

Ephesians 6: 5-9 Slavery In The New Testament Days PART 2

10/23/2022

READ Ephesians 6: 5-9/ Colossians 3:22- 4:1

Intro: While Israel, as an autonomous nation, enjoyed a great advance in relationship to slavery, no such controls existed in the Romans empire. The Roman empire was not the theocracy of Israel.

“Hold me, lest I flee, and return me to my master Viuentius on the estate of Callistus”

An inscribed collar for a runaway Roman slave- 2.2 inches around- 4th century AD

After Constantine (315 AD) the practice of tattooing the forehead of a runaway slave was forbidden.

It is estimated that about 10% to 20% of the Roman population were slaves.

Ephesus had a large slave market

Christians of the 1st century had no power to change the political scene in regards to slavery. However the principles of the Word of God helped to set things right over time.

People were not enslaved because of the color of their skin, but because they were vulnerable to being controlled by others.

Many ways to be forced into slavery in the Romans empire and long after the Roman empire.

* Children born into slavery

* People captured in war

*Individuals who were sold into slavery of self-sold

*Abandoned infants

*Children sold by parents

*Debt enslavement

*Punishment for crimes

*Victims of kidnapping

Under Roman law, enslaved people had no personal rights and were regarded as the property of their masters. They could be bought, sold, and mistreated at will and were unable to own property, enter into a contract, or legally marry. There were provisions for being set free from slavery. (Manumissions)

New Testament principles that undercut slavery:

1. ~~The equality of all men before God Galatians 3:26-29~~
2. A common Christian brotherhood Philippians 2:1-5
3. All submissions functional and not about intrinsic worth Ephesians 6:21/ 1 Peter 3: 7-9
4. The Lordship of Christ to which every other Lordship is subordinate. Philippians 2:5-11/ Acts
5. ~~We do every service, "as to the Lord," which would irritate a slave owner, or the government.~~
6. ~~No matter what the conditions, nothing well done is ever done in vain. God sees the attitude of heart and gives eternal rewards for that service.~~
7. God is no respecter of persons. Who you are and where you come from does not matter to Him. Acts 10: 28, 34-35 Galatians 2:6-9

Freedom is serving one Master; who is also your creator; who is also your redeemer (who bought you out of the slave market of sin and set you free to serve Him), who humbled Himself, below His servants, in a death for them on the cross.

READ: 1 Timothy 6: 1-2/ 1 Peter 2: 18-25/ Titus 2: 9-10/ 1 Corinthians 7: 21-23

