

## Ephesians 6:5–9

### "Loving, Diligent, Glad Slaves of Jesus, Our Master"

***Christians should all be delighted to be the slaves of their perfect Master, Who is worthy of their sincere, diligent, cheerful, loving obedience in whatever role they have and whatever work they do.***

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Ephesians chapter 6 verses 5 through 9, let's pray.

Our Father in Heaven, we thank you. That you have adopted us as your own dear children. We thank you for this. Work of your spirit that you do in our hearts that not only causes us to call you our other. But who makes your word take root in our heart?

And kills and overcomes all that remains of the flesh, that would resist your word. So that your our obedience to you is as slaves. Even though we are dear children.

We rejoice to do your will. To whatever extent we don't we pray that even now the opening and hearing of your word. Would increase our joy to do your will. That you'd conform us to the image of your son. As you have predestined to do in your adopting love.

And in whose name we pray amen.

Ephesians 6 verses 5 through 9, these are God's words. Bond servants will be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh. With fear and trembling in sincerity of heart as to Christ. Not with eye service as men pleasers. But as bond servants of Christ. Doing the will of God.

From the heart. With goodwill doing service as to the Lord. And not to men. Knowing that whatever good anyone does. He will receive the same from the Lord. Whether he is a slave or free. And you masters do the same things to them. Giving up threatening. Knowing that your own master also is in heaven.

And there is no partiality with him. So far the reading of God's inspired and in our work.

Well living in the United States of America in 2020 when you hear a passage about slavery and this is a passage about slavery the word that is translated bond servants is a word that means slaves bonds slaves if you will but the word bond actually may be more offensive than the word slave when you think of it it refers to someone who is bound.

In this case, probably not so much the binding of the hand of the foot but the binding of one to another and in our cultural context and we come to a passage like this one of the things that we may wonder is why doesn't the apostles say at least when you get to verse 9.

Masters release your bond slaves.

He does say in the first Corinthians 7 that if you're a slave when you're converted and you have the opportunity to purchase your freedom that you should that it's better for the service of Christ to be free. But there we already have a clue as to why he says that because slavery was something that us slave could purchase himself out of.

And that actually has been true also in even in the history of our nation. A big part of the slavery in our nation is something that the apostle does condemn first. Timothy chapter 1, he's giving a list of of the wicked and among them he puts man stealers. Man stealing was punishable by death in the Israelites civil war.

So slavery based on man stealing is very wicked. In the eyes of God. And yet there was there are different kinds of. There are different things about slavery that are actually very similar to our slavery to Christ and that's what the point of this passages. Not to make us hate slavery, but to have every Christian rejoice that he is a slave.

Because whether you are a slave or free on earth, you are a slave of your master in heaven and that is a good thing. It is wonderful to read James and Jude at the beginning of their letters these brothers of the Lord Jesus stepbrothers and in the flesh Sons of Joseph and Mary biologically who we read from the Gospels did not believe in Him not why don't you go up to the feast so that your disciples there can can appreciate you Jesus and showing up at the door because they have convinced Mama he's out of his mind and we have.

To go pick him up and and so forth that these hateful brothers come at the beginning of their letters in the New Testament and say bond slaves. Of the Lord Jesus Christ. That that brother that we had grown up despising we discovered as our creator and our Redeemer. And we bow ourselves to him as our master in heaven.

And you have in Roman culture. Something similar to what the Lord does for us. Often the the upper classrooms if they weren't happy with the sons that they had would get for themselves a slave that they thought might do better. It might be wiser or harder working or a better character and if he turned out to be pretty good you'd go ahead and adopt him and make him the air and biological kid would be on the ounce.

Of course, It's a little bit different than the gospel because God has his only begotten son with whom he is well pleased and he has taken not only a slaves but adopted his children and made joint is with Christ. Those who are the opposite, right? He didn't look around and find the the qualified good-looking hard-working high-character ones.

He took us. And so the analogy breaks down and even even in the Old Testament, you know that slavery in and of itself can't be immoral because the Israelites were allowed to take one another as slaves. And after the years between when he became a slave and then year of Jubilee was completed your master had to set you free but it was possible that you were so glad to be his slave that you didn't want to go free.

And you and your master could go to the door of the house that would have you know, if they're following Deuteronomy 6 right the word of God on it signifying whose house that's really is and who's commandments we really follow and their master and slave under the word that says God is their master would go through a ceremony in which their ear was pierced against those very door posts with the Word of God engraved on them and he would say, I'm glad to be a slave of this man.

Well, if the Lord Jesus is your master. Then we you should be glad to be a slave. In fact, there's only really two options Romans chapter six teaches us. That either you're a slave of yourself and your sin or you're a slave of God in the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness.

And so the slavery of a Christian to Christ is freedom and joy. We had glad to be bound to our master. We don't want to be set free and we want to do everything. As his slaves knowing that we are has adopted precious children. But the level of obedience that we extend to him is done even as servants slaves of a great king.

He is a king. And so the apostle comes and he addresses the slaves first. He says slaves be glad that your slaves. Not so much of your owner on earth, you're going to obey your master according to the flesh verse 5 and go to this out now. Because there are a number of people who as far as you know, different forms of slavery where you exchange a certain amount of time for service for certain amount of currency to pay off a debt or something like that are there not many among us who agree to exchange a certain number of hours a week for a certain number of dollars, and when you are on the clock you do what your master says, You don't say wait a minute.

I'm not a slave you can't tell me to do you might have a contract that sets limitations, but you do it your master says. What he's saying is as you. Open to the flesh. And but not man fear and not man trembling. Now those who are under the yoke of slavery often there would be a fear and trembling wouldn't there because masters on earth are sinners and not all grace transformed sinners, in fact a dare say very few comparatively our grace transformed sinners and so there is a fear and trembling that belongs to having a master on earth, but that's not the fear and trembling he's talking about here he's saying whatever your master tells you to do it may be the the lowest most thankless.

Job in the world. But your job is not so much in the world. As it is from your master in heaven and whatever you have been given to do in this applies even. And I don't want any of you to think this way about your parents, but I know that you may simply in your flesh think the same way.

I did about my parents. Slaves treat you like a parent and yeah expects you to learn how to love and obey and work hard and participate in the productivity of the house whatever you are given to do by whomever the Lord sets over you on earth you are given to do by Jesus.

When I don't know why the garbage collectors take it on the chin or the floor sweepers of the janitors take it on the chin, maybe it's because we all grew up taking out the garbage and sweeping the floors and none of us said, I'd love to do 40 hours a week of that when I grow up.

But if you want. We've all heard of heaven me even the garbage collector even the janitor, but if that's been assigned to you by Jesus suddenly, it's like it's holy task, isn't it? It's almost like something from one of those fairy novels where you know, the servant person doesn't know that they're actually an air of the kingdom and the the sweeping and the taking out the trash or are these holy tasks that they're being put through to prepare them for when poofed you know, the climax of the story hits and

everything changes and they are now the king.

Except for it's. Absolutely real. And you know, what ahead of time. And you have been given everything that you're called to do even math some of you love math, it doesn't work for even English. I guess for you. You have been given to do everything that you have been given as a holy task where he describes it here as being done with fear and trembling because of whom it's for with fear and trembling in sincerity of heart as to Christ as if Jesus came and handed you a broom and he said sweet for me.

And how would you do that sweeping? With what fear and trembling at the greatness of this task what what's sincerity about that's what the apostle is saying about your everyday work, whatever that every day work is and do you see how liberating that is he really does free the slaves here, doesn't he?

Because about how big his have their earthly masters gotten even by the time you're done with verse five, you know, the earth remaster's like. Jesus is before you and now your earthly master is an occasion by which you are enabled to offer your master in heaven this sincere diligence not with eye service as men pleaser, so not men fearers or men pleasers.

You know, some of us are not the grumble about your task people at work or in the house every one of you has the sibling right those of you from larger families who are all kind of grumbling and they're like, I just finished. You didn't ask us to but I did these four others too, can I do some more and all the other siblings are like, all right.

And some of that can be out of love for the Lord and love for mom and dad but you meet them in the workplace too right and they might not even do a good job and it might not even be their job they took it from someone else but it was an a chance to look good so they're showing you up.

And there's a desire in our hearts to be the one who appears best to the master on earth. He says, Don't operate out of man fear or don't operate out of man pleasing either do your work because it pleases Christ as his bon slaves doing the will of God from the heart with good will doing service as to the Lord and not to men you see those three things.

As to Christ verse five as bomb servants of Christ doing the will of God verse six as to the Lord for seven well, that's fine, but. What if it's thankless? What if they literally don't say thank you what if they find a way because they've got good lawyers and you ain't got one.

To stiff you and to pay you less and to cut off your advancement and to advance others ahead of you. And to keep giving you those shifts that nobody else will take because they know. Well, maybe it's not they don't know it's because you're a Christian but they know that personal ticket, they they always say yes it is because you're Christian and be good if you are verbal enough that they figure that out at some point.

Don't worry about it. I mean yes for the sake of what's right and especially if you're earning for a family for the sake of your family stick up for you know, your contracts your agreements appeal to those authorities that Christ has put in place in especially the church if you can get yourself a Christian boss and and the world, you know, God has set judges in the world do all of those things but don't.

Worry about it. Because every single thing that a Christian does by grace in Christ the Lord Jesus is going to repay you for. That I thought you said we don't deserve you don't that to. Is great.

The grace are real because the good that you do by grace is real because his grace Israel and the work that he's doing in you Israel and the goodness of the work that you do by his grace Israel and he is pleased to reward it both glorifying his justice and glorifying his grace which produced it all in the first place.

So there's no room for self-righteousness or self-worthiness here. But there is a command to confidence in reward. For every good thing done for Jesus. It's not a bad motivation. As if you can only be motivated out of love and you can't be motivated out of desire and delight desire for and delight in the reward that your master promises you.

Because he promises you're awards, it's part of Scripture. The result award that is according to your work, thankfully it's not merited by your work, but it is according to your work several passages. It is wonderful to be the slave of Christ because he always pays well. Some of you and this is something we would do well as a church like get the deacon it together and find out all the best circumstance best paying jobs, but you're like, hey come work over here, the hours are good, you can have as many as you want and here's the working conditions everybody, you know, if you need one talk to Dave, But.

There's no master that pays, so well as the Lord Jesus. Because he took the form of a bomb slave to me. And being found as an appearance as a man took what we deserved so that we could get what he deserves which is for us to be made like him.

And then he repays us for what we do in his likeness. Isn't that the master that we should all be you have got to get a job for this

guy.

What a wonderful redeemer and master we have. And then how awful it would be if you are an earthly economic workplace terms a master. And forgot that you had a master in heaven. For God it to the point that you were even willing to threaten those under you. You only operate in a threatening overbearing domineering sort of way, if you're forgetting that you're going to be held accountable.

That there is someone who is over you in authority and you are going to answer to him. It's easy to threaten when you don't know that the boss just walked up behind you or the boss's boss. Just walked up behind him. So it says you masters do the same things to them.

Do what kind of things do everything with fear and trembling and sincerity of hearts doing the will of God from the heart not as man pleasers with goodwill doing service? Do the same things to them giving up threatening knowing that your own master also is in heaven and there's no partiality with him and that cuts both ways.

That just because you're a master on earth doesn't mean that you have missed your opportunity to be a slave and offer to God the kind of work that verses five through eight describe and if you are an employer on earth there is an opportunity to be an employer of the same heart as verses five through eight and God won't stiff you the Lord Jesus won't stiff you just because you are the employer.

There's no partiality with him. But remember also that he receives whatever is done. To the least of his brethren. Under you as having been done unto him and that he is just into the you are unjust even with unbelievers. There is no partiality there either. At the point of the passage the whole thing versus five through nine is to make us delighted slaves of Christ in whatever our everyday work role is.

So that nothing can take that from us whether slaves or masters or whatever we are. Amen, let's pray.

Thank you. Lord. Jesus for reminding us that our everyday all day tasks are holy assignments from you. That they are to be done with fear and tremblings and sincerity and a good will. As unto you, please you. We pray Lord that you would fill our lives with thankful joy that we get to do whatever it is.

You have set before us to do and please do. So convince our hearts of this that we are eager to tell about our master and his redemption his salvation. When we pray that you would bring many more into your service even through our lives our words and glorify yourself.

We asked these things in your name. Lord. Jesus amen.