

The Servant's Heart

(Conclusion; Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. "The human concept of a servant is that a servant goes to the master and says, 'Master, what do you want me to do?' The master tells him, and the servant goes off by himself and does it. That is not the Biblical concept of a servant of God. Being a servant of God is different from being a servant of a human master. A servant of a human master works FOR his master. God, however, works THROUGH His servants." (Henry Blackaby)

II. TIMOTHY: WHO WILL SINCERELY CARE FOR YOUR STATE

A. Phil. 2:19-22

1. "All seek their own" is contrasted with Timothy's "proven character."
2. "As a son with his father he served with me in the gospel."

III. CHRIST: TAKING THE FORM OF A BONDSERVANT

A. Phil. 2:5-8

1. "Who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped" (2:6 ASV)
 - a. What would it take for you to surrender your humanity to become a monkey or a dog or a cow?
 - b. Heb. 2:9
2. "He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death..."
 - a. A deliberate, conscious act of will
3. "Even the death of the cross."
 - a. God had never experienced death.
 - b. He would be entering the realm of the Adversary, Hades, in a vulnerable position to wrest the power of death away from Satan.
 - c. He would be bearing the burden of all of the sins of the world.
 - d. He would be facing the shame of crucifixion.
 - e. Heb. 12:2
 - f. WHY!? 2Cor. 5:21

- B. "The servant's heart: It made God man, and makes man God; things temporal are made eternal; things mortal are made immortal; it makes an enemy into a friend, a servant into a son, lowly things glorious, cold hearts fiery, and hard things flow as liquid." (V. Bede)

IV. WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT OF US IN RETURN?

A. To develop the servant's heart - 2:1-4

1. Vs 1 - If you enjoyed these things in Christ, then...
2. Vs 2 - You render the same things to others.
 - a. You were saved to lead others to salvation; you are loved to love others; you are blessed to become a blessing to others.
3. Vs. 3-4 - Pursue the best interests and well-being of others; your own personal interests do not come first.

- a. Revolutionary! Our culture cannot seem to grasp it; some Christians cannot seem to practice it.
 - b. It is what is meant by having the mind of Christ; being spiritually mature enough to look to needs of others before needs of self.
- B. "Some people have a warped idea of living the Christian life. Seeing talented, successful Christians, they attempt to imitate them. For them, the grass on the other side of the fence is always greener. But when they discover that their own gifts are different or their contributions are more modest (or even invisible), they collapse in discouragement and overlook genuine opportunities that are open to them. They have forgotten that they are here to serve Christ, not themselves." (W. Graham)
- 1. "The act of contributing to the lives of others is its own reward. A servant's heart is a greater, nobler motivator than financial gain."
(Thomas Kinkade)
 - 2. Simply put, when one comes to worship thinking of what others ought to be doing for him rather than what he can do for others, he is still a babe in Christ. When he murmurs about a brother rather than offering his services to him, he is still in spiritual diapers reaching for the baby bottle of the milk of the word. (Phil. 3:15)