WE ARE BONDSERVANTS OF JESUS CHRIST. Sunday, January 15th, 2023 Audie Clairmont

Colossians 3:22-4:1-NIV

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

Col 3:24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Col 3:25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

Col 4:1 Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Slave – *doulos* – *doo-los* - a slave, bondman, servant; a man of submission. Devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests.

1. The Key of being free from the slavery of sin, addictions, and other things that put people in bondage is by a <u>transformation of the heart</u> through Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:2-Passion

Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but <u>be inwardly</u> <u>transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think.</u> This will empower you to discern God's will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in his eyes.

2. Jesus has called us to serve Him, and to <u>serve one another out of love</u> for our Lord and Savior.

Mark 10:44 he says that: whoever wants to be first <u>must be the slave of all.</u>

Passion - The path to promotion and prominence comes by <u>having the heart of a</u> <u>bond-slave who serves everyone.</u>

Bondservant/slave - A work performed or made for another out of obligation, requirement, or gratitude. (to obey). Service (of God).

Galatians 3:28-KJV

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither <u>bond</u> nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

3. We need to offer our bodies as <u>living sacrifices</u>, holy...as vessels of honor, not slaves to <u>unrighteousness</u>, but slaves to <u>righteousness</u>.

Romans 6:11-14

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but <u>rather</u> <u>offer yourselves to God</u> as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans.12:1-Passion

Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvelous mercies? I encourage you <u>to surrender vourselves to God</u> to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship.

4. We need to serve with our <u>whole hearts</u>, those we work for, as <u>working for the Lord.</u>

Ephesians 6:5-9-Passion

5 Those who are employed should listen to their employers and obey their instructions with great respect and honor. Serve them with humility in your hearts as though you were working for the Master.

6 Always do what is right and not only when others are watching, so that you may please Christ as his servants by doing his will.

7 Serve your employers wholeheartedly and with love, as though you were serving Christ and not men.

8 Be assured that anything you do that is beautiful and excellent will be repaid by our Lord, whether you are an employee or an employer.