

Don't Quit Your Day Job!

Ephesians 6.5-9

1990's Privilege of Seeing Gospel of Jesus spread across CENTRAL ASIA

Places where ATHEISM, ISLAM, and ORTHODOXY held people in Bondage

Men, Women, Boys, Girls SET FREE by GOOD NEWS Crucified & Risen Jesus

Surprising Reaction of many Central Asians > QUIT JOBS to Work for Church

SAW FAT & LAZY I was as Professional Pastor > Wanted Piece of that Action!

From ANOTHER Part of the World, CONSIDER this....

Indonesia a constitutionally secular state...has a larger Muslim population than any other country in the world, with approximately 202.9 million identifying themselves as Muslim (87.2% of Indonesia's total population in 2011)...Arab Muslim traders entered Indonesia as early as the 8th century...The spread of Islam, first introduced through Arab Muslim traders, continued to saturate through the Indonesian people... M.C. Ricklefs

200+ Million people in this Nation comprised of 17,500 islands confess...

"There is NO GOD but ALLAH and MUHAMMED is His PROPHET"

This News Not carried by Professional Missionaries > BUSINESS PEOPLE

Apostle Paul > Much BETTER News!

True God: TRIUNE God of BIBLE, Jesus Christ is His Prophet, Priest, & King!

One of BEST Ways for the WORLD to See True Faith Lived Marketplace

Paul's Word to Christian Witnesses > Don't Quit Your Day Job!

KNOWING JESUS IMPACTs ALL OUR RELATIONSHIPS

MARRIAGE - CHILDREN - JOB / ALL Now PLACES OF XTIAN SERVICE

TRANSFORMING POWER of HOLY SPIRIT Seen in EVERYDAY World

Place Spend MOST Waking Hours Week, Your Best PLATFORM for GOSPEL

First Consider > HOW CAN PAUL CONDONE THE EVIL OF SLAVERY?

Does Paul support Slavery?

i. Accepted not approved SLAVERY DEEP & COMPLEX REALITY

One THIRD of People in GREEK and ROMAN Worlds were SLAVES

Some ROMAN CITIES MORE SLAVES than Free Citizens > est. Ephesus 30%

60 MILLION THROUGHOUT ROMAN EMPIRE

"Ancient society was as dependent on slavery, as modern society is dependent on machinery"

SLAVES HELD ALL KINDS OF JOBS - ALL LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE

from Manual Labor to Doctors and Teachers and Administrators

People became slaves through various avenues: birth, parental selling or abandonment, captivity in war, inability to pay debts, and voluntary attempts to better one's condition. Race was not a factor. Klyne Snodgrass

PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS - SEES NO LASTING BASIS TO SLAVERY

MARRIAGE BASED ON CHRIST / FAMILY BASED ON CREATION

SLAVERY their Present REALITY - Many Slaves were Coming into Church

As Paul writes to this Ephesian Church – Xtian FAITH ITSELF WAS ILLEGAL

ii. Temporary Opportunity OF BEING A SLAVE = PLACE OF SERVICE

IF FREED - WHERE WOULD THEY GO? WHAT WOULD THEY DO?

Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you--although if you can gain your freedom, do so. For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to...What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. ...For this world in its present form is passing away.

1 Corinthians 7:20-24,29,31

WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN -

WE Really are POWERLESS - HE HOLDS ALL POWER - HE is our FATHER

God ORDAINED every aspect of Our Life > His GLORY & Our GOOD

All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, *so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered*

1 Timothy 6.1,2

For Paul > EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE IS TO BE ANALYZED

FOR WHAT IT DOES TO FURTHER THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1.21

iii. Kingdom Brotherhood GOD in CHRIST was MAKING a NEW SOCIETY
LIBERATION and HOPE for SLAVES was ALMOST INCONCEIVABLE...

A slave is a living tool, just as a tool is an inanimate slave. Aristotle

CHURCHES were FILLING with SLAVES - FINDING FREEDOM IN HIM

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3.28

Perhaps 1st C World NOT Ready HEAR News of LIBERATION for SLAVES

ROMAN EMPIRE MUST BE BROUGHT DOWN FIRST

FUTURE GLORY MADE DIFFERENCE IN THE PRESENT

Example: PAUL'S PERSONAL LETTER TO SLAVE OWNER - PHILEMON

Re: Run Away SLAVE - Onesimus - Met Providentially in busy ROME

I am sending him--who is my very heart -- back to you...no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

Philemon 1.12,16

Sending him BACK for the SLAUGHTER!?! – Death Penalty for Running Away

NO! RECEIVE w/ RECONCILIATION & Full RESTORATION!

NOTHING IN ALL GREEK / ROMAN LITERATURE EVER SUGGESTS
 A SLAVE is the BROTHER of his MASTER - SHOCKING IDEA!
 Slavery CONTINUED in World and Church (sadly) Not because People
 FOLLOWED Paul's words, but because they DID NOT!

iv. Messenger of Change WORD OF GOD IS THE CHANGE AGENT
 CHANGE NOT FROM BALLOT BOX OR BULLET - BLESSING OF GOD
 SPIRIT-CREATED New SERVANTS / New SOCIETY thru HIS WORD

Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me,
 "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations
 and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to
 plant."
 Jeremiah 1.9,10

With inspired wisdom the apostle enables the gospel to progress in a society that
 approves slavery while planting the seeds for its destruction. Bryan Chapell

1. Christ's Servants

a. New Freedom in Slavery

Glimpses of WORLD of Bible > SLAVES belonged to Household

Abraham took...all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male
 among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the(m)... Genesis 17.23

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the statute of the Passover: no
 foreigner shall eat of it, but every slave that is bought for money may eat of it
 after you have circumcised him."
 Exodus 12.43,44

Philippian JAILER said to PAUL & SILAS: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you *and your
 household.*" And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to *all who were in
 his house.*
 Acts 16.30-32

SLAVES were EXPECTED to Follow the RELIGION of their MASTER

Paul tells Christian SLAVES have HIGHER MASTER – ONE just “earthly”

SLAVES TOLD to FOCUS on the LORD JESUS

v. 5 Slaves, obey...just as you would obey Christ.

v. 6 Obey them...like slaves of Christ

v. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord

v. 8 because you know that the Lord will reward

MESSAGE > BEST WAY TO LIVE YOUR LIFE IS TO FOCUS ON JESUS

ROMAN ARISTOCRACY may have THOUGHT they OWNED their SLAVES

BUT THEY WERE BLOOD BOUGHT CHILDREN OF KING JESUS

PAUL COULD SEE BEYOND his PRISON Cell to the GLORY OF GOD

...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1.17-23

Paul Urges SLAVES to do the SAME - LOOK BEYOND THEIR SITUATION

TO SEE THE GLORY OF THE LORD JESUS

It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3.24

WHAT Paul says to SLAVES/MASTERS applies EMPLOYEE/EMPLOYER

"Exactly the same principle can be applied by contemporary Christians to their work and employment. Our great need is the clear-sightedness to see Jesus Christ and to set Him before us. It is possible for the housewife to cook a meal as if

Jesus Christ were going to eat it, or to clean the house as if Jesus Christ were going to be the honored guest. It is possible for teachers to educate children, for doctors to treat patients and nurses to care for them, for lawyers to help their clients, shop workers to serve their customers, accountants to audit books and secretaries to type letters as if in each case they were serving Jesus Christ. Can the same be said in relation to the masses of industrial workers with tedious machine-minding to do and the miners who have to work underground? Surely yes."
John Stott

PASTOR in MANHATTAN - RODE A BUS TO WORK

GOT TO KNOW DRIVER - CHRISTIAN MAN - SHARED THEIR LIVES

ONE DAY PASTOR "how you doing?" TO DRIVER

DRIVER "not good, tired of this boring job, yours is exciting"

PASTOR "come in the bus early and pray, see it as sanctuary"

WEEKS LATER PASTOR SAW DRIVER "How's it been going"

DRIVER "Great, it is wonderful driving the sanctuary of God"

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Psalm 68.19

b. New Focus on Standards

1) Obedience v. 5 Slaves, obey // v. 6 Obey them

BASIC CHRISTIAN DUTY - DO WHAT YOU ARE TOLD AT WORK

A king delights in a wise servant, but a shameful servant incurs his wrath.

Proverbs 14.35

PAUL TELLS EMPLOYEE & EMPLOYER TO BE MORE CONCERNED

ABOUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES THAN THEIR RIGHTS

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything

Colossians 3.22

NOTHING MORE TRAGIC FOR GOSPEL - "My boss (or employee) said they were a Christian, but I can't tell by their performance on the job"

2) Respect v. 5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect

EMPLOYEE NEEDS TO SEE EMPLOYER AS IN PLACE OF CHRIST
PLACED THERE BY HIM FOR HIS PURPOSE - WILLING SUBMISSION

Slaves, obey...with reverence for the Lord. Colossians 3.22,4.1

Give everyone what you owe him:...if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.
Romans 13.7

THIS is NOT to be PHONY OR ONLY FOR SELF ADVANTAGE - KISS UP

All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect...Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them
1 Timothy 6.1,2

DON'T TALK STINK about JOB - WORKERS - SHAMEFUL for BELIEVERS

3) Wholehearted – 3 X's Paul mentions HEART

v. 5 with a sincere heart // v. 6 doing the will of God from the heart

v. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men

TRIPLE Emph because it is SHOCKING!! Really!?! Slave LOVING the Master?

If you REALLY LOVE the LORD > Must ALSO LOVE your Neighbor

Slaves, obey...with sincerity of heart Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men Colossians 3.22,23

LATIN WORD "SINCERE" = LIT. without wax

Dishonest POTTERS ANCIENT World Covered CRACKS & FLAWS w/ WAX

POT OFTEN HELD TO THE SUN i.e. YOU CANNOT SEE THROUGH IT

CAN you See how BIG these Little Verses Are? About Much MORE than JOBS

Verses about MORE than Slaves/Master or even Employees/Employers

Verses about ALL of LIFE – EVERY Person – EVERYTHING they DO in LIFE

"The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" 1 Samuel 16.7

IN Christ there is NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN SACRED AND SECULAR
ANY Work we Do – Home, Job, School, Church - SEEN by Him & FOR Him

Everything we do involves a direct encounter with Jesus Christ. He is the origin and the recipient of every act...no act is mundane and no person is unimportant. Power must be used for him, not against him. And all of us stand on equal footing with the same Lord, who cares deeply how we treat each other and will hold us accountable. Klyne Snodgrass

4) Trustworthy CAN PEOPLE you SERVE COUNT ON YOU?

v. 6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you

CAN BE TRUSTED - DOES the JOB - NOT LAZY OR CORRUPT

NO NEED to Hook Up VIDEO CAMERAS IN YOUR OFFICE

You Fully REALIZE GOD'S VIDEO CAMERA IS ALWAYS RUNNING

He SEES IN THE DARK & DEEP Down into our HEARTS & MINDS

I HOPE HE LIKES WHAT HE SAYS AND GIVES HIS REWARD

The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:20

What is BEST WAY to be a GOOD WITNESS FOR JESUS ON THE JOB?

Wear Xtian T-Shirts? Carry BIG Bible to Work? Give out Tracts?

BE a GOOD WORKER - ACT like YOUR EMPLOYER is GOD

...then the T-shirts, Bible, and Tracts will Gain a Hearing

Slaves, obey...not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor

Colossians 3.22

THIS IS THE SECRET FOR PROMOTION - NOT PRIMARILY EDUCATION
Your TRACK RECORD is WEIGHED More than Your ACADEMIC RECORD

5) Accountable v. 5 "fear"

v. 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free

PAUL THOUGHT of HEAVENLY REWARDS - Slaves Rarely Rewarded

you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving
Colossians 3.24

Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.
Colossians 3.25

TODAY REWARDS do Matter - COMPENSATION IS BIBLICAL
SYSTEM which PAYS its EMPLOYEES for WORK is Closer to GOD'S WAY

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.
2 Corinthians 5.10

2. Mastered Masters

Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.
Colossians 4.1

a. Do the Same v. 9 Masters, do the same to them...

DOES NOT MEAN THAT MASTERS ARE TO OBEY THEIR SLAVES

GOLDEN RULE: Do unto Others, as you would want Them to Do to You

Both SLAVE & MASTER are CHILDREN of GOD – Accountable to HIM

Like the SLAVE the MASTER NEEDS TO LOOK TO JESUS -
NOT HIS OWN POWER AND SUPPOSED IMPORTANCE

We typically show favoritism to the rich and powerful, but little respect for the poor and powerless. Both are sins. Klyne Snodgrass

EMPLOYER & EMPLOYEE Both CAN ONLY BE FULFILLED IN CHRIST
 POOR SLAVE goes to REFRIG – Looks HUNGRILY Inside – Nothing There!
 RICH MASTER goes to REFRIG FULL OF FOOD - NOTHING looks GOOD
 WE HAVE so Much but - WE ARE STILL EMPTY / UNFULFILLED

This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD. Jeremiah 9.23,24

b. Don't Threaten

v. 9 ...and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven

The terror of the slave was that he was absolutely at the caprice of his master. William Barclay

OWNERS Held POWER of LIFE and DEATH Over SLAVES - HIRE / FIRE

Slaves were sometimes whipped, mutilated, and imprisoned in chains, their teeth were knocked out, their eyes gouged out, they were even thrown to wild beasts or crucified, and all this sometimes for the most trivial offenses. John Stott

Do NOT NEED to MAKE them UNNECESSARILY INSECURE

Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God Leviticus 25.43

PRACTICAL RESULT > Negative Threats makes Worker do Less Not More

c. Don't Discriminate SUREST way to DIVIDE TEAM / WORKFORCE

v. 9 ...there is no partiality with him

For God does not show favoritism.

Romans 2.11

I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus ...keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism. 1 Timothy 5.21

A CHILD WILL CRY OUT "that's not fair" - SENSE OF JUSTICE

d. Don't Forget Your Master NO Matter how BIG You ARE- God is BIGGER

v. 9 He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven,

you know that you also have a Master in heaven

Colossians 4.1

God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen. 1 Timothy 6.15,16

Christians are asked to remember only one audience, the audience always present and to whom we are accountable – God...by living in truth and love. Klyne Snodgrass

OT EXAMPLE OF AN EMPLOYER WHO HONORED THE LORD

Naomi had a relative....a man of standing, whose name was Boaz....Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The LORD be with you!" "The LORD bless you!" they called back. Ruth 2.1-4

BOAZ WAS SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF HIS WORKERS

and GENEROUS to the STRANGER - Ruth – He was KINSMAN REDEEMER

PICTURE of Our KINSMAN REDEEMER – Cares for US – Our LORD JESUS

Jesus: "...whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10.44,45

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God Job 19.25,26

HE Will STAND as Ultimate MASTER - Equal OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Ephesians 6 ⁵Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁹Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.