



A Great

Part 17

SALVATION

Our New Identity Pt. 2

Various Verses

We have covered: the Gospel, Redemption, Peace and Hope, *Positional*, our *Eternal Security* in Christ, *Deliverance*, the *Image of God*, being *Reconciled and Purified*, *Ambassadors* and *5 Aspects of Salvation*, having *Victory in Jesus* and last time we looked at *various aspects of our New Identity in Christ*. We are a *new creation in Christ*, and have a **new identity in Christ**.

A. What is a Slave?

Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary says a slave was, "a person bound in servitude to another human being as an instrument of labor; one who is no longer free and has no rights." In the Old Testament, if a *master freed his slave*, that slave could keep serving his master out of **love**, expressed by piercing his ear: ***Exodus 21:5-6***.

A. What is a Slave?

A slave was the **property** of his master and the master could do anything to that slave. They could be very expensive, in the thousands of dollars or more by our standards...

A. What is a Slave?

There was a group called ***Freedmen*** or former slaves with certain rights under Roman law. They had a relationship with their former master, or ***patron***. This *patron* of the *freed slave* or *client*, was like a **guardian**. The *patron* *protected* and *provided* for the former slave...

A. What is a Slave?

1 Corinthians 7:20-23 - Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. 21Were you a **bondservant** (*doulos - slave*) when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) 22For he who was called in the Lord as a **bondservant** (*doulos - slave*) is a freedman of the Lord.

A. What is a Slave?

Likewise he who was free when called is a **bondservant** (*doulos - slave*) of Christ. 23You were bought with a price; do not become **bondservants** (*douloi - slaves*) of men.

B. Being a Slave

1. What did a slave own?

Slaves owned **nothing**, but the *Freedmen* could own land and more. As a slave, you had **nothing** that was yours. Even your spouse and children could be taken away by your master at times. This may be foreign to us, but this was **life during Biblical times** for a slave...

B. Being a Slave

2. What was a slaves purpose?

The word "**doulos**" or **slave** occurs **124 times** in Greek (*Slave*, p. 15). The *Holman Treasury of Key Bible Words* reads, "The Greek word *doulos* means "**bond-slave**" - literally "one tied to another," or *one subject to the will of his or her master*. Other words used are *servant* or *bond-servant*.

B. Being a Slave

2. What was a slaves purpose?

According to the *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, "**doulos**" always emphasizes, "serving as a **slave**... not a matter of choice... [but] he has to perform [if] he likes it or not, because he is subject to an alien will, to **the will of his owner**. [The term stresses] the slave's *dependence* on his lord (*Slave*, p. 16)."

B. Being a Slave

2. What was a slaves purpose?

The *Holman Treasury* states, "To express their complete submission to Jesus Christ, Paul, James, Peter, and Jude declared that they were **"bond-slaves"** of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:1; Gal. 1:10; James 1:1; 1 and 2 Pet. 1:1; Jude 1).

B. Being a Slave

2. What was a slaves purpose?

“Bond-slave” expresses the apostles’ **absolute subjection** and **devotion** to the Lord Jesus. In the New Testament, **all the believers** are pictured as being Jesus’ bond-slaves because they all accept His **lordship** (1 Pet. 2:16; Rev. 1:1).”

B. Being a Slave

2. What was a slaves purpose?

The *purpose of a slave was to obey their master...*

There were *2 categories of slaves* in the first century. An "*outside*" slave worked outside the household. The "*inside*" slave worked with the family in a household. *These slaves*

B. Being a Slave

2. What was a slaves purpose?

were **honored** more and had a greater *potential* for freedom. There was **protection** and **provision** as a slave. The more respect their *master* had in society, the more respect the slave had because of their relationship to their master (*Slave*, p. 25-27)...

B. Being a Slave

2. What was a slaves purpose?

Their ***identity as a nation*** was as the Lord's slaves (*Slave*, p. 31-33). So, when the *Apostles used the imagery of slavery*, they were aware of Israel's history and slavery in the Roman Empire. Yet, they used this **picture** for the Christian life.

C. Being Slave's of Christ

1. Exclusive Ownership

Titus 2:14 says we are ...*a people for His own possession*. Remember, slaves could be given new names by their masters... *Revelation 22:4* states in eternity, believers will have His Name on their foreheads. This was like a seal and having His **Name** on you signified you were **owned** by Him, *bought with a price*.

C. Being Slave's of Christ

2. Complete Submission

A slave was ***always*** available for his master in every way. The slave was willing to **do** what the master said, **when** the master said it and **the way** the master wanted it done. The slave was to do it ***without hesitation*** and ***without complaining***. We are to obey Christ...

C. Being Slave's of Christ

3. Singular Devotion

A slave had a singular devotion to his/her master. There was *no one else* the slave was committed to in every way. Whether it was *out of love or duty*, a slave served only the master. We serve Christ and **Him alone**. We *cannot serve 2 masters...*

C. Being Slave's of Christ

4. Total Dependence

The master provided **all** the needs of life: *food, clothing, shelter and protection. Our Master* knows our *needs* - food, drink, clothing and shelter, and promised to provide them - *Philippians 4:19*. A slave was **totally dependent** on their master for all things. We are **dependent** on our Master for all things...

C. Being Slave's of Christ

5. Personal Accountability

The first century slave was **accountable** for all things done and said. *The master's evaluation of the slave and his work was all that mattered.* If the master was **pleased**, he/she could be freed. If the master was **displeased**, the slave could be *severely punished or killed (Slave, p. 51)...*

C. Being Slave's of Christ

Paul and others *knew they were sons of God*, adopted into His family with all the benefits. They knew they were *once* slaves to sin but *now* slaves of God in Christ...

In their **position**, they were sons. In their **gratitude** for *being sons*, they saw themselves and lived as **His slaves**! Out of gratitude to God, we must *see ourselves* as slaves of Christ! *We must seek to please Him.*

Applications:

1. *Slavery to Christ brings freedom.*
2. *Slavery ends prejudice.*
3. *Slavery magnifies grace.*
4. *Slavery pictures salvation.*