

- How many here have lived on the *mission field*?
- Was life easy or challenging?
- Why do missionaries do it?
- What are your thoughts on this:

We exist to glorify God.

What if God said to you:

- “I’m going to give you a job where you’ll earn \$1 billion per year. Use it for My glory.”
- “I’m going to give you a job where you’ll earn \$20,000 per year. Use it for My glory.”
- “I’m going to make you a slave. Use it for My glory.”

What if He didn’t tell you before it happened?

*Paul's Letter to
the Disciple*



I Timothy

Slaves to God's Glory

Slavery in the Roman Empire

- Estimated 50 million in the empire
 - One third of Rome's population
- Slaves were conquered, captured, kidnapped, indebted, or sold by parents
- A [not-perfect!] solution to social problems
 - Slaves were housed, fed, clothed, cared for
 - Many taught skills, paid, treated like family



Slavery in the Roman Empire

- Slaves were property
 - Bought, sold, rented, traded
 - Could even be beaten or killed legally
 - *Manumission*: could be freed by owner or purchase freedom (see Acts 22:27-28)
- Many slaves turned to Christ, which introduced new problems/issues



1 Tim. 6:1-2

1. Instructions to Believing Slaves
2. Instructions to Believing Slaves with Believing Masters
3. Instructions to Timothy



If God gives instructions to slaves...

- *Does God condone slavery?*
 - God *allows* human beings to sin
 - Slavery was an integral part of Greco-Roman society and economics
 - To abolish it, or incite rebellion, would have destroyed the world & the church
 - God planted the seeds of slavery's demise



1. Instructions to Believing Slaves

- All who are under the yoke as slaves
 - *Yoke* -> work for someone else
 - *Masters – despotes – one who possesses supreme authority*
 - God: *Sovereign Lord* (Acts 4:24, RSV)
 - Jesus: *Master* (2 Tim. 2:21)



1. Instructions to Believing Slaves

- Regard as worthy of all honor
 - *Regard – lead your mind in this direction* (see Phil. 2:3, 6)
 - *All honor – due esteem* (see 1 Tim. 5:3, 17)
 - *Be obedient with fear and trembling* (Eph. 6:5)
 - *In all things obey* (Col. 3:22)



1. Instructions to Believing Slaves

- So that:

1. The name of God

- We represent Him; His honor is at stake

2. Our doctrine -> *the gospel* (see 1:10-11)

- We are walking billboards (cf. 4:12)
- E.g. - Joseph: "How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9)



1. Instructions to Believing Slaves

- So that the name of God and our doctrine will not be *blasphemed*
 - What we do reflects on God (Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:12)
 - Our behavior should *adorn* the doctrine we claim (Titus 2:9-10)
 - See your situation as your *mission field*



So What?

- What *mission field* does God have you in right now?
 - Work, home, school, clubs, sports, etc.
 - How can you *adorn* the gospel there?



“Yeah, but...

- ...what about my rights?”
- What about God’s glory?
- Does living for God’s glory depend on your comfort, happiness, safety, or rights?
 - 1 Pet. 2:18-25; Heb. 11:32-38; Mark 8:34-38; Phil. 2:5-11



2. ... With Believing Masters

- What if both a slave and a master become believers?
 - Does the fact that they are both in Christ change their relationship? (Gal. 3:28)
- What if the slave is more mature?
- What if the slave is a church elder? (1 Tim. 5:17)



2. ... With Believing Masters

- Slaves must not be *disrespectful*
 - *Disrespect – to think against, hold in contempt; neglect* (see 4:12; Luke 16:13)
 - Why might he be tempted to disrespect?
 - *Well-pleasing, not argumentative* (Titus 2:9)
 - *Be submissive with all respect* (1 Pet. 2:18)
 - Suffering unjustly finds favor with God



2. ... With Believing Masters

- Rather serve them *all the more*
 - Christianity does not absolve us of our societal responsibilities (1 Pet. 2:13)
 - In fact, it obligates us to greater service! (Gal. 5:13-14)
 - *Heartily, as for the Lord ... It is the Lord Christ whom you serve* (Col. 3:23-24)



2. ... With Believing Masters

- Rather serve them all the more because you are helping believers
- See it as an opportunity for ministry
 - *Do good ... especially to those who are of the household of the faith (Gal. 6:10)*
- The Master of both of you will reward you (Eph. 6:7-8; Col. 3:23-24)



3. Instructions to Timothy

- Why do we not do what we should?
(assuming you are able)



1. We don't know - *Ignorance* - *Mind*

2. We don't care - *Apathy* > - *Will*

3. We won't - *Rebellion*

3. Instructions to Timothy

- Teach and preach these things
 - *Teach* – informing the mind; information; instruction; explanation
 - The mind -> the will -> conduct (4:15)
 - *Sound vs false* doctrine (1:3,10; 4:1,6)
 - *The faith* (4:1, 6; 5:8; 6:10, 21)
 - *The truth* (2:4; 4:15; 4:3; 6:5)



3. Instructions to Timothy

- Teach and preach these things
 - *Preach – urge; exhortation; appeal*
 - Directed at the will (or conscience)
 - A call to (do) something
 - Once we informed we are responsible (cf. Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 11:28)



So What?

- “I’m not a slave, so...”
- But do you work for someone else?
 - Are you under someone else’s authority?
- Do you ever find yourself in unpleasant situations?
 - *We exist to glorify God, even in circumstance we don’t like*



So What?

- Principles/Lessons:

- We may work *under* them, but we work *for* Him (Col. 3:23-24)
- Don't use Christianity as an excuse for laziness, shoddiness, or negligence
- Maybe God wants to teach you something: to obey, to trust, how to really love

