



Men's Bible Study: **Bond Servants**

From Slaves To Sons And Daughters

"Christ's bond-servants serve him not because they must, but because it is their desire." (The Gospel-Centered Life at Work, p 77)

"We owe our lives and freedom to Christ, and we choose to serve him as bond-servants forever. We know there is no better life apart from Christ. As bond-servants, our work contributes to his work of bringing redemption and liberation to this world." (The Gospel-Centered Life at Work, p 77)

Do you ever feel that it's your duty to serve Christ, or do you have a desire to serve him? Why do we owe our lives and freedom to Christ? What are some ways that our work contributes to what he is doing in the world? What are some things that we do that may not contribute to his work?

READ: [Matthew 25:14-30](#) Good News Translation

14 "At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property. 15 He gave to each one according to his ability: to one he gave five thousand gold coins, to another he gave two thousand, and to another he gave one thousand. Then he left on his trip. 16 The servant who had received five thousand coins went at once and invested his money and earned another five thousand. 17 In the same way the servant who had received two thousand coins earned another two thousand. 18 But the servant who had received one thousand coins went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. 20 The servant who had received five thousand coins came in and handed over the other five thousand. 'You gave me five thousand coins, sir,' he said. 'Look! Here are another five thousand that I have earned.' 21 'Well done, you good and faithful servant!' said his master. 'You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!' 22 Then the servant who had been given two thousand coins came in and said, 'You gave me two thousand coins, sir. Look! Here are another two thousand that I have earned.' 23 'Well done, you good and faithful servant!' said his master. 'You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!' 24 Then the servant who had received one thousand coins came in and said, 'Sir, I know you are a hard man; you reap harvests where you did not plant, and you gather crops where you did not scatter seed. 25 I was afraid, so I went off and hid your money in the ground. Look! Here is what belongs to you.' 26 'You bad and lazy servant!' his master said. 'You knew, did you, that I reap harvests where I did not plant, and gather crops where I did not scatter seed? 27 Well, then, you should have deposited my money in the bank, and I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. 28 Now, take the money away from him and give it to the one who has ten thousand coins. 29 For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough; but the person who has nothing, even the little that he has will be taken away

from him. 30 As for this useless servant—throw him outside in the darkness; there he will cry and gnash his teeth.’

Think about the motivations of the unfaithful servant. A talent was roughly equivalent to a lifetime’s wages for an average worker. Is there a reason given why the servants were entrusted with different quantities? In a gospel context, what kind of ability (v. 15) do you think God uses to measure us? Why did the last servant hide his talents rather than investing them? Do you think the last servant knew and understood the master?

READ: [Galatians 1:9-12](#) Good News Translation

9 But we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, so that through God's grace he should die for 9 We have said it before, and now I say it again: if anyone preaches to you a gospel that is different from the one you accepted, may he be condemned to hell! 10 Does this sound as if I am trying to win human approval? No indeed! What I want is God's approval! Am I trying to be popular with people? If I were still trying to do so, I would not be a servant of Christ.

How Paul Became an Apostle

11 Let me tell you, my friends, that the gospel I preach is not of human origin. 12 I did not receive it from any human being, nor did anyone teach it to me. It was Jesus Christ himself who revealed it to me.

What does Paul seek as a bond-servant? What doesn’t he seek? What is Paul’s attitude toward those who proclaim the need to serve God out of fear to try to earn his approval? What is his attitude toward those who please men out of fear in an attempt to win their approval? How are the two related? What is Paul’s attitude in all he does?