

# BLESSED HOPE



# BIBLE CHURCH

**Learning of Christ, Loving in Christ, Leaning on Christ, Living for Christ, Leading to Christ  
Based on the Word of God**

# 1 PETER

LIVING FOR THE  
LORD IN BAD TIMES





# THE RESPECTFUL SERVANT

## 1PETER 2:18-25



- **THE CONTEXT:** The basic theme of 1 Peter is the proper response of a believer in Christ in times of suffering and difficulties.
- **THE PARADOX:** All of us will face various kinds of difficulties and problems in life, however, the problem is NOT the difficulties we face BUT how we respond to difficult situations.
- **THE PRINCIPLE:** The believer in Christ has the anticipation of a eternal inheritance that gives strength, encouragement and hope even in the most difficult times. In light of this, God wants the believer to be holy in all his conduct.

- **THE PRACTICALITY:** To be holy in all conduct **includes:**
  - Conducting yourself throughout the time of your stay here in fear (i.e., the fear of the Lord)
  - Loving one another fervently with a pure heart
  - Desiring the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.
  - Offering up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, due to the fact that we are living stones, being built up by the Living Stone as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood.
  - Abstaining from fleshly lusts with conduct that is honorable among the Gentiles (unsaved).
  - Living as law-abiding citizens in the nation, regardless of that nation's political climate.
  - Respecting the authority of those over you in the workplace

- **Lesson:** Because of what happen to us (we were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ and born again of incorruptible seed), and because of what we are (we are living stones being built up as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood), **all believers are to respect the authority over them in the workplace.**
- From 1Peter 2:13-17 we will look at **three motivations** that should encourage believers to respectful workers.



**MOTIVATION #1: THE EXHORTATION: SERVANTS  
BE SUBMISSIVE TO YOUR MASTERS WITH ALL  
FEAR (1Peter 2:13-14)**



- **PROBLEM:** The biblical command to a slave to obey his or her master is viewed by our society with hostility, strong opposition, and cynicism toward the Christian faith.

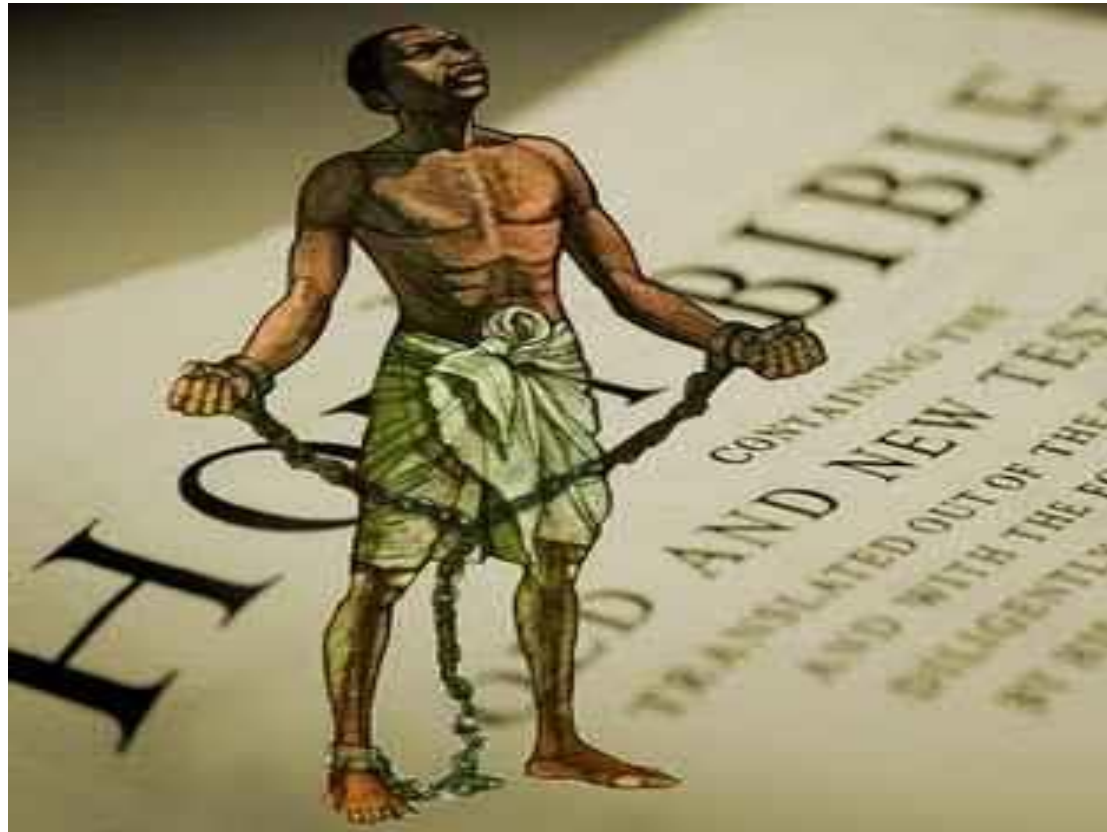
**Eph.6:5-8**

**Col.3:22-25**

**1Tim.6:1-2**

**Titus 2:9-10**

**1Pet.2:18-20**





- **PERSPECTIVE:** One of the most horrible institutions in mankind's history is the institution of slavery, and in biblical times slavery played a significant part in society.



- In biblical times, one became a slave as the result of being a victim of war or plunder, as the result of committing a crime, or as the result of outstanding financial debts.
- **The Big Question:** Why didn't Peter or Paul exhort Christians to fight against the institution of slavery?
  - God did not call believers to start an open rebellion against the evil systems of society (e.g., such as slavery, dictatorships, communism, ect.,) but to make disciples of all nations through the preaching of the gospel. It is this great commission which **undermines** not only slavery, but all evil systems.
  - God has call believers to live **distinct** from the unsaved world, regardless of the political system or social norm that are in force at the time (i.e., this does not justify an evil system, it instructs believers to live godly in spite of an evil system).
  - God did not call believers to bring in the kingdom of God or to start some utopian society, He will do that Himself with the second coming of Christ (n. some think that they can bring a just society through protest marches, or voting in "righteous" leaders--but we forget that man is sinful and prone to wickedness).

- **Note:** Many people **unwisely** blame Christianity for the existence of slavery, however, the institution of slavery has existed since the beginnings of human society, among all races, nations, and religions, from ancient times to illegal slavery today!
- Slavery, and all evil systems, are the result of man's sinful nature—there will always be evil systems in society, injustice and oppression because of man's sinful nature.
  - Jesus never spoke **directly** against the institution of slavery, which existed during His earthly ministry, however His command to love one another **implicitly** condemns slavery as a grave offense against humanity because it undermines the dignity of the human person.
  - It was Christianity that welcome slaves, not as slaves, but as brothers in Christ, equal in dignity and as full and equal members of the Christian community.





# DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE SLAVERY?

**NO!! The Bible teaches a slave how to live  
godly in spite of slavery.**

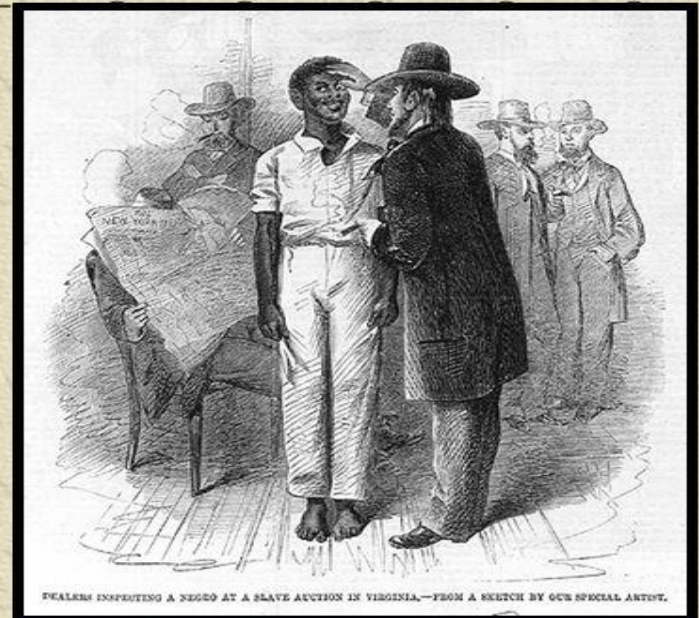
- **PRINCIPLE:** Servants are to be submissive to their masters **regardless** of the social situation.
  - Out of respect for the **position** of authority over him regardless as to whether that authority is good and gentle or harsh (e.g., not kind, gentle, nor compassionate).
  - Out of respect for God who controls all situations of the servant's life.
  - The way a servant respect authority (even ungodly authority) is a godly testimony of his faith in Christ.
  - **POINT:** All believers are to be respectful of the authority over them in their work situations (e.g., they are not to disrespect, or rebel against the authority of their bosses, managers, or supervisors).



- **MOTIVATION #2: THE EXCEPTION: IT IS COMMENDABLE FOR SERVANTS TO ENDURE GRIEF WHEN UNJUSTLY TREATED BECAUSE OF CONSCIENCENESS TOWARD GOD. 1PET.2:19-20**

## Slave Punishment

- ✧ Slaves were punished for not working fast, being late, talking back, running away, and other reasons.
- ✧ Slave punishment included whippings, torture, mutilation, imprisonment, the threat of abusing a loved one and being sold away.





- **PROBLEM:** Many have brought dishonor to the name of Christ due to the fact that they have opposed the authority of their boss (e.g., as a result, they have been written up, disciplined, demoted, fired).



- **PRINCIPLE:** It is commendable if one endures grief, suffering wrongfully because of a conscience toward God (e.g., this also includes a slave).
  - **Remember:** Whenever the laws, rules, and policies of those in authority violate the **clear** teaching of the Word of God, the believer with a clear conscience has the right and duty before God to resist that law, rule or policy.
  - **Remember:** Whenever a believer is **compelled** to obey God rather than man, he does so without disrespecting the authority over him (e.g., he is NOT rebellion against authority or questioning or denying the authority of those in authority, instead he is standing on the truth of God).

- **Remember:** Whenever a believer is compelled to obey God rather than man, he must be prepared to accept the consequences of his stand from the human authorities (e.g., throughout the centuries, many believers have been threatened, beaten, thrown in jail, tortured, and executed for their convictions)





- **Note very carefully:** You do NOT bring glory to God, nor are you an example of a martyr if you are punished for doing something wrong (e.g., for disobeying a **legitimate** work rule or policy).
- **POINT:** If a believer (slave or free) is going to suffer for disobeying his master, make sure that it is for legitimately obeying God rather than men (e.g., as the result of following a clear teaching of Scripture).



- **MOTIVATION #3: THE EXAMPLE: THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS THE SERVANT'S EXAMPLE OF ENDURING TO MISTREATMENT FOR DOING WHAT IS RIGHT 1PETER 2:21-25**



- **PROBLEM:** Many believers become vindictive and attempt to retaliate when they are accused of wrong, or mistreated in some way.
  - **Remember:** The Scriptures exhort believer not to retaliate, teaching us that vengeance is Mine, says the Lord, I will repay (Rom.12:19).
  - **Remember:** The Lord wants the believer to respond to mistreatment with love, mercy, kindness and compassion (Read Matt.5:38-45).
  - **Note:** The believer is NOT a “wimp,” allowing everyone to walk all over him, however, he does live godly before God, regardless of what others say or do to him.



Do Not Say, "I'll Pay You  
Back For This Wrong!"  
Wait For The Lord , And  
He Will Deliver You.

Proverbs 20-22

[BibleWordings.com](http://BibleWordings.com)



- **PRINCIPLE:** Believers are called to follow the Lord regardless of their situations--even under unjust mistreatment (e.g., remember: God did not call believers to vice, anarchy, and rebellion).
  - **Remember:** The believer is NOT to look for excuses to do what is wrong, unethical, immoral or illegal.
  - **Remember:** The believer is to live as a bond-servant (i.e., a slave) to the Lord.
  - **Note:** Sometimes the Lord will call upon a believer to suffer mistreatment for His name sake. God will use this for His glory and for the spreading of the gospel and building up of the church.

- **PORTRAYAL:** Christ is our example of living for God regardless of our situation--even under unjust mistreatment (vv.22-23)
  - Jesus' **Reception** of mistreatment is an example for us (e.g. He did not deserve to suffer unjust mistreatment; quoting Isa.53:9))
  - Jesus' **Response** to mistreatment is an example for us (e.g., He did not retaliate under mistreatment)
  - Jesus' **Reaction** towards mistreatment is an example for us (e.g., He committed Himself to God while under mistreatment)
  - Jesus' **Realization** of mistreatment is an example (e.g., His mistreatment was used to provide our salvation)

- **POINT:** Christ Himself is the believer's example of living in righteousness regardless of whether or not he is treated fairly or unfairly.





# A CHALLENGE FOR YOU

- Does your family, community, and church see you as a godly respectful worker?





RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR  
SAVIOUR TODAY!!



1. **Acknowledge** that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross for your sin, and that He arose again from the dead on the third day.
2. **Admit** that you are a sinner, **guilty** of sin and **responsible** and **accountable** to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
3. **Accept** the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.