

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 3

Verse 1, Servants of Jesus Christ

9 May 2022

“¹ Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ.”

- Paul did not count himself as the head of the believers at Philippi. He counted himself their servant. He did not exalt himself above anyone.
 - A minister is not one who runs a church. A minister is one who serves others.
 - Specifically, a minister serves the Lord Jesus Christ by ministering to the saints first, then the bishops and deacons.
 - We belong to Jesus Christ. We were bought with a price (1 Cor 6:20), and ought to be thrilled to serve and obey the One who bought us. We owe it to the Lord.
 - Sinful men don't want God to tell them what to do; they want to be independent (Psa 3:3, Lk 19:14).
 - Paul counted it an honor to be a servant of the Lord. God's Old Testament prophets were called God's servants (**Jeremiah 7:25, Amos 3:7**). God called Moses, Joshua, and David His servants (Exodus 14:31, 2 Samuel 7:5, Judges 2:8).
 - Being a servant of God is honorable; it is a high calling.
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JESUS' EXAMPLE AS A SERVANT

Php 2:7 “But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant.”

Php 2:9 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him.”

- Jesus humbled Himself and God exalted Him.
 - We are instructed to humble ourselves that God may exalt us (James 4:10, 1 Pet 5:6).
 - This goes against the world's philosophy of exalting and boasting about yourself.
 - Paul was joyful being a servant of the Lord, knowing that the Lord would exalt him.
 - We need to focus on meeting the needs of others and quit looking for others to meet our needs. Serving others will help you to find joy in life.
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THE OLD TESTAMENT SERVANT

Exod 21:1-6 The servant who loved his master and chose to serve him for life, would mark himself so everyone would know that he was a servant by choice.

- The apostle Paul said, **“for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.”**
 - The Lord bought you and set you free. It's up to you to choose to serve Him or not. Philippians outlines the servant who rejoices to serve the Lord.

2 Sam 15:15 The king's servants were ready to do whatsoever their king appointed them.

- That ought to be our heart's desire as servants of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Paul did not delay becoming the Lord's servant when he got saved (Acts 9:6).
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Luke 22:24-27 Jesus' disciples argued about who would be the greatest. Contention comes from pride (Prov 13:10). Jesus rebuked that behavior and taught them that the greatest would be the one who serves. No one is greater than Jesus, and He serves us.

2 Pet 2:18-19 People who walk after the flesh are going to try to convince you that you're missing out on the good life by serving Jesus. They don't realize that they are the ones who are missing out because they are in bondage.