

IN YOUR SERVICE, LORD



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Key verses: 1 Timothy 6:1-5

1 Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. 2 Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved.

Teach and urge these things. 3 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

Introduction

In translating the text above we can see Paul instructing Timothy on the protocol of servanthood.

Paul tells us that we are to HONOR/SERVE our masters well so that the name and teaching of the Lord not be reviled but instead for God to be GLORIFIED in our service to those around us.

The words we will be focusing on from this text, that are to reveal to us what the heart of the Father says about servanthood.

- **Bondservant**
- **Honor**
- **Name of God be Glorified**
- **Love that covers all**

Bondservant

A bondservant was one who sold themselves to slavery for whatever reason i.e. due to debt or inability to feed themselves/family and that male would give themselves to be a servant in that home till the debt was paid or the year of Jubilee (7th year all debt was to be cleared and Israelite slaves/servants to be freed).

Now a servant who was freed then decided to devote their life to their master and choose out of LOVE to stay and serve.

This is the kind of person Paul is referring to in the text above.

In Hebrew there is a word **AVADA** that embodies this kind of servant life, it means **WORK, WORSHIP and SERVICE all at once.**

We read in the text that Paul instructs Timothy to teach all workers in the body of Christ to work with diligence giving ALL HONOR to their masters/boss/teachers whether they are saved brethren or not part of the body of Christ, because the way we treat people around us will either bring glory to our Father or cause for his name to be reviled.

Honor

Means to REMEMBER: To give honor/honoring

Remember Situations or monumentous time in history (Joshua 4 and 12 stones)

Remember Person (God and all he has done for us or Master/boss or Heroes of our lives)

Remember Achievements (anniversaries, festivals ie Passover)

In the text we learn that we are meant to give ALL HONOR to our masters (Workplace Boss/Teachers)!

How are we meant to do this?

1 Peter 2:13-17

ESV Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

The Message

13-17 Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government.

Name of God Be Glorified

When we go back to the text in the bible, we see that all this is to be taught to the body of Christ so that the Name and Teaching of the Lord not be REVILED.

BUT: HOW WE SERVE IN THE NATUARL/PHYSICAL MUST BE A REFLECTION OF OUR SPIRITUAL SERVANT NATURE!!

How is that you ask me?

Remember the word AVADA which means to work, worship and serve.

God has called us to live the AVADA LIFE in all areas of our lives.

We can not give what we do not know, that is why we are called to **follow the original BLUEPRINT of servanthood JESUS CHRIST.**

Jesus lived the AVADA LIFE - He gave of His life in total submission/obedience to the Father (Not my will Lord but your will be done), He honoured the father in all the work that he did here on earth (John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing

by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.)

Jesus knew that in the heart of the Father was you and me! - The greatest love for his children. He became the sin offering for you and me (**Romans 5:8** *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*)

Totally devoting His life out of His choosing to His Father and God.

We are also called in this, to be Bondservants to Christ Jesus - those who were previously slaves to sin but set free by the heavy price of the Cross. (We were born into slavery of sin. Adam sold himself into slavery of sin. The children of slaves were also slaves. Jesus became our Jubilee. We were set free, because of Jesus' service to his loving Father.)

— To choose Him as our Master/ Lord and Saviour out of the Love that was first given to us.

— We are called to die to self, pick up our cross and follow in the Saviour's footsteps.

— To WORK, WORSHIP & SERVE in our workplaces and schools, and our Heavenly Father. To Honor with Awe, Praise, Adoration, Admiration, reverence, respect, submission and finally obedience.

Emptying ourselves out to Jesus. **Every day is a process of surrender and obedience to Jesus.**

Love

All of what I have shared today is covered under the unshakable umbrella of AGAPE Love from the Father...

Romans 5:8 *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave of his begotten son, that who so ever may believe in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Servanthood starts with the **Inner Transformation of our surrendered hearts to Jesus**, that affect and reflect in an **outward expression of Work, Worship & Service.**

Paul ends off in this text telling us that anyone who teaches otherwise *"If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing."*

A FALSE TEACHER

Conclusion

We have a responsibility to live this way. Listen to the Word, receive it, and then DO it.

There may be some of you here who say, I have not been living my life the AVADA way.

I have not given of myself truly as a BONDSERVANT to Christ Jesus but have instead been the master of my own will.

Today I want to give you an opportunity to fully surrender to Jesus or if you want to renew the covenant that could have been broken through back sliding!