
"Bond-servant of Jesus Christ"

Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. [ACT 17:11] [NAS]

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~To Be Set Free~



Does anyone here today want to be set free? Then you must become a bond-servant of Jesus Christ. This seems out of the ordinary; to become a servant and be set free. This goes against reasonable secular thinking. But that is the only way you can be completely free, when you are under the bondage of the Master, Yeshua our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

No matter what happens, the ones that have truly chosen to serve God; will let the Master take care of all their problems and situations. This is the freedom and the peace that you will have. So submit yourself to God, totally and completely. Now you are set free. Free from all your worries that plague you daily. Free to let the world go by and free to become a bond-servant of the Master of the Universe, Jesus Christ.

People say they can't live under the law (instructions) of God, but they do whether they know it or not. God set in motion His Laws at creation and we all live by them. If we honor and obey them, we are blessed and well. If we don't obey them we suffer the penalty. So we all live by the law of God. It's just a matter of if we want to be a bond-servant of Jesus or a follower of the secular world.

You know, it's just like the traffic laws we have today. Because we have many traffic laws we are free to go just about anywhere we please as long as we obey the laws of the road. These laws are why we are free. If we didn't have the laws, everyone could be speeding, going all over the road, running stop signs, having wrecks and killing people. Now, can you imagine if there were no traffic laws with the number of people that are on the road now-a-days? So you see it's the law that gives us freedom and if there were no laws of the road we would all probably stay at home, we would not be free to travel with the ease we travel today. So you see the law does set us free. Just as when we live under the Law of God, we have complete freedom knowing that we have a caring Master that will take care of us.

~Bond-servant~

We are here today to talk about being a bond-servant of Jesus Christ.



Bond-servant; this word often denotes a man who dedicates himself voluntarily to the service of another. As I think back, in my last message, Joshua was the bond-servant of Moses. Moses was the bond-servant of God. When Moses died Joshua took the leadership role in delivering the Israelites to the promised-land. The bond-servants of God are those who are devoted to His service and accomplishing His will.

The word servant in the Old Testament usually means a hired servant, or one whose service was the property of his master. The households of the early patriarchs contained many servants, who were treated with kindness, justice, and they were trusted and confided in. They shared the religious privileges of the family and were not transferred to other masters. The master took care of them; they were part of the family. The same principle applies today with Yeshua, Jesus; he's the Master and we are his bond-servants. He takes care of all our needs; as we conform to His will for us.

If you think about it, the way we live today is no different in principle then it was years ago. We have our employers and we are the employees. The employers or master controls us and tells us when to come to work and what to do at work as well as when to leave. I can remember when I was a child the textile companies would take care of the employee and some of you can remember that also. The textile companies would even built houses for the employees to live in and they would live there for generations, before it changed. That's where the word "mill-towns" came from. Employees were living in houses built by their textile employers that were close to the mill. We are servants to our jobs. If you don't believe it, don't show up for work for a few days and see what happens?



You may not find the word bond-servant very many times in your Bible, depending which version you are using. If you are using the King James it only appears one time in the Old Testament. Most of the time the King James will use the word "servant" opposed to "bond-servant." But they are the same word in the Greek; it can be interpreted as servant,

bond-servant or slave. My New American Standard Bible uses the word bond-servant in most instances.

~The Greek~

The Greek word **?? ???**, *doulos* – (doo’-los), which is number 1401 in the Greek



Dictionary of the New Testament from the Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible is taken from number 1210 which is defined as a slave; frequently therefore in a qualified sense of subjection you can use bond-servant. So as I’m reading the Bible verses I just wanted you to know why I may be reading bond-servant and you may see servant or slave in your Bible, again depending on which version you are reading from. To a certain extent, slave, servant, bond-servant are one and the same as used in scripture.

The term “bond-servant” is often used by a man of God, such as Paul, to describe his total dedication, as recorded in Romans 1:1; *Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God*, [ROMANS 1:1] [NAS] Such submission to Christ by Paul, is called in Romans 12:1 our "reasonable service" in the King James Version. It says; *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”* [ROMANS 12:1] [KJV] That leads to the question! Are we honoring Jesus with our “reasonable service” and by being a real bond-servant of Christ? We are either a slave to the world or a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, there is no in between. You cannot serve two masters. (Matthew 6:24)

~Bond-servant Misunderstood~

One of the most misunderstood relationships in the Kingdom is the relationship of the bond-servant and the Master. It goes against our independent life-style and sinful human nature to be a slave or servant to someone. Many in the Kingdom want to be rulers and not bond-servants of the Christ. The Scripture makes it plain and clear that we are to live for Jesus in a bond-servant type relationship. With hardened hearts, our hearts do not sing the song of Zion, but of money, power, authority and religion.

Becoming a bond-servant is losing sight of “me,” and seeing only Jesus Christ. In the days of Christ Jesus the people were looking for a king, someone to rule over them. And

what did they get? Jesus Christ, a bond-servant to the people and to His Father in Heaven.

It's not any different today, we are still looking for that person that will rule over us, that will take away all our problems, prosper us financially and we would live in a perfect world. We are looking for that president or political leader to come and take care of us from the cradle to the grave. If you read Revelations, this is exactly what the world is looking for and if we are not following Christ we will be fooled into believing in the Anti-Christ since he will supposedly have the answers to all the world's problems.

~Definitions~

I looked up the definitions of the bond-servant, which is made up of two words; bond and servant.

- + A bond is a binding agreement, a covenant, a duty, a promise, or another obligation by which one is bound.
- + What did the dictionary say a servant was? One who expresses submission, carries out the desires of his master.
- + The word bond-servant according to the dictionary is a person obligated to service without wages - a slave.

So my definition of a bond-servant would be a person, a "follower of Christ" that has a duty or obligation and expresses submission and will carry out the desires or commandments of the master. Are we this type of bond-servant to Christ? It's a thing of the heart. Do we love our Master? Are we a bond-servant only because we love the Master?

~Moses was a Bond-Servant~

There were many bond-servants in the Bible and Moses was one of them. Moses was a bond-servant to God. What did the author of Hebrews say about Moses?



*[HEBREWS NAS] 11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,
25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,*

26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

27 *By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.*

28 *By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them.*

29 *By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned.*

- ❖ *Moses, the man that God spoke to.*
- ❖ *Moses, the man that was seeking the face of God.*
- ❖ *Moses, the man that God gave the Ten Commandments to.*
- ❖ *Moses, the man that God chose to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.*
- ❖ *Moses, the man that did lead the Israelites out of Egypt.*
- ❖ *Moses, the man that wrote the first five books of the Bible, the Torah.*
- ❖ *Moses, the man that was truly a bond-servant to God. (I could go on!)*



~The Virgin Mary was a Bond-Servant~

[LUKE 1:38] [NAS] *And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.*

Mary's unhesitating acceptance showed her devout and obedient character. She was willing to risk disgrace and divorce to comply with God's command.

~Paul was a bond-servant~

Paul ask the question in his writings to the Galatians,

[GALATIANS 1:10] [NAS] *For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.*

Paul plainly tells us that we can't serve two masters; you will either serve man or Christ. (Matthew 6:24)

~Jesus Christ a bond-servant of His Father~

Jesus Christ was and is the perfect bond-servant to us as well as to His Father in heaven.

[PHILIPPINES 2:7] [NAS] *but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.*


~Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet~

JOHN 13:5 Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

6 So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?"

7 Jesus answered and said to him, "*What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter.*"

8 Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "*If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.*"

9  Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."

10 Jesus said to him, "*He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.*"

11 For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "*Not all of you are clean.*"

12 So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "*Do you know what I have done to you?*"

13 "*You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.*"

14 "*If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.*"

15 "*For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.*"

16 "*Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.*"

17 "*If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.*"

Here Jesus is, washing the feet of the disciples; the Leader, the Ruler, the Savior of the World that came down from heaven to save us from our sins and ourselves. He never lost the love He had for His fellowman. He never forgot that He came here to serve and He is to be our example in our life-style and how we live our daily life serving God and others.

~**Scandals and Dirty Feet**~ In the days of Jesus the people wore sandals and they got their feet dirty from the dry and dusty road as well other things they may have stepped into. They

may have washed, but the feet were unclean after a dusty journey. Jesus the King doing the lowest of lowly jobs, one that a slave would normally be required to do. Jesus demonstrated a lowly bond-servant of love. This would make Jesus a bond-servant to His Father in heaven as well as a bond-servant to us. In the end He paid the ultimate price; of death on a tree.

~Who Is The Greatest?~

It hasn't changed even after 2000 years; we still want to be the greatest. In the following verses Jesus sheds a little light on who is the greatest.



[LUKE NAS] 22:24 *And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest.*

25 *And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.'*

26 *"But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant.*

27 *"For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves.*

I didn't say it, Jesus did, read the end of verse 27 again, *"But I am among you as the one who serves."* With Jesus as our example, he served, so we are to serve.

*Benefactor was a title carried by the Greek kings of Egypt and Syria. The word "benefactor" is applied to one who bestows "favor" on another. It was applied to kings by way of "compliment or flattery."

[MATTHEW NAS] 20:20 *Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him.*

21 *And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left."*

22 *But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to Him, "We are able."*

23 *He said to them, "My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father."*

24 *And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers.*

25 *But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them.*

26 *"It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,*

27 *and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;*

28 *just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

Mark presents the request as coming from the sons. Matthew shows that they at first asked through their mother, but that later they personally joined the conversation. The mother of Zebedee's children, Salome, was apparently the sister of the Virgin Mary, as shown by comparing Matthew 27:56 with Mark15:40 and John19:25.



The mother of James and John came to Jesus and "kneeling down, asked a favor of him." She gave Jesus worship, but her real motive was to get something from him. Too often this happens in our churches and in our lives. We play religious games, expecting God to give us something in return. True worship, however, adores and praises Christ for who he is and for what he has done.

*According to Matthew 27:56, the mother of James and John was at the cross when Jesus was crucified. Some have suggested that she was the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus. A close family relationship could have prompted her to make this request for her sons.

What is a good bond-servant to Jesus Christ? I have listed seven things here to consider.

1- Proclaim Salvation

All the apostles were proclaiming salvation, but I want to point out Paul.

ACTS 16:16 *It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling.*

17 *Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation."*

What was the way, the only way? Paul the bond-servant of the Most High God was proclaiming salvation. It was no secret, this happened outside, not in a church. We have roads that we are on all day long. Everyone needs Christ and they're not coming to church.

2- With Boldness and Confidence

ACTS 4:29 *“And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,
30 while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”*

31 *And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.*

Get that, bond-servants of God were speaking with confidence after praying. They were then filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking the Word of God with boldness. When Peter and John got locked up in jail and treated unkindly the more confidence and boldness they acquired. They certainly weren't closet Christians!

3 - Preach Christ Jesus

[2 CORINTHIANS 4:5] [NAS] *For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.*

It goes without saying; preach Christ Jesus, Yeshua, Messiah, which is the way, the only way! (John 14:6)

4 – Please God not Man



[GALATIANS 1:10] [NAS] *For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.*

Folks, we have a choice just as Paul did. He was pleasing God, not man.

5 - Be Kind, Patient, Gentleness

[2 TIMOTHY 2:22 NAS] 22 *Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

23 *But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels.*

24 *The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,*

25 *with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,*

26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

6 – We Will Serve only Jesus Christ



[REVELATIONS 22:3] [NAS] *There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;*

7 – And above all a Person of Prayer

[LUKE 3:21 NAS] *Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened,*



22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

Did you notice that, heaven opened up while He was praying to His Father. The Holy Spirit descended upon Him and His Father voiced His approval of His Son.

~Apostles as Bond-servants~

The apostles even called themselves bond-servants in their writings. Let me read some of them as recorded below.

- ▶ [ROMANS 1:1] [NAS] *Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,*
- ▶ [PHILIPPIANS 1:1] [NAS] *Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:*
- ▶ [TITUS 1:1] [NAS] *Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,*
- ▶ [JAMES 1:1] [NAS] *James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.*
- ▶ [2 PETER 1:1] [NAS] *Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:*
- ▶ [JUDE 1:1] [NAS] *Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:*

▶ [REVELATION 1:1] [NAS] *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,*

~Jesus the Example~

Jesus did not live on this earth to please himself but to please His Father in Heaven. If we are to walk as Jesus walked, we are to be bond-servants of Yeshua and servants to others.



[1 JOHN 2:6] [NAS] *"the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked."* I see so many young people and

others that want whatever they can get out of life without giving anything back. It's always, "what can you give me." We also hear remarks like, "well I deserve it," "I'm entitled to that," "it's there for the taking." If you read the New Testament you will see that Jesus continuously gave of himself without asking for anything. There are two types of people in this world, "givers and takers." If anyone is a taker he cannot be a bond-servant of Jesus Christ. As you have heard and read, bond-servants are givers, especially to the Kingdom.

[MARK 10:42 NAS] *Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them.*

43 "But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant;

44 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.

45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

What would happen if all the church folks were to become bond-servants of Christ



instead of trying to become leaders of programs that are not of God? What would happen if they would get their eyes back on Christ and salvation? I speak of the Church which is the bride of Christ which is seeking God first, above all else. What if all Christians would take the responsibility of growing their relationship with Christ through personal study of God's word; the foundation and cornerstone of their spiritual life? Amen!

Service in the kingdom of God is unique. Jesus established no position of authority for one person to "lord it over" others in the kingdom. Greatness in the kingdom is measured differently than in any other worldly group or organization. To be great in the kingdom of God one must assume the role of a bond-servant. Jesus came to serve rather than to be served. Christian believers must serve others if they are to follow Christ. In Christ, all believers are equal--as servants and slaves of the Lord Jesus. No one should rule over others; all should serve one another in a spirit of humility before Christ.

~Putting Bond-servant into Practice~

What am I talking about? It's having a heart for Jesus. It won't work if you don't have



a heart for God. When you have a heart for God you will let your heart serve others. Serving others will be different for each one of us. Only through much pray, fasting and reading the Word will each one of us know where God wants us to serve. I can't tell you where your service is, that's up to you and God. But when you do get the word from God, don't resist the call. Be a bond-servant for Yeshua, Jesus Christ.

~A Bond-servant's prayer:~

Most High God, thank You for all You do. You are the one true God; You who are King of the Universe. Who am I that You would take notice of me? You gave Your only Son to live and die for all mankind; and for me. Will You help me in my desire to be Your bond-servant? Teach me Your Way. Teach me Your Path which is true and righteous. Teach me to be a good servant. Teach me to humble myself to allow the spirit of Yeshua Messiah to flow in me. May I not quench Your Spirit, but instead may I honor and glorify You with all I do, with all I say, and with all I think. Most Holy One, I desire to hear You say, well done, good and faithful servant.

In the name of Yeshua (Jesus) our Savior.



I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take credit for these writings since there are many sources. In many cases, I did not keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. My comments and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this study. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things. This is my own opinions based on my understanding of Scripture as the Word of God.

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