

## Three Keys for a Christian Slave

1 Timothy 6:1-2

1 Timothy: Living out Love in the Local Church, part 18

- About 70 BC, there was a famous Roman slave named Spartacus who sought to overthrow slavery through revolt. It resulted in thousands of slaves dying.
- It's as if Paul's method to overthrow slavery was not through revolt, but to see it crumble under the power of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Whatever Paul says in the NT about slaves and their masters, there is even more weight upon us in our employee-employer work relationships.
- Kinds of slavery practiced in history:
  - (1.) \_\_\_\_\_: This is condemned, forbidden and fully denounced, 1 Timothy 1:9-10; Exodus 21:16.
  - (2.) \_\_\_\_\_: Deut.15:1-18; Exodus 21:1-2, 26, 27; Impoverished Israelites could sell themselves into slavery to pull themselves out of poverty, debt, or bankruptcy.
  - (3.) \_\_\_\_\_: Slavery was deeply ingrained into the Roman Empire with about 1/3 of the people in the empire slaves (50-60 million people), but it was possible for slaves to become freemen (Acts 22:28; 1 Cor.7:20-22; Eph.6:5-9; Col. 3:22-4:1; Titus 2:9, 10; Philemon 10-21; 1 Peter 2:17-20.)

## (4.) Human and child trafficking of our modern day:

Millions of children are being abused and used throughout the world, including our southern border.

- Paul gives three keys for enduring the injustice of slavery:

### 1. A Key \_\_\_\_\_, v.1a

A. The Gospel calls us to “honor” those in authority over us even in the \_\_\_\_\_.

- Honor= maintain an \_\_\_\_\_ of respect and not merely outward conformity (1 Peter 2:17-20).

B. The Gospel provides supernatural grace to...

- 1.) See all men as \_\_\_\_\_ of God
- 2.) Pray for all men to be saved (1 Tim.2:1-5)

### 2. A Key \_\_\_\_\_, v.1b

A. The Gospel calls us to honor \_\_\_\_\_ and His doctrine (Acts 9:15-16).

B. If Paul focused his goal upon social justice to liberate the oppressed, it would have completely changed forever Christ's \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. A Key \_\_\_\_\_, v.2

- The power of the Gospel turns social realities upside down:

A. Slaves can see their believing masters as \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to serve them “even more!”

B. Slaves can see themselves as \_\_\_\_\_  
“Patrons” (or Benefactors).

- Paul uses a specific term indicating that Christian slaves do the good deeds (“benefit” = *euergesia*) that the wealthy “benefactor” or patron (*euergētēs*, see Luke 22:25) would normally do to his poorer “clients!”

C. How? Christ came in the form of a slave (Phil.2:7) and we are “partakers” of His “benefit” to set us free! He is now our “Patron” who gives us power to honor His name \_\_\_\_\_!

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