



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 73

As to the Lord

Ephesians 6:5-8 (ESV)

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.

You know, remarkably, one does not have to look hard to realize that in many businesses or institutions that reliability and integrity seem to no longer be the majority nor the accepted form of behavior. Instead, we see selfish living, only others looking out for numero uno. I am not so naive to say that this pattern of behavior has not been rampant from the fall of Adam until now. Because it certainly has. It's just that today, mainly in this nation, because this is where I live and therefore know, we have, on the rise, an attitude of entitlement and selfishness that is taking over at an alarming rate. What does this mean for us as Christians? Or what should it mean for us as Christians?

Well, interesting words from the Apostle Paul give way for the truth to be revealed as to how and what we should be in this area of our lives in Christ. We will just call this an admonition to do everything as if we were doing it unto the Lord. Now the above exhortation is addressed to bondservants.

Today, we do not have bondservants because all are created equal and rightly so. But for the sake of this reference and teaching, a bondservant is a person that has no rights of their own or ownership of anything. An interesting thing to ponder about that for a quick moment. Do you know that Paul referred to himself as a bondservant of Christ in other letters he wrote namely in places like Romans 1:1 and Titus 1:1?

Paul was reaffirming his call to Christ in terms of being a bondservant. As we just

learned a bondservant is one who essentially has no rights or ownership of any kind. So when all is said and done Paul is saying that since Christ called him he has now relinquished control of his life to Christ.

To jump right into the point now, we know that in this nation we all have rights. While this is true, as Christians our rights have been relinquished to take up whatever position the Lord sees fit for our lives. In other words, we have died to our lives along with its desires and have taken up the ones that Jesus Himself calls us to. So everything we do should be done as to Him, for He is supposed to be the One we are following in all that we say and do. This Christian journey is not about us just trying to figure out what God wants from us and then trying our best in our own strength to follow suit. Instead, we are to diligently seek God in faith and rely on the Holy Spirit for direction so that what we do is indeed in line and in step with the will of God. In short, God has a plan for every single believer. It is up to us to press into Him to find out what that will is and then rely on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to carry it out. In saying this, we can understand then, that wherever we are at in this life as far as jobs and circumstances, etc. that if we are truly following the Lord, then we do it with all of our hearts knowing to Whom we are doing it. We are not in this way servants of men but of God and as such our rewards will come from Him.

I want to make this quick illustration of my own life. I believe real testimony of how God works is often the best way to learn and grow in Christ. After receiving Christ into my life and laying my life down at His feet, I have honestly never looked for a job. God simply made a way because I was seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness. Now, if you had to look for a job, this is not really about that. I am just sharing this as it is what leads up to the main point.

The whole time that I worked at the jobs that the Lord placed me at I kept this passage of Scripture in my heart. I did this because I was convinced that my life did not belong to me, nor did it belong to those I worked for. Instead, everything that came into my life was from Christ and as such, I did my job with the strength that the Lord provided for me as if I were doing it directly to Him. At the end of the day, even when considering my pay from these jobs, I did not see it as the rest of the world, for I believed that my reward was coming from God. Yes, my employers put signed checks in my hands, but at the same time, if it were not for God opening their hearts to have me work for them, they would never have hired me in the first place.

Another point to this was the point of our behavior and conduct. I had mentioned that today in this nation we do not need to look very long to find that most businesses and institutions seem to be filled with a lack of integrity. In fact, this selfish behavior seems to be widely accepted as the norm these days.

Entitlement behavior has corrupted our streets in America. Now, even though in this nation we are free in comparison to the term bondservant that Paul used, we need to consider that once we received Christ into our lives that we died to ours so that we might live the One He died to give us. For this reason, we live and even suffer in these positions we are placed in as if we were living and suffering to Christ Himself. Again, we do not take authority for our lives but continue to entrust our souls to our Faithful Creator as Mentioned in 1 Peter 4:19 (ESV),

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

The idea is that of faith and integrity in the places that the Lord leads us into. The last and final point is that when we are truly living our lives in this way, we are being faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ on this earth and show by our way of living who we actually serve. If you desire to be a witness for Christ, live every day as if you were living it out only to the Lord for His praise alone. And while you are doing this be assured that even though at times it may look like you have been overlooked that you are never overlooked by God. If you remain faithful to Him, you can be assured that the Lord Himself will reward you, you have only to keep in step with His will for your life, doing it heartily as to him.

To conclude, we must realize that there will undoubtedly be times that we have to be expressly diligent as disciples of Jesus Christ to make sure that we do not lose focus on our purpose of serving the Lord in all that we do. If we were, for instance, to become a servant of man for fear of what they might do to us we would forfeit our faith and deny the only One who redeemed us. I really believe this message is for today as we see things going from bad to worse, I fear that somehow the places we go and the jobs we do will get increasingly more difficult to maintain a strong faith and witness for Christ in. For this reason, we should be diligent to keep our hearts so set on Christ and serve Him with all of our hearts and continue even in difficult times to love those around us so that those we come in contact with can wonder of the hope we have as we live through these dark times in faith, hope, and love as to the Lord and not unto men. The Lord bless you and keep you all in the love and strength of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
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