

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

So i don't know if you Uh, grabbed. An outline or not. I was late and putting them out. Or putting them back out by just put the ones from last week back out.

We are still an Exodus 21 verse one, through 11. Uh, thinking about god's provision for his people and material things. And how the The nature of belonging to him his value on the family, his value on his own grace and love. Uh, being displayed. Amongst his people who are to be holy as he is.

Holy And one of the great displays of his holiness and glory, Is in his love, and mercy, and grace to us. And therefore, Uh, one of the great displays of his holiness and his people. Is their love and grace and mercy to one another. And therefore, Uh, the wanting that continues the The lack and material things.

That continues in a creation that is bound to corruption and decay and even among a covenant people who are guaranteed 20 if they were faithful. And yet we're also told with no uncertainty, that they would always have poor among them because they would never be faithful. Uh, the lord would give them in.

Uh, the lack of resources. Opportunities in how that is addressed. Uh, to show love to one, another to display, the holiness of god in their culture. And, And to cause praise and thanksgiving. To abound to him. Uh, so with that in mind, let's come back in. I'll read the whole passage again.

Although we are intending. Primarily to take versus seven through 11 and hopefully move on. Uh, to Deuteronomy 15. Now, these are the judgments which usual set before them. If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years and then the seventh he shall give out free and pay nothing.

If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself. If he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. If his master has given him a wife and she is born him sons or daughters the wife, and her children shall be her master's and he shall go out by himself.

But if the servant plainly says, i love my master, my wife and my children, i will not go out free. Than his master. Shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierces, his ear with an all, and he shall serve him forever.

And if a man sells his daughter to be a female slave, she shall not go out. As the male slaves do. If she does not please her master who has betrothed her to himself. Then he shall let her be redeemed. He shall have no right to tell her. To a foreign people since he has to sell dealt deceitfully with her.

And if he has the truth her to his son, He shall deal with her according to the custom of daughters. If you take some other wife, he shall not diminish. Her food her clothing and her marriage rights. If he does not do these three for her, then she shall go out free.

Without paying money. And so far, the reading of god's word realizes i was reading it. That Both for our own catching back up to verse 7. And for any who might not have been here last week, we should try to recap in brief and that's always dangerous to try to do in brief, but we try to recap and breathe versus one through six and One of the main points here, is that Often when people from our age.

And our set. And by that, we mean ourselves, when we come to a passage like this, Especially much more infected. By evolutionary theory and critical theory. Than even we who are aware of what it is and what it teaches. Basically. Of the whole world has been groveling and darkness until we arrived.

And we are the best that there has ever been. And we are the wisest and the most good. And everything from prior cultures, right, up until yesterday. And especially our parents Our fools and wicked and we are going to show them by fixing the whole world that is the mindset of our culture.

That is the mindset of those. Uh, who have gone to public school? Up through 12th grade or after having been educated somewhat safely. But perhaps not being disciplined, our scent over sent to university, to become woke idiots. Who hate god and hate truth and hate righteousness. Um, But we When we read Exodus 21 one through 11.

And our first thought is, I can't believe god would say that he said love marriage more. We never say that about god who say moses or exodus. But we know That no man's spoke, no profit spoke of his own, but men spoke from god as they were carried, along by the holy spirit.

And we don't even allow ourselves. The conscious idea that it is god about who we are saying that. But when we come to the text, and it's unfamiliar, and it's giving us instructions, that say, things like the, the wife and the children. The white ethan master gives him a wife for the wife, and the children belong to the master and if he goes out, he has to leave them behind.

We say, oh that's horrible and we don't think through it like we thought through it together last week that how if the man is married already when he goes in his wife and his children come out with him if he's not married already when he goes in he's about to lose seven years of his life.

And he has a choice even when he's a slave whether or not he's going to take that wife and so he's already calculating at the at the point where his master is seeking for him. A wife. Uh, All right, as my master, the kind of master that i want to be with for the rest of my life.

Is this woman that he has Obtained for me, is she the a woman that i would like to have as wife for the rest of my life under this master? Or is it worth it? Just putting everything on hold for me for a few years until i have my liberty and then obtaining a wife and starting my family.

At that point. And so even before you sell yourself into slavery, uh, you have a choice over to whom you sell yourself and you would seek godly masters. You were especially seek. If you're a young unmarried man who hasn't done? Well, finding a wife for himself for your daddy.

He hasn't, uh, and done. Well, helping you do that or whatever. If the, if the master to whom, you're going to sell yourself as a track record of having obtained. Good wives for young men slaves and they're have been a bunch of ear. Ear piercing ceremonies at that, master's house.

Then you pick him over someone else. And and so the lord is actually fostering, not just Identifying those with whom you want to live as part of their household at least for seven years and possibly. If things go as you had hoped they would things don't always go as you hope

they would, when you take a job or when you Or when you take a calling, or But if they go, as you had hoped, they would and then a wife is proposed.

And, And it all lines up. This is actually a society that Surprises, love between master and slave. And goodness to one another. And if you are the Yeah, such as type of massive master does not, does not want necessarily to provide you a wife, if you're not a good slave, right?

Uh he wants to be done with you after the seven-year contract and if he provides you a good wife, he might be stuck with your ear pierced to his At the doorpost. And now he's got you and your wife and your children who are bearing reared by you, who are not a good worker to begin with.

So there's a lot of a lot of factors going on and the Lord actually wants love between master and slave love in the household diligent service from servant to master the prizing of marriage than not putting it off for an extra seven years. It wouldn't just shrug their shoulders at that like our culture, that does not prize marriage and does not prize childbearing, and his continuously, putting those things off, Uh, Yeah.

And and so, when we come and we read A passage like these 11 verses. In the arrogance of saying, oh, i can't believe you would sell his daughter. Um, then First of all, we are missing. Our context, we are missing the bible's context. And we are doing so because we are coming to the word of god in arrogance.

And the strangeness of the procedure rubs us the wrong way. And we ought to be humiliated that it does and thankful to god that he exposes us. Um, well you're not going to spend more time. On versus one through six, that was. Well. If you spent 30 minutes on it before, eight minutes is brief.

So we come into verse 7, and if a man sells his daughter to be a female slave, she shall not go out. Just the male slaves do Uh, this is actually. To some extent, how god saved joseph's life. Uh, you remember Joseph was going to be murdered by his brothers.

And they. Uh, without Ribbon who was hoping to sneak him back home. Um, Yeah, i think it was ruin, was it Jude already at that time? They? They saw the midianite traders and they said, you know, life expectancy Of the average slave sold into egypt is measured in weeks, not months.

They mostly end up being field slaves and the egyptians think it's cheaper. And we actually know this from contemporary history. We're not just reading them into the text, the egyptians considered its cheaper to buy new slaves than to Feed and and take care of well and especially once they got ill or injured, To attend to their field slaves.

So they thought they were murdering Joseph by selling him to the midianites. But god made Joseph, not to be a field slave. He made him to be purchased first of all by As far as egyptians go, a fairly upright man. And then he made him a house slave and he ascended very quickly by his faithfulness to be over the entire house.

Uh, so when this is already saying, if a daughter is sold in to slavery, she is not to be treated like the men. She is a daughter, not a son. She is a woman, not a man, and she is not to be made a field slave. She is not to be put To hard labor.

She shall not go out. Um yeah, she's not from the 20th or the 20th first century saying, you know, all the things that men can do women should do and to do better. Uh, no. She is among the people of god in which daughters are prized and Have a role that god has blessed them

with And a role that is admired, and And then you've you have and perhaps you even read it, you you heard it in the intonation as as we were reading, if she does not please her master.

Who has betrothed her to himself. So, she's not even a house slave, is she? You got halfway through verse 8, You realize what's happening here? Here is a family that is Is so far out of money that one of the children is being sold into slavery. But, What's happened is actually a marriage.

She hasn't become property. She's become a wife. And this was really her only shot.

Because of the poor family that she was from. Uh, so she is, she is now a wife and And she has come to please, her new household, her new head, who is her husband, but she also in the act of it, Uh, bringing to her, dad's family. Brings to her family of origin.

A raising them up out of the Out of the poverty that they were in. This is not. A girl who is being humiliated. This is a girl who in temporal material, things is being given by god and elevation of her own status and the privilege of being one through whom her family.

Has been lifted up out of the difficulty of their circumstance. Big. It doesn't say any text. But, Does that always the first step? In other words? Families with financial trouble, so they sell it. Something a job somewhere in the slavery. What was there something upon the community itself to try and You know, help.

You know, i i don't know of Anywhere that it actually gives steps. Uh, you know, we've already been through a number of passages. In which there's provision made for the poor generally. Uh, but the poor generally are described as The orphans widows and strangers or foreigners particularly because as we're seeing in first, Timothy 5, it's first and foremost, the duty.

Of the father. To provide for his own household. Um, So,

A lot would depend because it doesn't give you steps. Uh what what you have to sell. Uh, whether You have found. A position to sell yourself into to take care of your house. All together under one, Uh, whether you Whether your daughters? Uh, biological time clock is ticking. You had the man with the seven years.

It's actually a lot more urgent for a daughter. Uh, to be stuck seven years. Uh in the household of a master to whom you. There's there's just a lot of considerations. All of these things require wisdom and sorting through in. In real time. Uh, but Um, It's important for us to.

Read from the particular statutes that he gives them to the principles that are behind the statutes so that we can, when we are thinking, you know, not even necessarily in a deactinal situation, which is what we're primarily thinking about. But, Just all of us in what we are doing with our child rearing.

How? We think about our children's futures, what we talk about just as far as education goes the council. We give to young men and young ladies when they come into transit transitional period in life. For instance, you know, this lie that was made up 70 years ago. About the gift of singleness, you know, twisting the gift of chastity in first corinthians 7.

Where paul says, i wish that all were as i am and he's definitely not saying, i wish everybody was single. Uh, because he's going to come to to Timothy in first Timothy chapter 5 and literally command that not necessarily that they have to get married, but they certainly have to try marriage comes and god's providence, but every every grown woman under 60 should be aiming at marriage.

That's what he says in first Timothy chapter 5. But we live in a church culture and a church age in which the role of the wife, the role of the mother is not treasured. Uh is not sought out and instead of saying God and His providence may end up keeping you single despite all of your and your dad's and your churches, churches efforts, and if you are kept single it is not so that you can Uh, become As an individual.

Isolated unit to, who is a ghost on the fringes of Of the society of God's church. It is a for a season of service. Now, you're not over 60 and so unable to do some of the other things and pray night and day. As one who has left alone and the assumption and the text.

Now this is this is all Well, not all because I only dealt with up through verse 10. And Thursday's devotional. Uh, Uh, with the assumption in the text is even in a church. Situation. Where the young ladies are seeking to be married and seeking to have children and seeking to be so busy.

With not only the care of their husband, and the care of their children, but the keeping of the home in such a way that strangers can be lodged there and the the feet of the saints can be washed there and the whole church be be refreshed that even in a in that context it will take decades of her life until she is at least 60.

I mean he literally makes a hard rule if she's under 60 she can't be put on the list. Right. And first Timothy 5, it will take decades of life of the Holy Spirit, seasoning her, Through all of that selfless service. That she would be the kind of widow in first Timothy 5, which is a real widow which means not only that she's been left alone but also that she's so contented with God that she would rather do nothing else than pray.

Night and day. And supplications and prayers. So we live in, we live in a very different culture and we need the the principles of God's view of the family and how hematures us. So, so what we say to us saying, a single lady is yes, you should be looking for marriage but If the Lord isn't giving you marriage yet, you should be seeking to exhaust yourself in selfless service another ways.

There are lots of young mothers who are on the border of despair and never show it in the church. Because they've got, you know, You know, I knew a young mother who had five children under seven And, Um, And it was exhausting and it is sanctifying, but it's also strengthening for a young lady, who hasn't been given motherhood and hasn't been given wifehood to instead of saying, oh that's so hard.

Diamond church because everybody else is married and everybody else has children. And I feel so badly for me to say, God has a pointed me a providence. In which I can go into these other young mother's homes and strengthen their hands and be matured by the same selflessness and the same service without having to have the same providents Even while I seek marriage.

Okay. So so that wasn't something that was invented out of whole cloth in first Timothy chapter 5 that comes from principles that exist already in Genesis chapter 2 and principles that are being applied already and how the poor are cared for and Exodus 21. Uh, yesterday. But it does give a principle for the momentum 60.

It gives instruction too that she's First. Go to her children. Well, that's even for the woman over 60. Right? The, the the true widow in first Timothy 5 has both qualifications qualification. A she doesn't have children or grandchildren, Because if she has children or grandchildren, there's been a providential appointment to them because piety is shun first in the home.

It's shown first in the home versus one and two with Timothy, uh, who learns from how you speak to mother and father and brother and sister how he's supposed to speak in the congregation. How many and we've covered this already in a couple situations? How many, so-called christian homes, where everything is a war and then you get to church and everyone puts their plastic face on and treats everyone nicely Can we really give them instruction?

You should really speak to miss d, the way you speak to your mom. You should really speak to the younger men and younger uh women in the church. The way you speak to your brothers and sisters. The way a lot of moms are spoken to and brothers and sisters are spoken to, you do not want to say that to them.

Um, sadly there are congregations in which the older women and the younger people. Etc. Are spoken to that way. But that's not God's design for the family and how the life at home, informs the life and the congregation which we saw already in first Timothy 3 with the qualifications of the elders and the qualifications of the deacons.

So you show piety first at home there you show piety first at home by repaying your parents. He says, in verse 4, of first, Timothy chapter 5. And if she has children and grandchildren, she's not really a widow. Not the kind of widow for whom the church has an opportunity to treat as a queen in israel.

One of these whom you speak to as as you would, your mother versus one. And two and one who enters into one of the most christ-like ministries that there is he always lives to intercede. What do you think is saying about this true widow who has been matured to that point and then god's providence, she reaches 60?

And she doesn't have children and grandchildren who showed their piety first to home, she is still showing her piety first at home and she has been. So molded into the image of christ that what he is doing on the throne of glory. She is doing in her home and does not want to leave that for anything.

But the young women who have been sold the 20th and 21st century bill of hanging out and being social And all of that mess, they have not been matured until the time that they're 60. Of no longer needing that because of how much they love their fellowship with god and their service to others.

And they see. And know, now that prayer is serviced to others. And they literally have a congregation that says we have jesus who always lives to intercede for us and we have the holy spirit who is always interceding for us. And there are among us some older women who have reared, their children, who have loved their husbands.

And now, god has taken their husband and they have nothing else left. And they not always because sometimes they're asleep. But they continue in supplications, night and day. And we should want for every one of our daughters that if god brings them to the point that they're 60 years old, or older, and their children are grown and gone and then he takes from them, their husband, they will be a queen in the Israel of god.

Who continues in supplications night and day. Who was thought of by the rest of the congregation as under jesus under the spirit. In addition to the elders, Who one of the reasons that the deaconid exists so that they can give themselves to prayer first and ministry of the word second, They're on the roll as the supported widows.

And the honor that is being described is giving to them, is similar in kind to the double honor, that is given to the elders, who rule well and especially those whose vocation is in preaching and teaching. It's not a welfare list. It's wreck. You know, taking first, Timothy 5, and turning it into a welfare list is missing the point of piety at home, for how we speak piety at home for repaying parents piety at home for the widow over 60 and buy it at home, for all the young ladies until they get to 60.

And then you hear? These. Or read. Don't ever read gospel coalition. I understand, it's a gateway drug from evangelicalism to reform dish christianity. But when they start publishing these articles about how biblical view of marriage and a biblical view of the home is idolizing the family, it's not idolizing the family.

It's trusting in Jesus and obeying Jesus because the family is the basic unit of his church and it is the training ground for piety and it is the first place that we are called and commanded to show it. Is it possible to idolize? It's possible but idolize everything We idolize our piety and congregational worship too.

Just because there are people who idolize their piety at home. It doesn't mean that trying to speak a biblical word or two into an upside down backwards inside out culture is somehow idolizing the family. Sorry, you've got me going. Um, Anyway, so this daughter And exodus 21 7 through 11.

Is not being abused. Or deep valued. God is giving an opportunity even by the Providence through which she came into lack and her family came into lack. To elevate her twice in one. Fell swoop. Uh, brother, Jeff. In a row. I just want to make Of comment. Only what you're teaching on that is.

That passage in chapter 21. I think is not representing chattel slavery, he's representing the way later became known as in ventured servitude. And it's not what people think of when they think of child's slavery and and I don't know, but I know every large Proportion of the American colonies were populated by people in individual people.

That's how they paid for their way overview. So that's it's kind of a contrastic work with what it is. Yes, that that that's true. Um, With been covering that. And there's actually, A that's true of all slavery. In Israel. But one of the other things that we've covered is that there are specific statutes and this is This is true.

Of this passage when we were in verse two last week. There's specific statutes that were For Hebrews and Israelites in particular. Uh, that, that were different than what applied to the foreign or the foreigner didn't have the jubilee, the foreigner didn't have the seven year, limitation, the foreigner didn't have all of these statues, so this is Um, this is not only a different kind of slavery.

Which, by the way, since we've mentioned Our history and it's evoked, the recent unpleasantness for Uh, for many of us. Um southern Presbyterians in particular and other godly. There were other godly people than Presbyterians but the Presbyterians were the ones who taught them all their theology. They say we'll learn everything else from Presbyterian's except their Presbyterianism.

That's fun. Um, Until Finney. And then you learn bad things from Presbyterians and we destroyed the whole church. So God, forgive us. Um, But southern Presbyterians in particular. Many of whom. And we talked about this before, many of whom inherited slaves. Um, but they would treat their slaves as having been brought into a covenant household because God, in whatever providence had appointed those slaves to their house, And they their slaves would

be baptized and their slaves would be catechized, and they would start following the principles that applied not just to slavery and israel, but the slavery of an israelite Because they didn't consider their slaves foreigners.

Any more, and many of them. Um, it was a tremendous financial burden. To take care of of a slave and one that you inherited but they refuse to separate families that refused to sell them to bad masters just to offload the The difficulty of the money. You know, one of my heroes, John Gerardo Didn't have slaves himself.

Um, But he spent a fair amount of his ministry in and out of jail. Uh, because The. They taught the slaves in his congregation, or they taught the masters in his congregation. This view, which, even though it started in, whether it was in indentured servitude, or in many cases, it was checked all slavery, and they would inherit them or Or whatever they he taught them to catechize them and then on the lord's day, they would all bring their slaves and he personally spent the the entire middle of the day between the services.

Uh, catechizing, an instructing. The slaves. To the extent that No one believed that the slaves couldn't read. Because of how much bible they knew, and how much theology that they knew, and he was constantly being jailed on charges of having taught them to read when he hadn't. Although i'm not sure he would have minded.

Um, But, Yeah. So Our whole historical. Uh again evolutionary theory, critical theory has really screwed us up and it wasn't like that with everyone. Uh, i mean it's not like the majority of people In the in 19th century, america where godly presbyterians would that have been the case and then Finney would have just been Uh, defrocked and excommunicated and We wouldn't be where we are 170 years later.

Uh, Dave. Justification information while Stonewall Jackson was on the battlefield with sending money back to teach his black Sunday school class Halloween, out of which for churches were formed three of which are still in existence today. And regarding our ARP church, they've actually written One out of minister or someone in our church, wrote a book on the history of the art arp.

During the time of slavery, explaining exactly what pastor James just said, how they would have treat their theirs. All right. So i'm going to try to lasso it all the way back to the lesson. One of the things that the historical anecdotes and come and ask me later probably Jeff knows a lot more about Uh, mr.

Lee and mr, Jackson than i do. But i have some anecdotes i'd love to share with you. Um, About the difference. That genuine piety makes. You know, they were exceptional men. Uh, and even in their time. They were exceptions, not the rule. But that's part of the reason we are studying Exodus 21 together as Hopewell Church.

We want to be an exceptional church with exceptional, households in whom the lord, produces the kind of piety that makes us exceptional men and women in our time. To view marriage. In a way to view the dignity of a man who has made in the image of god, in a way to you, the greatness of a redeemed, man.

And the renewed image of god in christ in him in a way that is not generally done in the culture is not sadly and we pray for revival, but it's not right now generally done in the churches, but we want to do it. And we want to do it with our children and we want our children to do it with their children, better than we did it with ours.

And that's why we're laying a biblical foundation. For a deaconate that is taking the character and the priorities and the principles of our god and working them out in what happens when they're scarcity of material things. Rather than a deaconate that is. Here's how we can be pseudosocial justicey on the surface and trick the the world into thinking that we are good like they are so that they will want to come and be the the same as they still are because they figured out that we are just like they are The whole kind of.

Um, Mercy ministry for self-promotion, which is very different than if you are liked. And if you are salt, and if that is true, from the inside out 24 hours, a day, first at home, then in your church, then with your neighbor, light cannot be hidden. And you may be tempted out of fear to hide it at some points.

Because if you're actually light, The unregenerate world is not going to be saying, oh, wonderful, they are The darkness hates the light. Because the light exposes their deeds. Whether it's directly the light of who jesus is or the light of what his word says or even the light of the refraction of those things, through the prison of the people who are being conformed to him by his word.

That's how mercy ministry connects to evangelism. Not creating. You know. Welfare programs that are church funded and church operated so they can be happy about how social justice we are. And be tempted, maybe to like jesus for our sakes, i guess.

All right. Well, We didn't even finish. One through 11. Um, But the point is she's being elevated to a wife and if she isn't dealt with As. Fully a wife. As if she had come to be that wife. Uh, through other ways and through other circumstances. Than she is to gain her freedom and she is to continue.

With the the financial benefits. That were a consideration of her entering that way. This is the, this is not. God doing weird things with israel so that we can feel self-righteous when we read 11 verses, This is god laying down principles and priorities that belong to him and his word and teaching us.

That they should be worked out in the actual every day, nitty-gritty of how his people live. All right, let's play. Our father in heaven, we bless you for your word, forgive us for our arrogance, every one of us, Lord, if we are being honest, has read a passage like this.

And have been puzzled over. How what you told your people could be so bad when we get obviously see it. Oh lord, forgive our blindness. And how bad we are that we would not be able to see the blindness. Thank you for. Uh, giving even in the word itself, when we pay closer attention, The key and way.

Uh, to understanding how sinful we are. And how wonderful then is the perfect righteousness of christ. Counted forest survey the full sacrifice of christ. Atoning. For, and Enduring all of the wrath that our despising of your glory has deserved. And we pray now that you would glorify your son who has done this.

By conforming his church more to his image. Until? Having. Purified and exalted, her completely and perfectly. You have presented. Us all together as one, glorious and beautiful, bride to him in the last day. Grant that we ask. For your glory. Uh, in him for his glory in the church and for the church is good.

In his name, amen.