

**Title:** Sons of Heaven and Slaves on Earth

**Passage:** 1 Timothy 6:1-2

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Draft Summary:

I. Honor your boss or slander your God. (v.1)

II. If your boss is a believer, honor him more (v.2)

III. Your work is sacred.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
  - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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**Passage:**

1 Timothy 6:1–2 (LSB)

“All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be slandered. But those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brothers, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.”

## **EXPOSITION**

### **Introduction**

“Slave”

- Term in the Bible pointed not to early American term of slavery but rather a person under obligation to another that was respected.
- Old Testament examples
  - Abraham was going to name his “slave” an heir
- New Testament examples
  - Jesus used the term in His parables.
  - “Slaves of righteousness”

1 Corinthians 7:20

Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called.

- in whatever place we are, we are to live for God’s glory.

Galatians 5:13

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

1 Peter 2:16-21

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

## **Overview**

- I. Honor your boss or slander your God. (v.1)
- II. If your boss is a believer, honor him more (v.2)
- III. Your work is sacred.

## **I. HONOR YOUR BOSS OR SLANDER YOUR GOD**

1 Timothy 6:1 (LSB)

All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be slandered.

Who:

### ***All who are under the yoke as slaves***

- The implications here are that some of the church elders were “slaves” themselves.

*Under the yoke*

- Meaning = under the direction or rule of another person
- As Christians, all are under a yoke:

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

- Jesus’ yoke is light.

1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Command:

### ***are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor***

- What we are to think.
  - Why? What we think leads to what we believe and what we will do.
- regard their own masters

- Intimate and relational to you
  - God cares about relationships more than you do.

Ephesians 6:5-8, 10

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free....Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

- How many opportunities and blessings do we forfeit and miss when we fail to be strong in God and think/do/live as He calls us?

***so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be slandered.***

God's name becoming famous:

Acts 19

- Read what happened in Ephesus when Paul went there.

Acts 19:8-10

And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 19:11-12

And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

Acts 19:18-20

Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

- To this audience, Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus. So much had occurred. Paul wrote especially to the slaves: they were to live for God's glory so that "our doctrine will not be slandered. "

## **II. IF YOUR BOSS IS A BELIEVER, HONOR HIM MORE (v.2)**

1 Timothy 6:2 (LSB)

But those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brothers, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- misinterpretation: using equality to reject the unique roles, responsibilities, and conditions they were in.

Galatians 5:13

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

- Whatever place we have, we are to love - we are to love as slaves / servants.

Mark 10:43-45

But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 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."

- Jesus example and calling.

"Son of Man"

- clear reference to the Messiah, the Anointed One
- Yet what was He to do? To serve
  - If the Anointed One is to serve, how much more are we also to follow His example!

### **III. YOUR WORK IS SACRED**

1 Timothy 6:2b

Teach and exhort these things.

God made us to work.

Genesis 1:26-31

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and

every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:5-15

When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

## **APPLICATION**

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.