

BONDSERVANT

Philippians 1:1-11 - Part 2

BONDSERVANT

Paul and Timothy, BOND-SERVANTS of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons (Phil. 1:1).



Summary of Part I

Last week we noted that Paul called he and Timothy “bondservants.” We also noted that all believers in Christ are called bondservants. And we saw that Jesus himself took the form of a bondservant. This term in the Greek language is *doulos*.

Greek meaning of *doulos*

NT Greek scholar Spiros Zodhiates states that ...

doulos is “A slave, one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another, his will being altogether consumed in the will of the other (Matt. 8:9; 20:27; 24:45, 46). Generally, one serving, bound to serve, in bondage” (Rom. 6:16, 17).

We learned that theologically that means...

Every believer is purchased from the “slave market” of sin. Paul writes, “¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body (1 Cor. 6:19). How? We “give our bodies as a ‘living sacrifice.’” We voluntarily serve (*doulos*) God with our lives! (Rom. 12:1-2)

Bondservant Duties #1, #2, #3
Greeting, Gratitude, Prayer for the Brethren (1:2-4)

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I (constantly) thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,

Bondservant Duties #1, #2, #3

Greeting, Gratitude, Prayer for the Brethren (1:2-4)

1. Do we warmly greet other believers when we see them? (Handshake, How are you?)
2. Are we grateful to God for other believers?
3. Do we pray for one another? Not just when we are ill, but for other things? When we remember each other, do we pray for each other? Do we pray for each other with joy?

Bondservant Duties #4:

Participation in the gospel (1:5-6)

⁵ in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day [salvation] until now [presently].

⁶ *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it [devoid of sin nature] until the day of Christ Jesus [Jesus' return for His church; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rom. 8:28-30].

Bondservant Duties #4: Participation in the gospel (1:5-6)

TDNT (*Koinos*) “means mutual sharing together with mutual activity and mutual benefit in a close bond.” It is partnership with God and with other believers that the gospel makes possible. It also involves participation in getting the gospel to people.

Who began the good work? What is the good work?

1. “the beginning” of their participation in the gospel would have been their conversion (salvation). V.5
2. The “He” refers back to “God” in v. 3. Only God can begin a truly “good” work in us. That “good work” is the process of saving us “or making us holy” ultimately, totally and completely.
3. The result will be total redemption or glorification.

He will perfect until the Day of Christ

“HE WILL perfect it!” Note it does not say WE will perfect it! Once we put faith in Christ, God start a work in us that He never stops. “The day of Christ Jesus” is the day that Christ returns for His Church (the rapture).

ALWAYS FIND COMFORT and HOPE in the fact that...

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Bondservant Duties #5:
Love for fellow believers (1:7-9)

⁷ For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,

Bondservant Duties #5:
Love for fellow believers (1:7-9)

“Love one another” commanded 13 times in the NT. In Romans 12:10 Paul writes, “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love, ... Honor one another above yourself. He also writes, “Make your love increase and overflow for each other” (1 Thess. 3:12). Peter states, “Love one another deeply from the heart” (1 Pet. 3:8). Paul will tell us more about what “love” is to look like later.

Bondservant Duties #6: Walking blamelessly (1:10-11)

[9b your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment] ¹⁰ so that you may approve [discern (the) worthiness of] the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; ¹¹ having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Knowledgeable and Discerning LOVE

1. We will discern the worthiness of the excellent things God has for us.
2. We will live blamelessly before God.
3. Our character will abound in the fruit of righteousness [love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control]
4. Our lives will bring glory and praise to God before the watching world.

“Bondservant” Part 2
Philippians 1:1-11
Reflection Guide

1. Why do you think Paul referred to him and Timothy as “bondservants”?
2. Does the Bible refer to all believers as bondservants (Gr. *doulos*)?
3. The Greek word *doulos* means “A slave, one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another, his will being altogether consumed in the will of the other (Matt. 8:9; 20:27; 24:45, 46). Generally, one serving, bound to serve, in bondage” (Rom. 6:16, 17). Is that the way you view your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? And if so, what does that look like practically speaking in day-to-day activity?
4. The Bible indicates we are either “lost in our trespasses and sins” which means we are slaves to our sin nature, or our body is a temple of God the Holy Spirit who lives in us. As a result, we do not own ourselves anymore, but God does. He bought us with the life of His Son. So, God urges us to glorify God in our bodies (1 Cor. 6:19-20). What does that look like?

What does it mean to be a “bondservant” in our present culture?

1. Do we warmly greet other believers when we see them? (Handshake, How are you?)
2. Are we grateful to God for other believers?
3. Do we pray for one another? Not just when we are ill, but for other things. When we remember each other, do we pray for each other? Do we pray for each other with joy?
4. What does it mean to “participate” in the gospel?
5. Can we be sure when we put our faith in Christ, that we will make it to heaven?
6. Paul states, “Make your love increase and overflow for each other” (1 Thess. 3:12). Peter states, “Love one another deeply from the heart” (1 Pet. 3:8). Is love different for different kinds of relationships? (spouse, children, friends, extended family, colleagues, church, etc.).
7. Explain in your own words 1:9-11 starting with “your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment] ¹⁰ so that...