**The Model Church – The Need for Leaders (part 6): Bondservants of Christ**

Being a bondservant of Christ gives true freedom (**John 8:31-36**).

Today we want to continue our word studies with Greek words related to servants, bondservants, and fellow servants.

**(Noun, 1401, doulos)**

**From Vines:** Bondman, Bondmaid: 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," and became the most common and general word for "servant," without any idea of bondage. In calling himself, however, a "bondslave of Jesus Christ,", **the Apostle Paul intimates (1) that he had been formerly a "bondslave" of Satan, and (2) that, having been bought by Christ, he was now a willing slave, bound to his new Master.**

SERVANT. The feminine, doule, signifies "a handmaid,"; Servant: an adjective, signifying "in bondage," 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; **frequently in the four Gospels; (b) metaphorically of spiritual, moral and ethical conditions: "servants" (1) of God; the perfect example being Christ Himself**; (2) of Christ; (3) of sin John 8:34 (RV, "bondservants"); (4) of corruption, 2 Peter 2:19 (RV, "bondservants"); cp. the verb douloo (see 1402 below). See BONDMAN.

**Occurs 127 times in 119 verses in the Greek concordance of the KJV; servant (120x), bond (6x), bondman (1x). Is translated bondservant more in the NKJV and the ESV.**

Example verses:

[**Matthew 20:27 NKJV**] "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave--

[**Matthew 25:23 NKJV**] "His lord said to him, 'Well [done], good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

[**Luke 17:10 NKJV**] "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable (ESV-unworthy) servants. We have done what was our duty to do.' "

[**John 8:34 NKJV**] Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave (ESV-bondservant) of sin.

[**Acts 2:18 NKJV**] And on My menservants (ESV-male bondservants) and on My maidservants (ESV-female bondservants) I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

[**Acts 4:29 NKJV**] "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants (ESV-bondservants) that with all boldness they may speak Your word,

[**Acts 16:17 NKJV**] This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants (ESV-bondservants) of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."

[**Romans 1:1 NKJV**] Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called [to be] an apostle, separated to the gospel of God

[**Romans 6:16-19 NKJV**] Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey (ESV-obedient bondservants), you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin [leading] to death, or of obedience [leading] to righteousness? But God be thanked that [though] you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human [terms] because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members [as] slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness [leading] to [more] lawlessness, so now present your members [as] slaves [of] righteousness for holiness.

[**1 Corinthians 7:23 NKJV**] You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

[**Galatians 4:7 NKJV**] Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

[**Ephesians 6:5-6 NKJV**] Bondservants, 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 (ESV-people-pleasers), but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

[**Philippians 1:1 NKJV**] Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

[**Philippians 2:7 NKJV**] but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, [and] coming in the likeness of men.

[**Colossians 4:12 NKJV**] Epaphras, who is [one] of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

[**2 Timothy 2:24 NKJV**] And a servant (ESV-bondservant) of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

**(Masculine Noun, 1402, douloō): from the root word doulos (1401)**

**From Vines:** Bondage: different from 1401, signifies "to make a slave of, to bring into bondage,"; in the Passive Voice, "to be brought under bondage,"; "to be held in bondage," Galatians 4:3 (lit., "were reduced to bondage"); Titus 2:3, "of being enslaved to wine;" Romans 6:18, "of service to righteousness" (lit. "were made bondservants"). **As with the purchased slave there were no limitations either in the kind or the time of service, so the life of the believer is to be lived in continuous obedience to God.** See ENSLAVED, GIVE, SERVANT.

**Occurs 11 times in 8 verses in the Greek concordance of the KJV; become servant (2x), bring into bondage (2x), be under bondage (1x), given (1x), make servant (1x), in bondage (1x).**

Example verses:

[**Romans 6:18 NKJV**] And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

[**Romans 6:22 NKJV**] But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

[**1 Corinthians 7:15 NKJV**] But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage (ESV-enslaved) in such [cases]. But God has called us to peace.

[**1 Corinthians 9:19 NKJV**] For though I am free from all [men], I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;

[**Titus 2:3 NKJV**] the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given (ESV-slaves) to much wine, teachers of good things--

[**2 Peter 2:19 NKJV**] While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves (ESV-bondservants) of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage (ESV-enslaved).

**(Masculine Noun, 4889, syndoulos): from the root word doulos (1401) and syn (means with) (4862)**

**From Vines:** Servant: "a fellow-servant," is used (a) of natural conditions, Mat 18:28, 29, 31, 33; 24:49; (b) **of "servants" of the same Divine Lord**, Col 1:7; 4:7; Rev 6:11; of angels, Rev 19:10; 22:9. Note: For misthios and misthotos, see HIRED SERVANT.

**Occurs 10 times in 10 verses in the Greek concordance of the KJV: fellowservant (10x).**

Example verses:

[**Matthew 18:28 NKJV**] "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took [him] by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'

[**Colossians 1:7 NKJV**] as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant (ESV-bondservant), who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,

[**Colossians 4:7 NKJV**] Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant (ESV-bondservant) in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.

[**Revelation 6:11 NKJV**] Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both [the number of] their fellow servants (ESV-bondservants) and their brethren, who would be killed as they [were], was completed.

[**Revelation 19:10 NKJV**] And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See [that you do] not [do that]! I am your fellow servant (ESV-bondservant), and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

[**Revelation 22:9 NKJV**] Then he said to me, "See [that you do] not [do that]. For I am your fellow servant (ESV-bondservant), and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

***\*Angels are even considered bondservants of Christ!***

**CONCLUSIONS**

The New Testament is clear. One is either a slave & bondservant of the world, Satan, and sin or one is a slave & bondservant of God, Christ, and righteousness. God has given us the freedom to choose what kind of bondservant we want to be. We Christians need to look long and hard at our lives. **Are we truly living as bondservants of Christ or are we really bondservants of the world?**

For those here who are not Christians this morning, I ask that you read a wonderful passage with me.

[**Galatians 4:1-7 NKJV**] Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage (ESV-enslaved) under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born (made) of a woman, born under law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, Abba, Father! Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

If you are not a Christian today, you are a slave and in bondage to sin right now. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for your sins so you could be free from them and the condemnation they bring. But he requires you to obey Him, believe Him, confess that He is the son of God, repent of your sins, and then be baptized to wash away those sins. Baptism is where we spiritually contact the saving blood Jesus shed for us all! **Why not become a servant of Christ today and be free of your sins? That is a freedom the world cannot give you; freedom from sin and spiritual death and freedom that will bring you the inheritance of Heaven one day!**

Paul considered himself a bondservant of Christ and it all started when He was baptized (**Romans 1:1, Acts 22:16**)! If we can help you now, please come forward while we stand and sing!