the peace of the Messiah, to which

you were also called in one body, control your hearts. Be thankful. (16) Let the message about the Messiah dwell richly among you, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. (17) And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (18) Wives, be submissive to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. (19) Husbands, love your wives and don't be bitter toward them. (20) Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. (21) Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so they won't become discouraged. (22) Slaves, obey your human masters in everything. Don't work only while being watched, in order to please men, but *work* wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord. (23) Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, (24) knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ. (25) For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong he has done, and there is no favoritism.

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