

# *SLAVERY: Both Horrible and Wonderful*

*1 Corinthians 6:9-20*

Paul, Peter, and John all considered themselves as slaves or bond-slaves [*doulos*] of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:1; Tit. 1:1; 2 Pet. 1:1; Rev. 1:1). They recognized that they were ***bought by blood and bound by love***. James and Jude could have each proudly introduced themselves as the brother of Jesus (sharing the same mother), but instead they each humbly referred to themselves as the Lord's slave (James 1:1; Jude 1:1). Due to man's sinfulness, slavery was a horrible institution in the days of Christ. Some slaves were treated worse than animals. Paul commanded believing slave owners to treat their slaves fairly and kindly, knowing that they had a Master in heaven before whom they were accountable (Col. 4:1; Eph. 6:9).

A slave owned nothing; ***rather he was owned***. All that he had belonged to his master. Likewise, the living God possesses us and lives within us, and ***we are not our own*** (1 Cor. 6:19). All that we have belongs to our Heavenly Master and we are to be good stewards of all that He has entrusted to us. We have been purchased from the slave market of sin and bought with a tremendous price (1 Cor. 6:20).

A slave cannot do what he wants to do. He is subject to the will and wishes of his master. He has no schedule of his own; his day is planned and ordered by the one who owns him. Even so as believers we should take pleasure in doing the will of our Heavenly Master: "I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8). Consider Paul's first words as a believer: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" Each day belongs to Christ: "Lord, order my steps in Thy word" (Psalm 119:133).

"There is joy in serving Jesus!" "Oh Master, let me walk with Thee!"  
***Wonderful slavery!***

George Zeller, [www.middletownbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletownbiblechurch.org)

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