

II Timothy, Sermon #15

II Timothy 2

God has given us seven metaphors used to describe the man or woman of God.

I want to give you a quiz, so don't look down.

1. I am to be a steward – teacher of others
2. I am to be a soldier – tough, endure
3. I am to be an athlete – live by the Bible
4. I am to be a farmer – work hard
5. I am to be a workman – in the Bible
6. I am to be a vessel – vessel of honor
7. I am to be a servant – of the Lord

I've entitled today's sermon "The Servant of the Lord."

This is such an important theme so contrary to our American way of life that I want to focus us on the subject of being a servant of the Lord.

II Timothy 2:24

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

II Timothy 2:24-26

Let us pray

You may be seated.

The Servant of the Lord

Serving the Lord is the greatest work in all the world.

Ministering for Jesus is to be our life.

Being a servant is not about us, but about others

I. First, we need to understand our **position as a servant – what a servant of the Lord is**.

The word “servant” in verse 24 comes from the Greek word *doulos*, which literally means slave.

The position and work of a slave was much lower than that of a servant.

- A servant was his own person.
- He may have only owned the clothes on his back, but he was free to go and work as he pleased.

But a slave did not belong to himself, but to a master – Who is our Lord? He is our Master.

A slave could only go where the master allowed and had to do what the master said.

He was the personal property of someone else – So are we

We have been bought with a price - Therefore, glorify (exalt/magnify) God in your body and in your spirit which are God’s.

A slave of the Lord has no will of his own; he is to be under the command of his master

Jesus said – when facing the Cross – Luke 22:42, “Not My will, but Thine be done.”

- God’s will is to be done and we are here to do it.

Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:10 – that God’s will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven

Paul called himself “a slave of Jesus Christ” multiple times – (Rom.1:1; Phil. 1:1).

So did James, Peter, and Jude

One thing Jesus taught His disciples over and over was to have the right view/outlook on life—to have the mindset of a servant.

Philippians 2:3-5, *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness [humble] of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”*

This is to be our mindset

The servant of the Lord is a slave—this is our position.

II. Second, what a servant of the Lord does

Matthew 20:20-21

Look at what Jesus said to them – vs. 22

In other words, if you want to get close to Me, you must be willing to identify with Me.

Vs. 22 – they said, “We are able; we can do it; we will drink from Your cup.”

The only problem was that they did not know what was in the cup.

“To drink the cup” meant to drink the full measure – leaving nothing.

It was a common expression that meant to stay with something to the end – to endure to the limits – whatever the cost.

What was in the cup that Jesus was going to drink?

The Bible tells us what was in the cup – the cup of suffering

Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane—

Matthew 26:39, *“And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.’”*

Jesus said, “From My cup, ye shall drink” – vs. 23a

Jesus with His foreknowledge knew what would take place in the future.

They were both going to suffer for the cause of Christ.

- James was killed by the sword – Acts 12:2
- John was exiled to the Island of Patmos – Revelation

Vs. 24

Vs. 25 – huddle of His twelve (vs. 25-26)

Vs. 25-26a

It shall not be so among you!

That may be how the unbelievers operate, but we don’t operate that way.

There is a fundamental difference how Christians view power versus how the world views power.

Vs. 26b

But whosoever will be great shall be your minister/servant

- All twelve wanted the two seats
- The two seats go to the greatest.

The question, how do we become the greatest?

“The greatest among you shall be your servant.”

The way up in God's kingdom is to serve.

The way down in God's kingdom is to serve ourselves.

The one who serves others, the one who helps the other people to get ahead, other people to be successful – he will be the greatest.

The lost person's way/the unbeliever's way to be great is through manipulation, false flattery, cheating, self-promotion, "dog-eat-dog," "me first," misuse of power, doing whatever is necessary to get ahead, compromise

God's way of being great is the way of a servant

- D.L. Moody said, "The measure of a man is not how many servants he has, but how many people he serves."

Who are we serving?

- What are we doing for Jesus Christ?
- No matter where we are, we can serve.

Wal-Mart

Restaurant

Go through a door—open it for others

Get up from the table

Parents, one of the greatest things we can teach our children is to serve others

Front seat of car for kids – fight over

I worked for a company – my salary was based on sales – I decided to be a servant – the other guys were stealing my customers, promoting themselves, trying to make me look bad/slander.

Colossians 3:23-24, *"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."*

We must remember that we are working for God and we need to be a servant in everything.

God doesn't promote those who lift themselves

- Be sure that those who exalt themselves shall be abased – cut down
- The greatest of us will be the one who is the servant of all

When it comes to the church – it's servants, not celebrities.

It is the power of God that worketh in us and all glory is His
We don't take any credit—give all the praise to Jesus Christ

Jesus hits the disciples with a principle contrary to man's thinking—be a servant.

Vs. 27

Jesus says that kind of man/woman is the greatest.

III. What does a servant of the Lord look like?

Let us look at the supreme example of servanthood – our role model – Jesus Christ

Matthew 20:28

Vs. 28 – even as, just as

But notice – the ultimate act of servanthood – vs. 28 – to give His life

This is the first clue as to what the death of Christ would accomplish – a ransom would be paid.

A ransom is a payment.

A ransom was the price of a slave – all people are enslaved to sin

- It was the amount required to buy the slave's (his) freedom.
- Once, we were the slaves of sin, but now we are the slaves of God (Romans 6:16ff).

We have a new Father – new Owner, if you will.

A payment was needed to achieve our release and Jesus provided it on the Cross.

I Corinthians 6:20, *“For ye are bought with a price . . .”*

Like a slave, Christians have been bought with a price.

That price was the precious blood of the Lamb.

The ransom that He paid is enough for everyone in the world.

I John 2:2 – *“And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”*

I Timothy 2:4-6, (God) *“. . . will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a ransom for all.”*

Although His ransom is enough for every person, it is valid only for those who believe in Him.

It is in this sense that He gave His life a ransom for many – vs. 28 – for some will not trust in Him as Savior nor receive His payment for their sins.

Jesus gave His life in exchange for the lives of those who would believe in Him.

- Only His death could atone for our sin.

He paid the price – He did not have to – He volunteered

Yet because of our need, He died

Shortly after this teaching, Jesus demonstrated this teaching—He illustrated servanthood.

John 13:1-5

Vs. 5 – As people traveled – their shoes consisted of sandals – dusty, dirty, roads – feet and ankles were dirty.

And, the host of the house would supply a servant at the door – a basin and a towel
The servant would remove the sandals

It was the job of the slave to clean the feet

If there was no slave, it was the job of the lowliest person in the group

Vs. 4 – Jesus rose from supper – obviously nobody had moved

John 13:13-15

Who are we? – We are servants of the Lord.

Philippians 2:7, “[Jesus] *made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.*”

What Jesus told Satan needs to be true of us.

Matthew 4:10, “*Then saith Jesus unto him, ‘Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.’*”

Servanthood is servicing – Jesus demonstrated it.

- Are we serving like our Savior?
- Are we a servant of Jesus Christ?

There is joy in serving Jesus.

Real fulfillment in life is serving the Lord.

Page 619, “Joy in Serving Jesus”

Let us stand for closing invitation – every eye closed

When people are selfish, there will be disharmony/disunity

The church won't function as she should.

Christian living is not about me – it's about others

It's not about what I'm getting—it's about who I am serving

- Are we slaves of the Lord?
- Do we have the mindset of a servant?

We are all slaves—either to sin or to the Savior

Jesus has paid the price for our sins

- Will you receive His free gift?

He's paid the ransom – price with His blood

- We can go free, but we must, by faith, trust in the finished work of Christ.

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II Corinthians 4:5, *“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.”*

I Thessalonians 1:9, *“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.”*

There is joy in serving Jesus