

What and who are 'partakers of the benefit' (1Timothy 6:2)

Author: Paul (1Tim 1:1): 1st person

Addressee: Timothy (1Tim 1:2): 2nd person

Overview: The 1st person Paul instructs the 2nd person Timothy what to teach the 3rd person brethren believers serving 4th person masters:

- 'put the brethren in remembrance' (1Tim 4:6): 3rd person 'brethren'.
- Timothy instructs 'brethren' behaviour towards a 4th person 'masters'.
- **IMPORTANT:** 'masters' the Saints served may or may not be believers.

1Timothy 6:1-2

v1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and *his* doctrine be not blasphemed.

brethren believers 3rd person

'masters' 4th person: may or may not be believers

1. respect OED

1. irreverence

brethren believers: 3rd person

v2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise *them*, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit.

1. To look down upon; view with contempt; scorn OED

4th person: the case of 'believing masters'

'believing masters'

These things teach and exhort.

Summary: The 'believing masters' (4th person) were 'brethren...partakers of the benefit' but distinct from the Saints (1Tim 5:10) who were well taught by Timothy. The Saints (3rd person) needed to be instructed that their 'believing masters', by whom some were employed, were also 'brethren...faithful and beloved', and 'worthy of all honour' when the Saints were inclined to 'despise' them.