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**Thursday, February 16, 2023 • Read 1 Timothy 6:1–2**

*Questions from the Scripture text: To which bondservants does v1 apply? Which master is the bondservant to count worthy? Of what? So that what two things would not be blasphemed? What type of master will some of them have (v2)? Why might they have disregarded to honor them? Why would they serve them all the more? What is Timothy to do with all of the teachings from 4:12 to 6:2?*

**Besides mature widow prayer-warriors and elders who rule well, whom else must believers honor?** 1 Timothy 6:1–2 looks forward to the second reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **believers ought to honor whomever God's providence sets over them.**

v2 ends with a general "teach and exhort these things" that caps everything since the previous, similar statement in 4:11. Timothy was to count his own office honorable (4:12–16), to treat all believers with honor (5:1–2), and to lead the congregation in that honor which included full financial support for the prayer-warrior-widows (5:3–16), and doubly so for elders who rule well (5:17–25). Now, in these two verses, the theme of honoring goes outside the church to authorities whom God's providence has set over us—especially in the workplace, or "the yoke of slavery," as the text puts it.

Believers are to treat all masters as worthy of all honor, v1a. Since v2 differentiates believing masters, we need to understand v1 as including all of them. So, the weight of the application is on masters who are not good and not believing. This is important, because it's not just believing slaves who find themselves in such difficulty. Believing citizens and employees often have hard or unbelieving authorities and bosses. What are the slaves in this particular example to do?

"Count their own masters worthy of all honor." The financial aspect of "honor" from 5:3, 17 continues here. It can be embittering to work hard while someone else seems to reap all the benefit. But believers already have God Himself, His Name, and His teaching. These are worth more than any money, and thinking or conducting oneself poorly would dishonor the Name that is on us or the doctrine that we believe.

Because their Master and His gospel are worthy of whatever honor they can bring it, v1b. If instead, we work as those who are willing for our master or employer or others to be enriched instead of ourselves, we lay hold of God and the gospel as of greater value and simultaneously bring honor to God and to His teaching. We have a heavenly Master, and we ought to desire to do whatever we can to bring honor to His Name.

And brother-love adds to this honor rather than taking away from it, v2. Finally, because believers are one in Christ, and equal in grace, they may be tempted to withhold honor in the workplace or the household. After all, we are all brothers in Christ, right? But the relation in the Lord does not diminish the respect that is due in our various places and positions in other spheres. If anything, we ought to show more honor, since it's a brother that we are honoring. And this includes especially working all the harder for those who belong to Christ as believers—those whom Christ has loved by laying down His life, and whom He has commanded us to love as He has loved us (cf. Jn 13:34–35, 15:12–15).

**What authorities are you under in the home? In the workplace? In the state? What, specifically can you do to honor them more in those spheres? To Whom are you really bringing honor when you do?**

*Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for giving to us Yourself, Your Name, and Your teaching. Truly, You have already honored us and enriched us more than earthly position or wealth could ever obtain. Forgive us for when we are embittered against those who are over us. Grant unto us to consider them worthy of all honoring for Your own sake. And especially, when those over us are believers, we ask that You would stir up our love for them. For, You have loved them and us with the greatest of love, and You have called us to imitate that love with them. So give us that fruit from Your Spirit that will enable us to do so, we ask, in Jesus's Name, AMEN!*

**ARP128 "How Blessed Are All Who Fear the Lord" or TPH128B "Blest the Man That Feared Jehovah"**

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First Timothy chapter 6, verses 1 and 2. Let as many bond servants as are under the yoke count, their own masters. Worthy of all honor so that the name of god and his doctrine may not be blasphemed.

And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them. Because they are brethren but rather but serve them. Because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort. These things. For the reading of gods inspired and And they're into word. So he says, teach and exhort these things at the end of Verse 2, that gives us a clue that he's concluding that a section that especially began in verse 12 of chapter 4.

He had concluded the previous section. With verse 11 of chapter 4, which says these things command and teach and then he starts a new section. And he comes to the end of that section. Now, in chapter 6 and verse 2, and Um, and says teach and exhort. These things.

And that entire section has been on honor. Uh, first the honor that he had, As a minister. In which the apostle told him to let no one despise him and how to conduct himself. Honorably. Then the honor with which he was to treat everyone in the congregation those who are older men. Those were older women. Those were younger. Men, those who are younger women. And so forth. And then he got into the honoring of the widows. That included, not just. Honor of heart. But what we would call honorarium, That has putting then as it were on the payroll and the double honor of elders.

And now he says a lot as many. Uh, bond servants. Let as many slaves as they're under the oak count, their own masters, where the of all honor So that the name of god and his doctrine may not be blasphemed. And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren.

But rather serve them. Because those who are benefited. Our believers and beloved, And so, one of the things that he's going to be describing in versus three through 10 is the place of Agreed. The place of wealth, actually, greed has no place. Greed. Must be. Mortified, but that godliness would contentment.

Is a great gain. And that we should be content with just food and floating. As the lord gives us that And of course, that comes from the teaching of Jesus. Um, in the illustration of the birds and the flowers, we will come to that next week in the next passage.

Uh, but here he is talking about those who are slaves and you might be tempted to say. Well. My earthly master is an unbeliever my earthly master. Is. Uh, wicked and unkind. He doesn't deserve the benefit that he's going to get from my working. And the apostle says, no, let those were slaves.

Count. Their own masters worthy of all honor. So that the name of God and his doctrine. May not be blasphemed. And so they are to regard whatever God in his providence. Uh, causes to accrue to the wealth of the one who is over them by their work. As. Something that is.

Appropriate and worthy. What as many slaves as are under the oak count, their own masters worthy of all. Honor why? Because God is worthy. Of whatever honor we can bring in. By the way, that we conduct ourselves, And after all he is taking care of us. And if he takes care of us and our work enriches in earthly things, A master who cannot take it with him.

Out of this world, anyway. And we are becoming rich and godliness, and rich and contentment. And we are already rich in God. Who's rich honor is being glorified by our slaving away. Then we're not really getting nothing out of our slaving away. Are we? We're actually. Much more wealthy.

And accruing much more true wealth. From our labor. Then the master, who we if we were thinking an earthly ways and earthly terms would feel what's taking Advantage of us. And so, believers are to treat all masters as worthy of all honor. In fact, an unbelieving master should be perplexed.

By how hard the guy that he mistreats and takes advantage of? Who is under him works? When that person is a Christian, then this of course applies to employee and employer. Uh, relationships as well. The difference being, if you are an employee. Uh, Uh, you are not under the yoke and you are free.

Uh, to find other work. If you can, in the providence of God, And if you can't, if it's the only thing that you can have, then you are like unto a slave and this still applies. This, of course. Applies not just to. Slaves and employees, but children. If i slave of a wicked master.

Is to consider that master worthy of all honor. Is to consider it worthwhile to work hard. Even though someone else is going to get all the benefit, And how much more a child? In a home. Where it is? Your family. That will get the benefit. You ever do things with a grumbling heart saying i'm slaving away.

And you know, this is somebody else's job and they're going to get all the benefit and i'm doing all the work. Well, this passage treats that sort of heart, doesn't it? And all the more. If you have a believing master in this case, you have a believing family, let them not despise them.

That is treat them. Uh, in a manner that is less than appropriate to their place or position, or relation or station. Let them not despise them because they are brother but rather serve them. Because those who are benefited our believers and beloved. There is a sad side effect. To the sort of worship and idea.

Ideas about God and about Christ. That we, that have become so popular in even jehlical and even in some Um, so-called reformed Uh, circles today. In which God is seen as Um, small. They don't say they see goddess small, but they act casually with God. And so those and i actually fell into this.

Uh, when i was young an impressionable like Uh, like you all are. Uh, i used to hear sometimes someone pray very casually. And i thought, oh man. They must really know God to pray so familiarly. Uh, to him. But if they really knew God and they really loved God, and they really knew his honor.

That would not produce casualness and lightness in the way they address it. I mean, think about the sun, and one of the most intimate prayers. That we have ever read in the Bible, John 17. And he calls him. He calls the father, holy Father. But one of the sad side effects of this idea, That.

Um, Knowledge of God. Uh, Erases. Distinctions of authority and distinctions of honor. Position in place. And so forth. Is that this happens in human relationships too. And people make this mistake between parents and children. Where the children become, you know? A casual and the way they address mom and dad, they don't just know mom and dad as they're greatest friends on earth.

They start to think mom and dad as they're equal buddies. And, And so also with elders and congregation ministers and congregation, And we forget that God is the one who has established places in relations. In the church and places and relations in the home. And he's the one even from whom all authority comes.

In the state. And so there's a temptation for those who are slaves of believing masters. And first Timothy 6:2 to become chummy with their master. And maybe to think that, wow, you know, since p and i are brothers and the congregation Out here in the household where he's my master, i can be more casual with him and maybe i don't have to work so hard as the other slaves after all.

They're not brothers. Uh, like like i'm a brother. No, he says those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren. But rather serve them. Because those who are benefited or believers and beloved, And and so the fact that your master is a believer, doesn't make you honor last or serve less.

It makes you honor more and with more joy. And serve more and harder more diligently and with more joy. Because now there's still there's love for God and the honor of his name as in verse 1 and Love for the master and honor for his name as one who's a brother in Christ and to his bought by the blood of Christ.

And so it doesn't erase the relation. It rather establishes it. So if you have a Christian mom or Christian dad, of course, You know, become more chummy with them. You speak more honoringly, you serve more diligently, you obey more instantly and more completely right? More right away all the way and cheerfully which is how we have Functionally practically described, honor, your father and your mother.

It's not just obey so they right away. It's not just a bad obey, all the way. It's not just obey, it's obey. Cheerfully. And especially, Because mom and dad and the lord are brethren. They are believers. And beloved and the rest of the household are believers and beloved. So this really transforms how you think when you're the only one doing chores.

Now it doesn't mean that you don't love your brothers and sisters and appeal to them as a brother or a sister. And say, come let us love the lord and love the family together. Uh, i've been doing these chores by myself and i'm happy to do. But i want you to enter into this.

Uh this blessed privilege of serving under christ in our house together. That's very different. Isn't it than Can't believe on the only one doing these. Conditions, wandering, or whatever. Um, and allowing a grumbling spirit in your heart. So, believers are to treat all masters as worthy of all honor.

Because their master. And his gospel. Are worthy of what honor they can bring it. We don't want god or his doctrine to be blasphemed. And then, in verse 2, Brother love. Ads to this honor increases amplifies intensifies. This honor. Rather than taking away. From it. The lord. Grant unto us to have our hearts corrected and shaped.

By this portion of his word, let's ask. That his spirit would do so. Our father in heaven, you Are the one who feeds the birds. And close the flowers. And you have given us every good thing that we need. And we praise your name for it, we pray that you would give us contentment to pray that you would make us to count ourselves rich.

In having you rich in the opportunity to bring you honor. Help us lord not to grumble. In any of our labor. Whether in our home or in the workplace, Help us to be willing that Whatever you make to come out of our work. That benefits others would indeed benefit them.

Give us love for our enemy. Love for our neighbor. Love, especially for our brother and most especially Lord love for you. We pray that you would help us to honor you from the heart. That the mirror we come to you. The greater we would honor you. And we pray that you would give us then the reflection of that.

In our earthly relationships. Especially with those. Whom you have put in positions of honor. In our home, in our church. And even in, In the civil sphere. Grant us. Oh god, the help of your spirit. Who is to ask the spirit of christ. By whom the lord jesus was humble.

Under so many authorities in his life. Even having humbled himself so greatly. Has to take. Form of a bond slave and be found in appearance as a man. And go to the death of the cross for us. So bring christ glory and honor in our lives. By giving us the mind that is in christ jesus.

For we ask it in his name. Amen.