

1 Timothy 6:1,2
Instructions to Timothy
Fight, Keep Fighting, Finish!

To Serve Even Better!



So far we have seen Paul expounding, on a wide variety of important issues to his young pastor/friend, Timothy! Included are warnings against false teachers, disunity/disputes in the church, decorum for Christ-following women, and the qualifying characteristics of those in church leadership. As well, Timothy was to be diligent in his pastoral duties, but not to the neglect of his own needs. He was to take care of the people in dire need, namely some of the widows in the church. Finally, in chapter 6 we see instructions regarding slaves! The world's economic stability depended upon slavery, which meant that slaves depended upon it also! It was an unjust, often brutal societal staple, but in the thinking of the peoples of that time, it was a natural societal condition! No one questioned it. It was just the way it was!



Paul - Christ-followers are in the business of promoting and selling Jesus! Jesus can cure society one convert at a time! Revolt would not promote Christ! Rejected by society, Christians were not in position to make changes to it. Slaves obviously did not like being slaves, but even most slaves preferred slavery to abject hunger and homelessness. But even with decent owners, there was little hope in the life of the slave/servant! Perhaps they could work their way up to being in charge of other slaves and gaining more status, freedom, and material reward. But it was still a hopeless position to be in. Instinctively, we want to be in charge of our own lives. At it's most basic level it is just part of being an adult! It only becomes harmful and evil when we use our freedom to choose to do evil!



We are all slaves! Even those that are free choose a master! Those who follow the world's system which opposes God, are slaves to themselves. Even in their approach to their own world view – there is virtually no escape from these things for most people. People will not listen to **anything** that conflicts with the point of view that they already hold to. It is a very human trait to believe only what we **want to** believe, even if there exist obvious and valid points to the contrary. Jesus mentioned a number of times those that had “**eyes to see, and ears to hear, let them hear**” because He was continually coming up against those who had closed their minds to what He was saying and what He was doing! They could deny their own experience – and did!



Slavery/servanthood to Christ has hope at its very core! Therefore, Paul's contention is that not matter what, we are slaves or servants of Christ! In fact, we so love and admire our master that we have made ourselves bond-servants/slaves! **[Ex. 21:5,6]**



OLD TESTAMENT - Abraham - Genesis 26:24; **Joshua** – Josh. 24:29; **David** – 2 Samuel 7:5; **Isaiah** – Isa. 20:3; all a “servant” of God.

NEW TESTAMENT - Paul – Romans 1:1; **Timothy** – 1 Tim. 1:1; **James** - James 1:1; **Peter** - 2 Pet. 1:1; and **Jude** - Jude 1:1, all being described or describing themselves as servants/“bondservants of Christ”.

David, in particular, revealed that while estranged from God, he could be as deceitful, impulsive, willful, vengeful, lustful, or even as murderous as the next guy! The same applies to us, and we must not forget it! When we wander from the Lord we fail and aren't good at much of anything that matters! So we keep ourselves “under” Christ! **[1 Cor. 7:22; Eph. 6:6; 2 Timothy 2:24]**