



THE BOOK OF

LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

*Professionals*

(Ephesians 6:5-9)

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST



THEOLOGY

BELIEFS

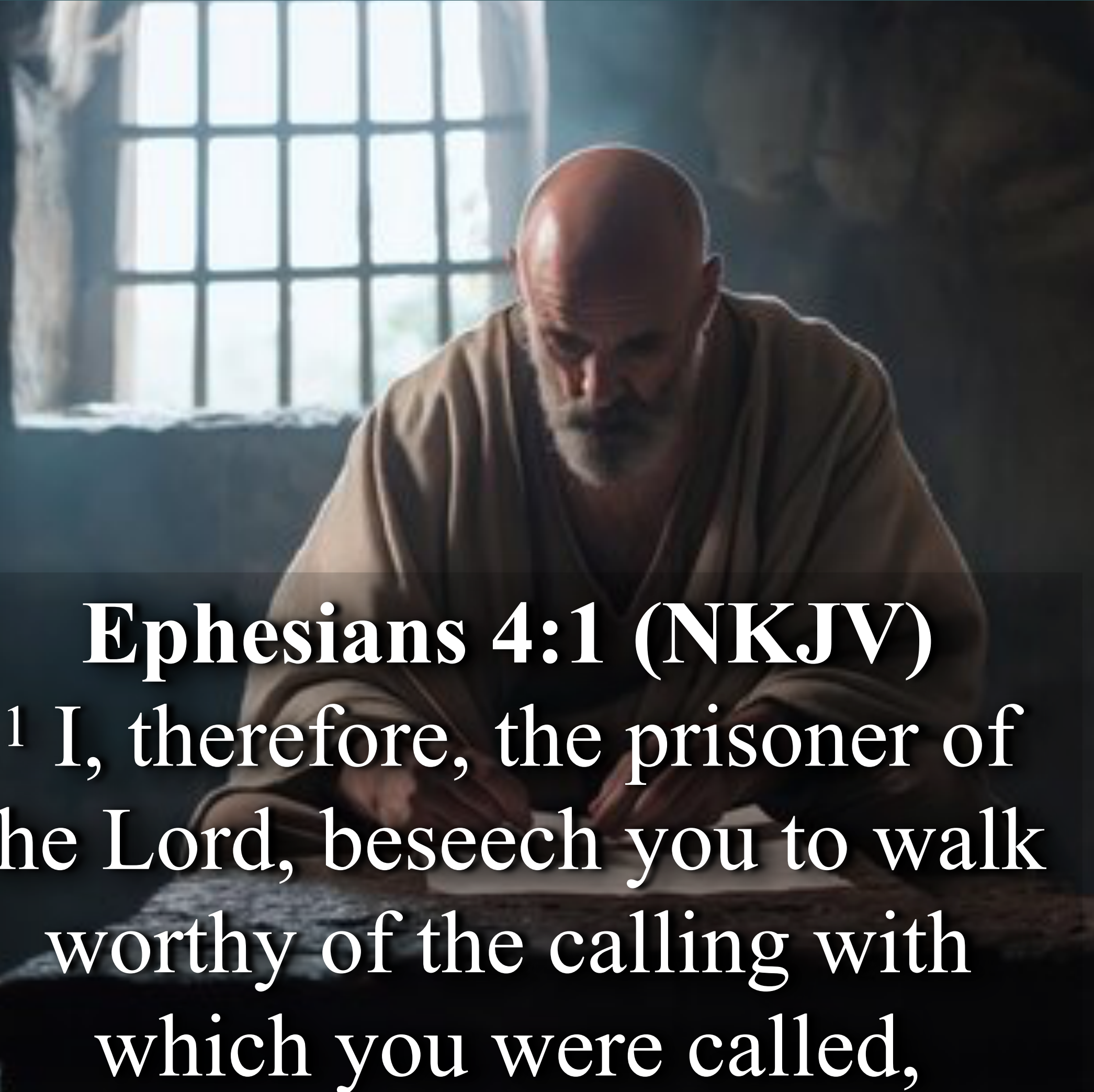
ATTITUDE

BEHAVIOR

**DOCTRINAL TRUTH > PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST


## LIVING A LIFE WORTHY OF OUR CALLING:



### **Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)**

**<sup>1</sup> I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,**

**Walking in LOVE, LIGHT,  
and WISDOM (5:1-21)**



**In our Marriages  
(5:22-33)**

**As children and parents  
(6:1-4)**

# Ephesians 6:5–9 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; <sup>6</sup> not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup> with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, <sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free. <sup>9</sup> 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.

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## THE DUTY OF SERVANTS (6:5-8)

Ephesians 6:5  
(NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;

- **BONDSMAN:** *doulos* (δοῦλος, 1401), from *deo*, “to bind,” “a slave,” originally the lowest term in the scale of servitude, came also to mean “one who gives himself up to the will of another,” e.g., 1 Cor. 7:23; Rom. 6:17, 20, and became the most common and general word for “servant,” as in Matt. 8:9, without any idea of bondage. (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. T. Nelson.

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## THE DUTY OF SERVANTS (6:5-8)

Ephesians 6:5  
(NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;

- **SERVANT:** 1. *doulos* (δοῦλος, 1401), an adjective, signifying “in bondage,” Rom. 6:19 (neuter plural, agreeing with *mele*, “members”), is used as a noun, and as the most common and general word for “servant,” frequently indicating subjection without the idea of bondage; it is used (a) of natural conditions, e.g., Matt. 8:9; 1 Cor. 7:21, 22 (1st part); Eph. 6:5; Col. 4:1; 1 Tim. 6:1; (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*. T. Nelson.

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- Bondservants (Greek: douloi) made up a large portion of the Roman Empire's population. This type of slavery was not primarily race-based but resulted from debt, war, or birth.
- Many served in households as domestic workers, tutors, or laborers. Some were highly educated; others endured harsh conditions.
- Their lives were entirely under the authority of their master, however long they were bound.

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Ephesians 6:5  
(NKJV)

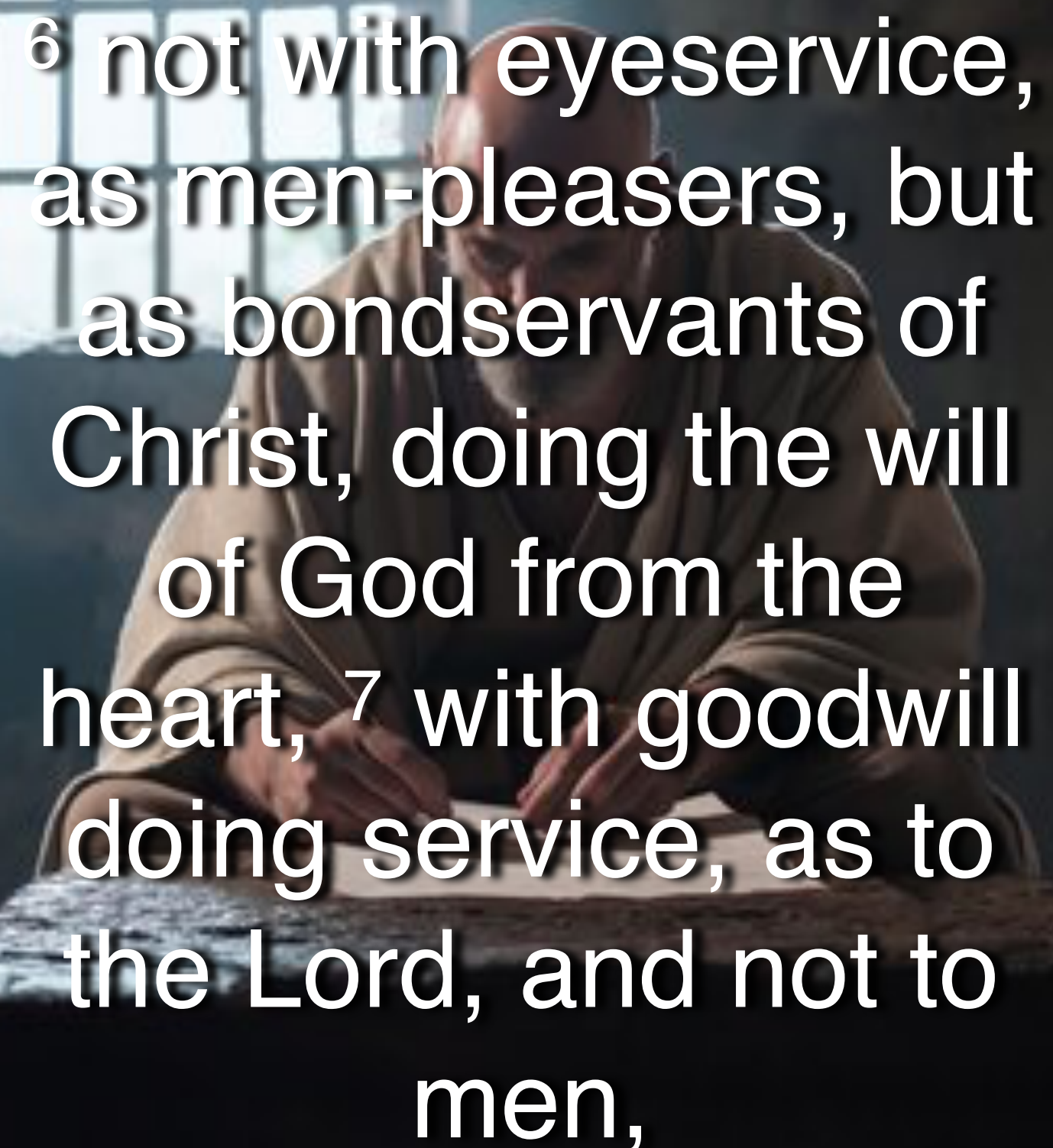
<sup>5</sup> Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;

- **Bondservants are commanded to:**
  - ▶ **Obey;** *hupakouo* (ὑπακούω, 5219), “to listen, attend” (as in Acts 12:13), and so, “to submit, to obey,” is used of “obedience” ... (h) to masters by servants, Eph. 6:5; Col. 3:22; ...
  - ▶ **“with fear and trembling”** — not cringing fear, but reverent respect.
  - ▶ **“in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;”** singleness of heart, genuine, generosity.

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## THE DUTY OF SERVANTS (6:5-8)

### Ephesians 6:6–7 (NKJV)

A man in a brown robe is shown from the chest up, leaning over a scroll and writing with a quill. He is positioned in front of a window with a grid pattern. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the man and his work.

<sup>6</sup> not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup> with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

- **Bondservants are commanded to:**
  - ▶ **Avoid “eye-service”** (working hard only when watched) and people-pleasing.
  - ▶ Obey **“as bondservants of Christ,”** where your ultimate loyalty lies, not earthly masters.
  - ▶ **Serve “from the heart,”** doing God’s will with good will, trusting God for ultimate justice. **The Lord sees and will reward faithful service.**

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## THE DUTY OF SERVANTS (6:5-8)

Ephesians 6:8  
(NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is a slave or free.*

- **Bondservants Should Know:**
  - ▶ **The Lord will judge and reward** those who do good (Jn 5:28,29; Rom 2:5-11).
  - ▶ The Lord will **accurately** and **impartially judge everyones** performance and motivation (cf. Col. 3:25; 1 Peter 1:17).
  - ▶ Christian slaves were to be the best slaves — honest, diligent, respectful, and trustworthy.

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## THE DUTY OF SERVANTS (6:5-8)

### **Colossians 3:22–25 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. <sup>23</sup> And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. <sup>25</sup> But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## THE DUTY OF SERVANTS (6:5-8)

### **1 Peter 2:18–21 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. <sup>19</sup> For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. <sup>20</sup> For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## THE DUTY OF SERVANTS (6:5-8)

### **Philippians 2:5–9 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## THE DUTY OF SERVANTS (6:5-8)

A man in a brown robe is shown from the chest up, sitting at a desk and writing in a scroll with a quill. He is looking down at his work. The background is a window with a grid pattern, suggesting an indoor setting like a study or office.

Ephesians 6:8  
(NKJV)

⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

- **WE ARE BONDSERVANTS OF JESUS:**
  - ▶ Paul frequently identifies himself as a “bondservant of Christ Jesus” (Rom 1:1, Gal 1:10, and Tt 1:1).
  - ▶ In Romans 6, we were once “slaves to sin” but are now “slaves to righteousness.”
  - ▶ Our identity is not defined by earthly status but by our relationship and faithful service to Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:23; 6:19b, 20).

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

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Ephesians 6:8  
(NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is a slave or free.*

- **WE ARE BONDSERVANTS OF JESUS:**
  - ▶ We **MUST** obey Jesus, and submit to His authority in all things (Col. 3:17)
  - ▶ Our **LIVES** are to be offered wholly to the service of Jesus Christ (Rom. 12:1,2).
  - ▶ Excellence and integrity should mark you, even when no one is watching, for the Lord sees all (Hebrews 4:13).

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## THE DUTY OF SERVANTS (6:5-8)



Ephesians 6:8  
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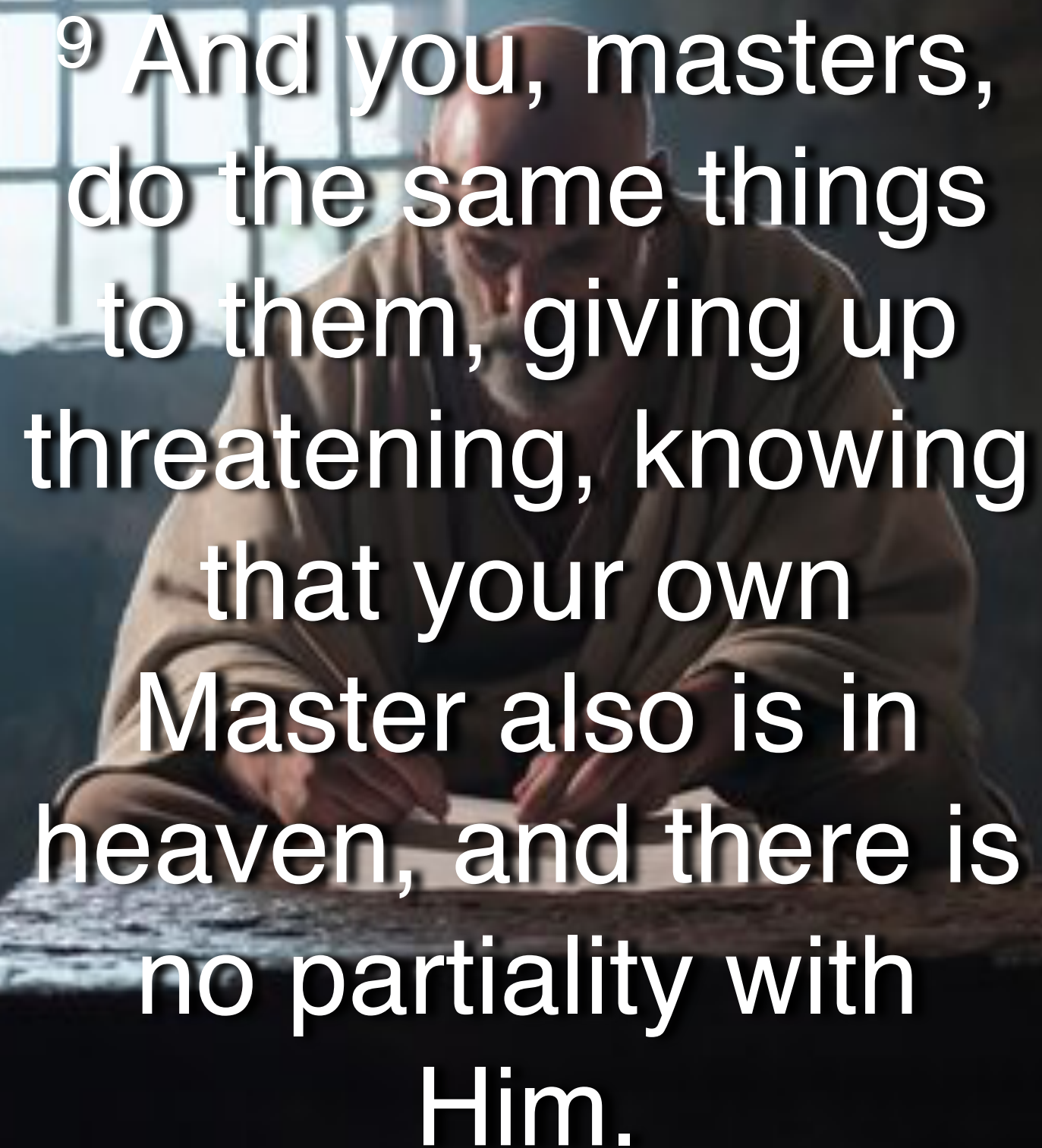
### ■ **WE ARE BONDSERVANTS OF JESUS:**

- ▶ Even in unjust situations, you are called to follow Christ's example of patient endurance (1 Peter 2:21-25; 1 John 2:6).
- ▶ God sees your faithfulness and will reward it, and punish those who are not (Romans 2:5-11; Col. 3:25).
- ▶ Yes - we are His slaves, but yet free from sin, fear, and condemnation (Rom. 8:1,2).

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## THE DUTY OF MASTERS (6:9)

### Ephesians 6:9 (NKJV)

A man in a brown robe is shown from the chest up, sitting at a desk and writing on a scroll with a quill. He is looking down at his work. The background is a window with a grid pattern.

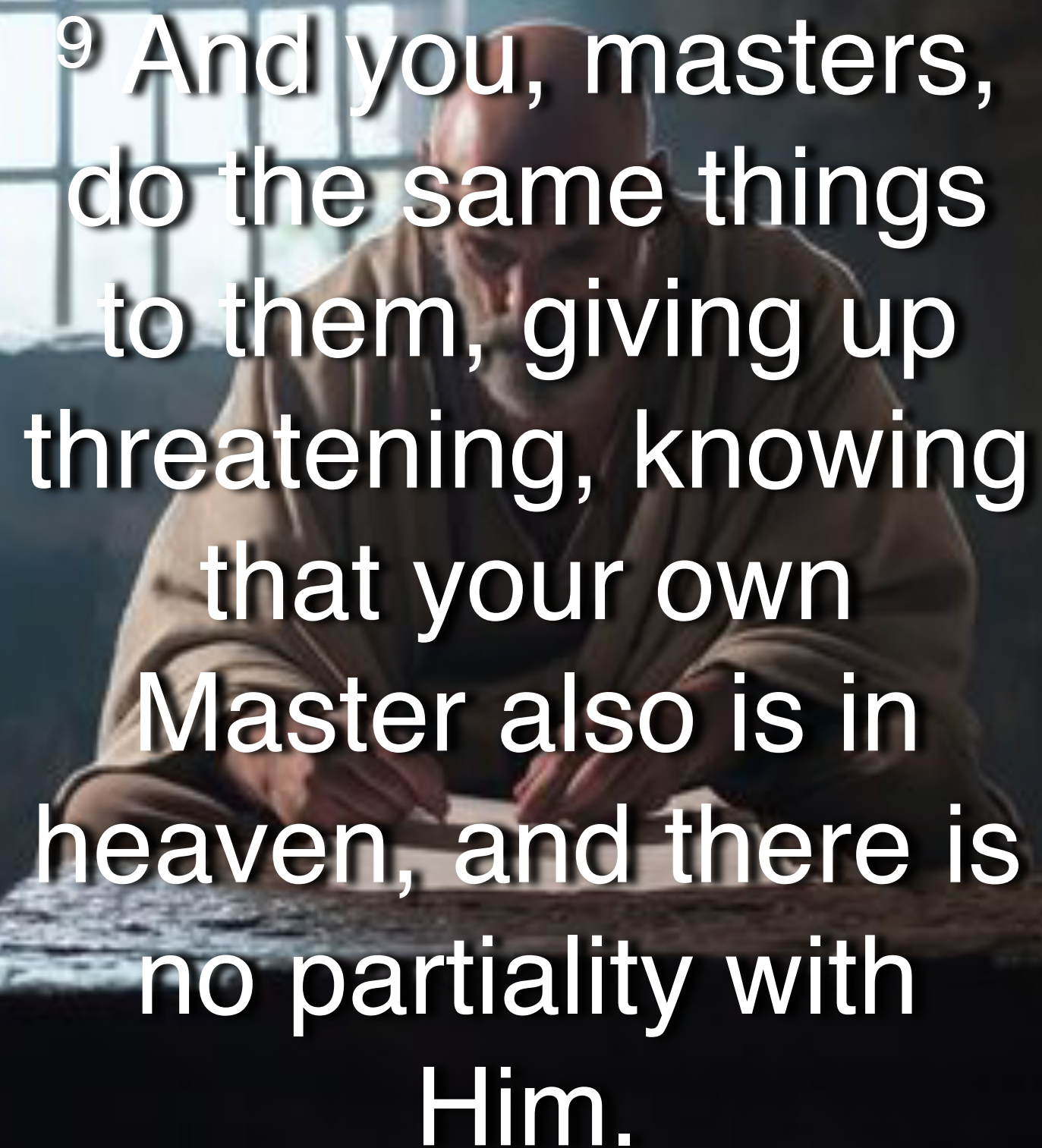
<sup>9</sup> And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

- **“And you, masters,”** — Paul places greater responsibility on those in positions of authority (Luke 12:48).
- **Masters are to:**
  - ▶ Treat their bondservants with the same sincerity and fairness they expect.
  - ▶ Stop threatening and harsh treatment.
  - ▶ Remember they have a Master in heaven who shows no favoritism.

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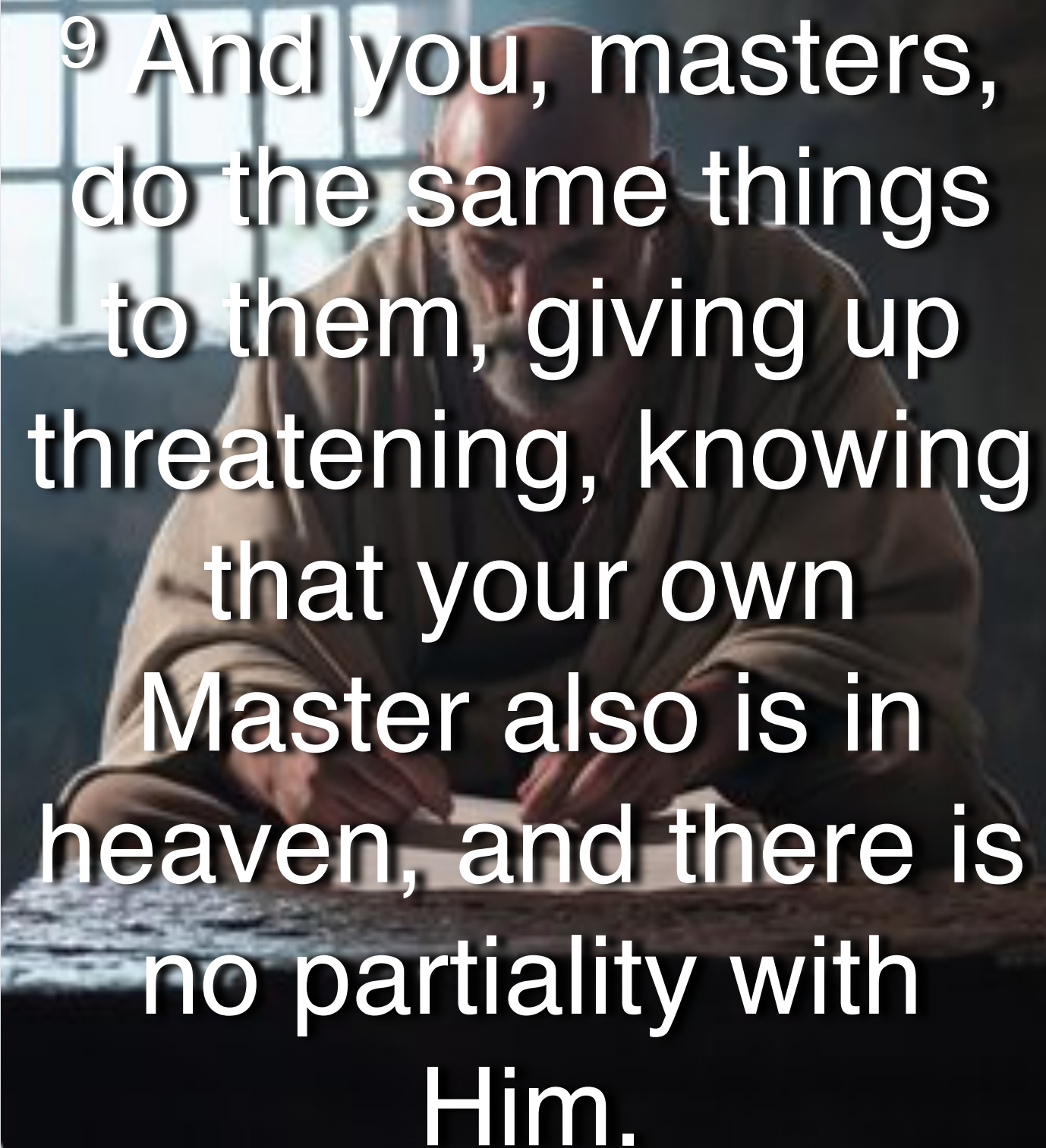
<sup>9</sup> And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

- **Colossians 4:1 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.
- In the Roman world, this was radical. Masters held absolute power. The gospel confronted that power with the truth that both master and servant stand equally before the ultimate Master — Jesus Christ.

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## THE DUTY OF MASTERS (6:9)

**Ephesians 6:9  
(NKJV)**



<sup>9</sup> 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.

- **The letter to Philemon shows this principle in action.**
  - ▶ Paul urges Philemon to receive his runaway slave Onesimus back “no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother” (Phile 16).
  - ▶ Authority is to be exercised with justice, humility, mercy, and recognition of our shared humanity before our judge (2 Cor. 5:10).

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## THE DUTY OF MASTERS (6:9)



- **Key Points for Those in Authority Today:**
  - ▶ Authority is a stewardship from God, not a license for selfishness or harshness.
  - ▶ Leaders must reject manipulation, favoritism, and intimidation, and become servants.
  - ▶ You will give an account to the Lord for how you treat those under your care.
  - ▶ True leadership reflects the servant-heart of Christ (John 13:3-17; Phil 2:5-10).

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Ephesians 6:6–7  
(NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup> with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

- **Paul says we are “bondservants of Christ” (v. 6).**
  - ▶ Here is the great leveling truth of the passage: Both bondservants and masters are bondservants of Christ (Rom. 14:7-13).
  - ▶ This identity transcends every earthly role, regardless of position or condition - we are to serve Christ wherever we are. (Acts 10:34; Gal. 3:26-29).

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## WE ARE TO BE BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

### ■ APPLICATIONS:

- ▶ **Ultimate Loyalty** — Christ is our true Master. Earthly bosses, leaders, or authorities are secondary. We serve them as unto the Lord (Acts 5:29).
- ▶ **Heart-Level Obedience** — God is not satisfied with external performance. He desires service “from the heart” motivated by love our love for Him (Mark 12:29-32).



# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## WE ARE TO BE BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

### ■ APPLICATIONS:

- ▶ **Eternal Perspective and Reward** — God sees both the good and bad, and God will judge - God rewards the righteous. This truth sustains us in difficult seasons (Rom. 2:5-11).
- ▶ **Equality and Dignity Before God** — There is “no partiality” with God (v. 9; Rom 2:11). Social status does not determine our worth in Christ (Gal. 3:26-29).



# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## WE ARE TO BE BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

### ■ APPLICATIONS:

- ▶ **Humility in Authority and Submission** — Those in leadership must lead as servants, and those under authority must serve with excellence and respect (Matthew 20:24-28).
- ▶ **Hope in Suffering** — When treated unjustly, we follow Christ's example (1 Peter 2). Our suffering is not meaningless — it can display the gospel (1 Pet. 3:1-6).



# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## WE ARE TO BE BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

### ■ APPLICATIONS:

- ▶ **Transformed Character** — The gospel does not change an individual's earthly status, or position; it transforms our character, and how we relate to one another (Matthew 20:24-28; Luke 22:27,28; John 13:13, 14; Phil. 2:7).
- ▶ The story of Philemon and Onesimus shows that in Christ, masters and slaves are to be brothers (Philemon).



# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## WE ARE TO BE BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST



- **If you are a Christian**, whether you are an employee, employer, student, teacher, parent, child, or in any position of influence or submission — your primary duty is the same:
  - ▶ You belong to Jesus.
  - ▶ You represent Jesus.
  - ▶ You honor, or dishonor Jesus by your actions and how you treat others.

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## WE ARE TO BE BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST



- **If you are a Christian:**
  - ▶ Serve with sincerity, as to the Lord.
  - ▶ Lead with justice and kindness, remembering your Master in heaven.
  - ▶ Treat every person with the dignity of one for whom Christ died.
  - ▶ Follow the example of Jesus, who humbled Himself as a servant.

# LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

## WE ARE TO BE BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

### ■ If you are NOT a Christian:

- ▶ You are a SLAVE of Satan, of SIN, Guilt, and CONDEMNATION (John 8:31-35).
- ▶ JESUS CAN SET YOU FREE from sin and death (*John 8:36* <sup>36</sup> *Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed*).
- ▶ We are free to choose (Romans 6:16-18; Matthew 11:28,29; Acts 2:38-41)





(Ephesians 6:5-9)

THE BOOK OF

LIVING AS BONDSERVANTS OF CHRIST

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# 1 Timothy 6:1–5 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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.

# 1 Timothy 6:1–5 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, <sup>4</sup> he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, <sup>5</sup> useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of gain*. From such withdraw yourself.