



Faith Baptist Church of Cabot, Arkansas
Pastor's Mid-Week Bible Study
February 3, 2010

Lesson Eighteen - Servants and Masters
1 Timothy 6:1-2

Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and *His* doctrine may not be blasphemed. And those who have believing masters, let them not despise *them* because they are brethren, but rather serve *them* because those who are benefited are believers and

beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

Introduction

In the real life world of feeding and clothing ourselves and our families, there are two groups of people: bondservants and masters. As Christians, how should we conduct ourselves as bondservants in general and especially when we find ourselves working for a fellow believer and even fellow church member?

Exegesis

- ❖ Bondservants and Masters
 - The bondservant

A “bondservant” may be a slave or someone who gives himself up to another’s will; it may refer to forced or surrendered labor. Most of us fit this word. We work for a master – someone, some business, some corporation – from whom we receive compensation for surrendering our wills, our minds and our bodies to the master for his purpose (from factory lines to office cubicles). Members of management, while having servants answering to them, are themselves servants to someone higher up the ladder. And even those who are “retired” on social security find themselves tethered to the whims of the government master.

Servants are described as under the yoke because their wills are under the direction of someone else. Their tasks are assigned, expectations listed and their continued compensation is determined by how well they respond in the yoke.

- The master

The master is the one for whom the goods are produced or the numbers crunched. The master is the owner, the company president, the CEO – “the man”.

- ❖ The Name of God
 - The believers identity

As professing believers we are by that profession identified with God and His teachings. Wherever we go, we are first and foremost people of God who claim His doctrine as our

sufficient guide for life. This identity cannot be donned for Sunday and discarded for Monday. Either we are or are not God's.

➤ The believers aim

The believers aim should be to honor the name of the Lord and demonstrate the sufficiency of His Word for life every day in every facet of living. The compelling reason to show honor to a master through a job well done is to avoid bringing reproach upon the name and teachings of our God. So that even our work life is regulated by our love for God and our desire for Him to be magnified in every area of our life.

❖ Brethren

➤ Do not despise a believing master

Do not be jealous or envious. Do not expect special treatment. Do not disdain their position with the thought that it ought to be you.

➤ Serve a believing master

Serve the believing master whole heartedly knowing that your service benefits him and his family so that he and his family may benefit other believers who are in need and benefit you by providing you and others a workplace where you can provide for your family.

[A word for masters: Colossians 4:1]

Application

1. Every believer is called to full time ministry in every area of his or her life: home, church, work, community, recreation, etc. God provided you a job that you might glorify Him in that job through providing for your family and providing light in a dark place. For that reason God may not want you to work in a “Christian environment”.
2. Believers are being watched by unbelievers at work (and elsewhere). Work in such a way as to honor Jesus and provide a positive Gospel witness through the diligence of your labors and even how you suffer injustice. (1 Peter 2:18-25)
3. Believing servants serving believing masters are first and foremost family in Christ. And while for the sake of the practicalities of doing well in business they must each fill their roles of servant and master, they must do so with the spirit of Christ.
4. In the end there is one Master to whom we will all give answer. Let us all, whether servants or masters on earth, surrender our wills to the Master who loves us, died for us, lives for us and will return for us. (1 Timothy 1:1-2; Ephesians 1:19-23; Philippians 2:11)