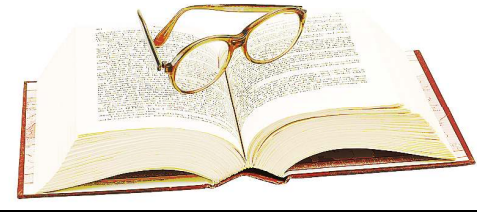


MESSAGES FROM WAYNE'S STUDY



EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free . . .

Since 1862 all Americans have been free from slavery! If you believe this statement, you had better think again. There are millions of Americans who have a bondage to plastic - they are up to their necks in debt on their credit card(s). They are in bondage to their employer, hence the license plate holder's, "I Owe, I Owe, so Off to Work I Go!" Others are in bondage to alcohol, drugs, and other things.

Jesus said, ***"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."*** Luke 16:13 (NKJV). What two masters did He have in mind? Well, Paul wrote, ***"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*** Romans 8:15-16 (NKJV)

Spurgeon preached, *"We belong from the crown of our head to the sole of our foot to Christ, or else we do not belong to Christ at all. Man,-the entire nature must be surrendered. The demand is imperative; to a proverb it shall be verified; "there shall not a hoof be left behind." Yet, further, if no power is to be unconsecrated, how much less will Christ ever permit our heart to be divided. If we seek to serve God and mammon, God and self, God and pleasure, we do not serve God at all¹*

What is Mammon? Mammon represents all the types of servitude noted above, all the things for which the world requires our servitude. But, praise God, we all have another choice. Paul chose the right one. ***"Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God."*** Romans 1:1 (also 1 Corinthians 9:19, Gal. 1:10, 1 Timothy 4:6 and others). Paul referred to himself as a "bond-servant" or "bond-slave" many times as did James, Peter, and Jude. The word is δούλος (doulos) which is defined as *"one who gives himself up wholly to another's will,"²* Another source has, *"The word involves the ideas of belonging to a master, and of service as a slave. The former is emphasized in Paul's use of the term, since Christian service, in his view, has no element of servility, but is the expression of love and of free choice"³*

There are all sorts of "servitude" in the church today, from cleaning the toilets to preaching the sermons. In Corinthians, Paul notes that not all areas are as "noticeable." Paul wrote, *No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,* 1 Corinthians 12:22-24 (NKJV), **What you do, do for the Lord!**

¹ Spurgeon, Sermon 0309 - Full Redemption 4/22/1860

² THAYER, δούλος

³ VINCENT, Romans 1:1