

Being A Servant Of God

Text : **Philippians 2: 1-8 , Romans 6: 15-23**

S#1.

S#2.

A. Men are created beings.

1. **Gen. 1: 26-28** ... God created man in His own image and gave Him dominion.
2. God created man **FOR** His own use.
Col. 1: 16 – For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, **S#3.**
 visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities
 — all things have been created through Him and FOR Him.
3. God maintains ownership of all He created.
Psa. 24: 1 – The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains,
 The world, and those who dwell in it.
4. What is the status of a person who is owned by another ? **He is a slave.**

B. Thus, God refers to those who do His will on the earth as His “servants.”

S#4.

1. In the Old Testament :
 - a. **Job 1: 8** – “Have you considered My servant Job?”
 - b. **Gen. 26: 24** – “For the sake of My servant Abraham.”
 - c. **Num. 12: 7** – “Not so, with My servant Moses, he is faithful in all My household.”
 - d. **I Chron. 17: 7** – “Go tell my servant David ...”
 - e. **II Kings 17: 13** – “I sent to you through My servants the prophets..”
2. Jesus is referred to as a servant.
 - a. **Rom. 15:8** – For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on **S#5.**
 behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers,
 9 and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy;
 - b. **Phil. 2:6-8** – Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did **S#6.**
 not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself,
taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of
 men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by
 becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
 - c. The prophets referred to Jesus as a Servant of God. (*Matthew Quoting Isaiah*)
Matt. 12:18 – Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen; My beloved in whom **S#7.**
 My soul is well-pleased; I will put my spirit upon Him,
 and He shall proclaim justice to the gentiles.
3. The Apostles and church leaders referred to themselves as bond-servants.
 - a. **II Pet. 1: 1** – “Simon Peter, a bond-servant and Apostle of Jesus Christ ...”
 - b. **Rev. 1: 1** – “By His angel to His bond-servant John, ...”
 - c. **Rom. 1:1** – “Paul, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, called as ...”

4. Those who do the will of Jesus are called His bond-servants.
 - a. **Jude 1:1** – “Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James ...”
 - b. **James 1:1** – “James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ ...”
 - c. Tychicus – **Col. 4: 7** ; Epaphras – **Col. 1: 7** ; Timothy – **Phil. 1: 7**

I. If you are a Christian, you are a bond-servant of Jesus Christ.

S#8.

A. Americans place great stock in being “*The home of the free and the land of ...*”

1. We fought the bloodiest war in our history to free the slaves.
2. We have fought modern wars to free others from the reign of maniacal dictators.

B. We enjoy some freedom, but ALL men are the property of their creator.

S#9.

1. **Psa. 24** ... God owns all who dwell on the earth.
2. **Rom. 5** ... Those who rebel against God’s rule are His enemies, objects of wrath.

S#10.

C. Those who rebel against God’s reign become servants of God’s enemy .. Satan.

1. The scriptures speak of Satan’s servants.

S#11.

II Cor. 11: 13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as Apostles of Christ. **14** No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. **15** Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

2. Satan uses craftiness to enslave people. (*The same from Eve until today.*)

II Tim. 2: 25b-26 ... if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, **26** and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

S#12.

S#13.

D. Everyone serves a master .. either the god of this world or the God of Heaven.

S#14.

II. You can choose not to serve God, but you cannot choose not to be a servant.

A. Remember our text :

S#15.

1. **Rom. 6: 16-23** Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? **17** But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, **18** and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of **S#16.** righteousness. **19** I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to

impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. **20** For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **21** Therefore what benefit were you then **S#17.** deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. **22** But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. The act of being freed from slavery to sin (*Satan*) makes one a slave of God.

B. No one can be a servant of both Satan (sin / self) and a servant of God. **S#18.**

1. **Luke 16: 13** – No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."
2. Whichever we choose, we cannot even be friends with the other Master.
 - a. **Rom. 5** ... Those who are not servant of God are “enemies” and objects of wrath.
 - b. **James 4: 4** ... God considers friendship with the world to be spiritual adultery
 - c. **I Pet. 5: 8** ... Scripture identifies the devil as our adversary. **Eph. 6: 10f**

C. God demands that His servants be totally committed to Him. **S#19.**

1. **Gal. 2: 20** – I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, ...
2. **Rom. 6: 6** – knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;
3. No thing and no one on this earth can come before God in our lives.

Matt. 10: 37-39 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of **S#20.** Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. **38** And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. **39** He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it. (same as **Gal. 2:20**)

III. What does it mean to be a bond-servant ? **S#21.**

A. Slavery was common at the time the N.T. was written.

1. It is estimated the 40% of the people in the Roman empire were slaves.
2. Those captured in war were enslaved. (*Much like Muslims do today.*)
3. Those who could not pay their debts would be indentured until they worked it off.
4. Men could sell their wife or children into slavery.

B. There were different levels of servitude in those times.**S#22.****1. “servant”**

- a. *diakonos* : **1** one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master, a servant, attendant, minister. 1A the servant of a king.
- b. In N.T. this word is translated as : servant, deacon, minister
- c. This can be anyone who works for another .. an employee .. voluntarily indentured

2. “slave”

- a. *Douleuo* : **1** to be a slave, serve, do service. 1A of a nation in subjection to another
- b. This is involuntary servitude such as one captured in war or sold by another.
- c. A slave was property (***all men are the property of their creator so all are ..***)

3. “bond-servant”**S#23.**

- a. *doulos* : **1** a slave, bondman, man of servile condition. 1A a slave.
1B metaph., one who gives himself up to another's will those whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing His cause among men. 1C devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests.
Strongs Enhance Lexicon
- b. Most often a bond-servant was one who voluntarily submitted to his master.

Exod. 21; 5-6 But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out as a free man,' **6** then his master shall bring him to God, then he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him permanently. **S#24.**

C. Implications of the Christian being a “Bond-servant of Jesus Christ.”**S#25.**

- 1. We have voluntarily surrendered ourselves to Him. (***body, soul, spirit***)
- 2. He has added us to His household. (***Receive rights and accept responsibilities***)
- 3. He has the right and the responsibility to direct our activities as He sees fit.
- 4. We have the responsibility to obey His instructions ... conform our will to His.
- 5. We also have the responsibility use our life to accomplish HIS goals.

IV. How are we to serve Jesus Christ ?**S#26.****A. The simplest way to put it is that servants do what their Master wants done.**

- 1. Thus, we have to look at God's word to find out what God / Jesus wants done.
- 2. The best way to find out what Jesus wants done is to see what Jesus did.

B. Without question the #1 goal of Jesus was to save lost people.**S#27.**

1. Speaking to Zaccheus, Jesus clearly stated His personal goal.

S#28.

Luke 19: 9-10 – And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

2. Jesus was eager to preach to all who would listen to His gospel.

S#29.

Mark 1: 38 – He said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for."

3. Jesus wove soul winning into every aspect of His life. *When he wanted water ...*

John 4: 10 – Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

4. Jesus commanded all of His bond-servants to be soul winners everywhere they went.

Mark 16: 15 – And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the **S#30.**
gospel to all creation. ..."

5. All who receive the gospel have the responsibility to share it with others.

- a. **Matt. 10: 8** – Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.
Freely you received, freely give.

- b. How many times have you heard the gospel proclaimed ? *Times shared w/ ?*

*** If we are to accomplish the goal of Jesus on earth, we'll save lost souls. #31**

C. The #2 goal of Jesus was to make sure the will of the Father was done.**S#32.**

1. **John 4: 33-34** – So the disciples were saying to one another, "No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. **S#33.**

2. What is the will of God the Father ?

- a. **II Pet. 3: 9** – The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count **S#34.**
slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish
but for all to come to repentance.

- b. **I Tim. 2:3-4** – This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. **S#35.**

*** If we are to accomplish the work of God on earth, we must save lost souls.**

V. Faithful service will be rewarded.**S#36.****A. The way one advances himself in the kingdom is through serving.****S#37.**

Matt. 20: 27-28 – Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;
 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
 and to give His life a ransom for many.

B. Those who share the gospel will be rewarded by God.**S#38.**

I Cor. 3: 6-9 – I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.
 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything,
 but God who causes the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters
 are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own
labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's bldg.

C. When one is abused in sharing the gospel, his reward is increased ... great.**S#39.**

Luke 6: 22-23 Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult
 you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. 23
 "Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in
 heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.

D. Those who aid you in spreading the gospel will also be rewarded.**S#40.**

Mark 9: 41 – For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your
 name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward.

CONCLUSION :**A. We are the bond-servants of the Savior of mankind.****S#41.**

1. We are the ones responsible to accomplish HIS goal for man ... **their salvation.**
2. Our standing before God depends upon our faithfulness in accomplishing HIS task.

S#42.**B. All it takes is faith, commitment to do His will and willingness to speak for Him.**

1. God asks much less of you than He asked of His Only Begotten Son.
2. He only asks you to die to self and live for Him.
3. Jesus asks you to take up your cross and follow His example, not hang on a cross.

S#43.**C. God assigned YOU to do His work on earth - seek to save souls from eternal Hell?****INVITATION :** The first soul you should seek to save is your own.**S#44.****S#45. communion slide**

Lesson Text :**Phil 2:1-9**

1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, **2** make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. **3** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **4** do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **5** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Romans 6: 15-23

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! **16** Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? **17** But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, **18** and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. **19** I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **21** Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. **22** But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.