

Sound Words for Slaves

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Timothy 6:1-5.

B. Half of the population was slaves during the time of Paul's writing.

II. The New Testament neither renounces nor approves of slavery.

A. Christianity is the major reason that slavery has disappeared worldwide.

B. Christianity has proven to be the major factor that sets men free.

III. The great belief was that God was in charge of life.

A. God is committed to human freedom.

B. He declares Himself on the side of the oppressed and those in captivity.

C. However, God has His timing for things.

IV. The response of slaves.

A. Masters and employers are to be regarded as worthy of respect.

1. This is true regardless of treatment.

2. They are made in the image of God.

3. Satan sees men differently—when we see men as Satan does, we look at men as being worthless and despicable.

B. Slaves of believing masters are to serve their masters even more as Christian brothers.

C. Jesus commands this radical way of life.

1. When we are not obedient to Jesus' words, we create havoc.

2. To take another view is to follow the philosophy of Satan.

3. Godliness is the path to wholeness.

4. Those with Jesus gather—those against Him scatter. There is escalation and perpetuation of the conflict.

5. Motives that cause the conflict: conceit, a love of controversy and personal gain.

6. Jesus did not give back the evil He received—He left it up to the Father to straighten out. (II Peter 3)

Application questions:

1. What stance does the Bible take toward slavery? Explain.

2. How would you respond to someone who says that Christian businesses should give him or her discounts as a fellow believer?

3. How have you seen pride escalate conflict? What could you or others have done better in that circumstance?
