

September 29, 2013

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

1 Timothy 6:1-2

“Ministry in the Marketplace” or “No Walkie, No Talkie”

- I. The Prologue (1:1-20)
- II. The Body (2:1-6:19)
 - A. Paul’s Instruction concerning Conduct in the Church (2:1-3:16)
 - B. Paul’s Instruction to Timothy concerning His Personal Ministry (4:1-6:19)
 - 1. Timothy’s Attention to Himself and His Teaching (4:1-16)
 - 2. Timothy’s Relationships with Groups in the Church (5:1-25)
 - 3. Paul’s Final Instruction to Timothy (6:1-19)
 - a. Timothy’s Instruction to Slaves (6:1-2)

1) Honor Your Non-Christian Master – v. 1

2) Honor Your Christian Master – v. 2

Discussion Questions:

1. What comes to your mind when you think of slavery? How do those thoughts impact your understanding of biblical texts on slavery? What was slavery like in the Old Testament? New Testament? First century Rome?
2. The word “slave” is sometimes translated “servant” or “bond-servant,” but it means slave. Look up the following verses and discuss what you can learn from them about slavery: Phil. 2:7; 1 Pet. 2:16; Rom. 1:1; Gal. 1:10; 5:13; 2 Tim. 2:24; James 1:1. [See also Philemon & 1 Cor. 7:21-24 re: being set free from being a slave]
3. What does it mean to be “under the yoke”? What was a “yoke” used for in that day? How does this relate to our jobs / workplace today?
4. How can a slave (employee) regard their non-Christian master (employer) as worthy of all honor? What would this look like day-to-day on the job? What would they do? What would they not do? How can you apply that to your job?
5. What is Paul’s main concern in v. 1? What happens when a professing Christian doesn’t honor their master / employer at work? Why does this have a negative impact on God and the Gospel? What are you doing at work to make sure you are a positive witness for Christ?
6. Why would a Christian slave (employee) be disrespectful to a Christian master (employer)? What ideas / thoughts would lead to that kind of behavior? Why is this wrong?
7. Does the fact that we are “one” in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:28) mean that we don’t have different earthly positions? Does Gal. 3:28 mean that there are no longer slaves and free men? What is the point of Gal. 3:28?
8. Why should we work hard for a Christian master (employer)? How specifically does that benefit the master? How does it benefit the slave? How does it benefit the name of God and the Gospel?
9. What happens to your Christian “testimony” when you spend most of your day talking to people about Jesus instead of working? Is there a better way to share the gospel at work?
10. What is your reputation in the workplace? Are you working hard with a great attitude? Are you committed to helping your employer succeed? Do people there know that you are a Christian and that is why you are motivated to work so hard? If not, why not? What will you do this week to have a more profound testimony by the way you work?