

A Servant Heart Philippians 2:5-11

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

I love the song that our young people sing, “Lord make me a _____, make me like You.” Today, we’re going to look at a servant’s _____. God’s ways are _____, and those who follow them find _____. But, some folks face a lot of _____ all of their lives, because they refuse to listen to the _____ of God.

If you could choose to be anything in life that you _____, you might choose many things: a doctor, a lawyer, a politician, an executive, or a leader. Would you choose to be a _____? Ah, the word “slave” conjures up for us many _____ ideas: chains and labor, pain, and misery. These are not desirable things. We despise the _____ of slavery and human trafficking. It’s demeaning and wicked. No one would _____ to be a slave like that.

As many as a _____ of the population in the city of Rome were slaves in the first century, and one in five throughout the Empire. We should know two important things about slaves in the ancient world. First, in the eyes of the law a slave was not a person, but a _____. A slave was totally dependent upon his _____. A master could do absolutely anything that he liked to the slave. A slave had no _____ at all. A master could beat him, sell him, throw him out, or even kill him. Second, slaves had no _____ that they could call their own; every moment belonged to the master.

But, there is a _____ of slave that is different! This slavery demands, but it also _____ beyond measure. Paul describes himself, “Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God” (Romans 1:1). When you’re a bond-servant or slave of Jesus Christ, you _____ in the Lord. It’s only when you become enslaved to Him that you are truly _____!

Our reading today comes from the book of Philippians 2:5-11.

Our world seems to think that the _____ point in life is to be the boss, and to control what goes on around us. The rugged individualism of America calls out for self-fulfillment and _____ your own course. Many never realize that there may be Someone bigger than themselves; Someone that calls them to a life grander and nobler than living for your own _____. One in five Americans think that meaning and purpose comes from working hard to _____ as much as you possibly can and to make the most of life. Nevertheless, is this _____ there is to life?

The Lord Jesus provides a different perspective for us all; one that helps us to see what really _____ in life. In Mark 10:42-45 Jesus said to His disciples, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles _____ it over them, and their great ones exercise

authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your _____, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” In the Lord’s eyes, the greatest one must be the slave of all. He serves to please the Father and to please others. He sees something bigger than his own pleasures. We see the servant heart of Jesus when we see that He sacrificed Himself upon the _____. Because He knows what it is to serve, the Father highly _____ Him and gave Him a name that is above every name.

The apostle Paul grew up in a privileged Hebrew home and he was even schooled under the famous teacher Gamaliel, who was the highest _____ teacher in Jerusalem. Yet Paul said, “For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might _____ more of them” (1 Corinthians 9:19). Winning souls was more _____ to Paul than freedom to do as he wished. He was _____ to sacrifice himself and serve others that he might win them to the Lord Jesus.

Paul willingly gave up his _____ among the Jews in order to _____ for Christ. **Read what Paul said in Philippians 3:4-11.** Some things are bigger, nobler, and worth more than what any of us put on our resumes. This is why Paul would give it all up, and why you should consider serving the Lord.

The Scriptures speak of slavery from the earliest times. The Old Testament Law actually _____ Hebrew slaves from being abused. In fact, some people even chose to _____ as permanent slaves. **Read what the Hebrew Law said in Exodus 21:2-6.** This man found life as a Hebrew slave in this household to be _____ than life in the outside world, and he wanted to remain!

Every Christian _____ to the Lord. When we become Christians, we confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God and as _____. Remember Philippians 2:10-11, “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the _____ of the Father.” To call Jesus “Lord” recognizes that He indeed existed in the form of God; but it also recognizes His authority over my life. He’s not just Lord; He is my Lord. “Or do you not know that your body is a _____ of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were _____ with a price. So glorify God in your body” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). As Christians, we belong to the Lord Jesus body, soul, and spirit.

The Lord Jesus is our Master! He said, "No one can serve (be a slave to) _____ masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve (that is, be enslaved to) God and mammon (or money).” (Matthew 6:24). As Master of our lives, Jesus will not tolerate _____ master. If we belong to Him, Jesus must always be the undisputed master of our lives. We don’t ask, “What do ___ want?”; but rather we ask, “What does _____ wish me to do?” We serve at His pleasure in His _____. We are only _____.

A partial service to God or a faith that's "off and on" is not _____. The Lord said, "But seek _____ the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). We must live each day with God at the _____ of our hearts. Seeking His kingdom and seeking His righteousness means focusing our hearts on _____ Him as His people, doing His will.

The Lord Jesus Himself serves as the great _____ of a servant who seeks to please. The apostle Peter knew the _____ of servants in the first century. He taught them, "Servants, (you) be submissive to your masters with all _____, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly" (1 Peter 2:18-19). Then Peter points to Jesus, "For you have been called for this _____, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to _____ in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself _____ our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed" (verses 21-24).

Jesus set the example of how to bear up under _____. He didn't strike back or berate the Jews who were berating Him. Instead He entrusted Himself to the Father who judges righteously; He left things in the Father's _____. He didn't focus on the _____ of the cross, but on the importance of doing what was right and the importance of what He was doing in saving mankind: the Bible says "by His wounds you were healed." He suffered so that you could _____ to sin and live to righteousness. Jesus chose to please the Father in bringing about the salvation of every one of us, if we follow Him, even if it meant going to the cross. Jesus knew His death would mean something to the Father. He said, "He who sent Me is with Me. He has not left Me _____, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him" (John 8:29).

Read the instructions that Paul gave to those who were slaves or bondservants in Colossians 3:22-25. People should do a day's work for a day's pay and be _____ to those that they serve. When you work heartily at the job, you're "serving the Lord Christ." By being faithful to the Lord in this life, even on the job, you can trust the Lord to _____ you in the life to come. Whether a master or a slave, the Lord will reward righteousness and He'll _____ evildoing.

As Christians, we must have a servant's heart. Paul urged the Christians, "And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to _____ for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner _____ of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:9-10). If you seek to please the Lord, you must know Him and you must know what He wills. Many people _____ God but they know little about Him. It does little good to own a Bible but never open it and read it and study it. Study

your Bible and then apply the words and the teaching there to your life.

Let's never _____ Jesus is our creator, our redeemer, our Savior, and our Lord. "He is the _____ of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the _____. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent" (Colossians 1:15-18). Jesus deserves first place in everything; we are _____ without Him.

The apostle Paul _____ his determination to keep his heart and his life right with God. He said, "Do you not know that in a _____ all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may _____ it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my _____ and I keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified" (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). Paul went to great lengths not to lose out on his imperishable _____, and that's eternal life!

My friend, you too have the opportunity to _____ eternal life with God in heaven! Put on a servant's heart like Jesus, discipline yourself, and run in such a way as to _____. Don't let anything come between you and your Lord. Please Him in everything!

You choose each day whom you serve. You can serve anything that you want, if you don't _____ about consequences. You can serve yourself, your money, your lusts, our culture; but these things won't lead to _____. Only Jesus Christ can give you _____ life. Paul asked, "Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, that you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?" (Romans 6:16). Choosing to serve sin is a _____. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is _____." You will earn wages according to whom or what you choose to serve.

Paul said, "But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set _____ from sin, you've become slaves of righteousness" (Romans 6:17-18). They left their old ways of sin and obeyed the Lord from the heart, and God set them free from sin. God can also set you free from sin, if you too will obey from the heart the standard of teaching.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; believe in Him and in His _____. Repent of your sins; confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God; and be _____ into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. When you're baptized into Christ and His death, God _____ you clean from sin through the blood of Jesus. Peter clearly taught, "baptism now saves you—not the removal of _____ from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21). In baptism, we appeal to God for a good conscience; and God saves us!