

Godliness in God's eyes. We can be slaves or servants of the devil if we conform to the world; to be like the world in the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. **Romans 12:2** *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.* **John 2:15-16** *15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world.* A slave or a servant of the devil will not obey the teachings of Jesus and will not lead life in a way that is pleasing to God. A servant of the devil will live life to the fullest that the world has to offer; with no after thought as to where their soul will spend eternity. By their actions, those around you will know whose servant you are. **Matthew 7:15-20** *15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs*

from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them. To be a servant of God, you have to let your life be completely under God's control. You have to let God direct your life in such a way, that your heart is receptive and submissive to God's will. As God's servant, you will prepare your heart, seek God's law, practice it, and then teach it to others. **Ezra 7:10** *10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.* The question is, "Whose servant are you?" Are you a servant of God or the devil? It's your choice. **Joshua 24:15** *15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*

By Bill Davis

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Olsen Park Church of Christ

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez

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Whose Servant Are You?

Romans 6:16-23 *16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you must become slaves to obey, whether you are slaves of sin which leads to death, or slaves of righteousness which leads to life? 17 But thank God that you were slaves of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And you have been set free from sin, yet you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness,*

so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Do any of us ever stop to think that we are servants to anybody; an organization, or a job? A lot of people

that I talk to will tell me that they are their "own man" and they live their lives as they see fit. They serve no man. This type of talk sounds good, but it is not always that way. If you think about it, all of us are servants to someone or to some organization, such as the government or our place of employment. All of us, from the day we are born, to the day we die, will have to serve somebody. As children, we have to serve our parents. We have to be obedient towards them and must honor them all of our lives, for this is fitting to the Lord. When we become adults, we must serve our employer in a way that pleases him concerning our jobs. We have to be on time, do our job as we are told, and make the company we work for profitable so that they can stay in business. As citizens of this great country, we have to serve those who are in positions of authority. We must serve the laws of the country or we will have to pay the price; be it a fine or possible incarceration. As Christians, we are to obey the laws of the land as long as the laws do not make us sin before God. We need to take advantage of the opportunity to be part of the political process by voting in the upcoming elections. God expects us to exercise wisdom in voting for the most qualified person whose morals are those of a Godly man. It seems hard at times, but we must seek to put those in office who will be more likely to uphold God's moral standards. The person we put in office might influence the laws which are made in this

country. These are the laws that we will have to obey as citizens. **Romans 13:1-7** *1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. 5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.* Not only are we servants to the laws of the country, but we are also servants to whom we choose to serve. We will make a choice as to whether we serve God or the devil. As Christians, we are to be servants to only God Almighty. We should serve God with all our hearts, souls, and minds. We should be ready to serve God to our full capacity with a willing heart. We should also be willing to serve those who cannot help themselves,

and always willing to extend our hand to help those in need; in other words, step out of our comfort zone. Before we can have the servant's heart of humility, giving and caring for others, we must first give our hearts and ourselves to God as His servants. The Greek word "doulos" (doo-los) means "a slave". In Romans 1, Paul called himself a servant of the Lord; *doulos*. In Paul's day, a slave was one who had very little rights as a human being. Usually, a slave was one who was conquered by the Roman army and sold to the highest bidder. Paul made a choice to be a slave, or servant, of God; to serve God fully. Paul turned his life over completely to God for God to have total control over his life. **1 Corinthians 9:26-27** *26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.* Paul gave all he had to God in preaching to the Gentiles the saving grace that came about from Christ dying on the cross. Paul was beaten by his own countrymen and faced many dangers from the Jews and the wilderness as he went about to preach the Word to a world lost in sin. **2 Corinthians 11:22-29** *22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. 23 Are they servants of Christ? I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more*

frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? Paul gave his life to God for the preaching of the gospel to all who were lost in sin. When we were baptized into the Lord, did we give our lives over to Him as a slave, where God had absolute control over our whole being? When we became Christians, did we have a servant attitude toward God? Have we tried to please Him in everything we do? Do we please God by our conduct, mannerism, speech, and willingness to teach those who are lost in sin? Or, are we servants to the devil in the way we live? A person can be a slave to the devil by doing nothing; idleness is not