

## SURRENDER AND SERVE

(Rom. 6:15-22)

### Introduction:

1. Enslaved at last, enslaved at last! Thank God almighty I am enslaved at last! The truth of our existence is that we WILL be slaves either to God or to sin. The incredibly good news of Jesus Christ is that we are afforded the opportunity to choose to whom we will be enslaved.
2. To be a slave (a willing slave) entails surrender of authority and even will to another. A slave serves his master because he has surrendered his life to that master.
3. So much misery in the world because people will either not choose God as their Master or they will not surrender to God, even though they claim to desire for Him to be their Master.
4. Let us consider this concept of surrender and service to God as it relates to the production of joy in our lives. Let us look into some questions we have to answer, some examples we need to consider, and the joys we are able to realize.

### Discussion:

#### I. Questions to Answer.

- A. Joshua said it all so clearly long ago, “And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Josh. 24:15).
- B. The question remains and entails other equally important questions that we must answer.
  1. Who will be our lord?
  2. Whose will shall we serve?
  3. Which truths shall we hold to?
  4. Which life shall we live?
- C. Remember that not to choose is in fact a choice (the fence is the devil's). Our default is self.

#### II. Examples to Consider.

- A. Cain refused to surrender to the will of God (Gen. 4:7) and became a murderer, a miserable outcast, and the father of a people without God (ultimately destroyed in the flood).
- B. King Saul refused to surrender to the will of God (1 Sam. 13) and became a murderer, a miserable outlaw running from God's enemies and God's people, and a man who apparently killed himself after begging others to do so.
- C. King David humbly served the will of God until he was tempted to serve his own lust with Bathsheba (1 Kings 15:5). Notice the results of that: torment (Ps. 51); the death of four sons; his throne usurped and only regained by the death of his son; and a later life unrecognizable from his early years.
- D. King Uzziah served the will of God and conquered all of Israel's enemies and was granted peace (2 Chron. 26), until he was tempted by pride to serve his own will. This resulted in his being made a leper, losing his throne, and spending his remaining years isolated and miserable.
- E. Judas Iscariot served the will of God, until his greed and pride caused him to serve his own will. He opened his heart to the devil, he betrayed the Son of God, and he became so miserable that he killed himself (Matt. 27:3-10).
- F. Consider our Lord's words to Peter in Luke 22:31-34. Peter was serving God's will, but Jesus knew Peter would soon quit that in order to serve his own will. Jesus asked Peter when he returned to Him, to strengthen his brethren. Consider the whole story of Peter's detour into the service of his own will = torment, confusion and doubt, and finally repentance and service.
- G. These are just a few examples, but they illustrate perfectly the truth of our lives. Lives spent in service to the will of God are joyous, blessed, and hopeful. Lives spent in service of self are miserable, plagued with troubles, and ultimately filled with despair.

### III. Joys to be Realized.

- A. Some passages on joy.
1. John 15:1-14 = the right relationship with Jesus allows our joy to be full.
  2. 1 John 1:1-7 = the right relationship with God allows our joy to be full.
  3. 1 Pet. 1:3-9 = the right relationship with God allows our lives to be joyous.
- B. Nothing has changed, brethren. Joy is a result of our allowing God to be our God and His will to become our will. When we live God's will with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength our lives are joyous.
1. The troubles of society become clear and our response equally clear. We become inoculated from society's ills and actually become a part of the solution. We may face persecution for this, but we will KNOW that we are right/true/with God.
  2. The troubles of family cease, or at least become external. If family members may make trouble or create strife with us they will find us unwilling to rise to that bait. They will find themselves kicking against love, care, and compassion. They will see themselves pushing themselves away from our peaceful, godly home.
  3. The troubles of self disappear when slavery to self ends. We become joyous servants, actually sons of the King!

### Conclusion:

1. The only thing that keeps us from the right relationship with God is us. The only thing that prevents that joy that surpasses all understanding from being ours is us.
2. Surrender! Stop trying to do what you cannot and accept what is truth. Get right with God that you might be right! Live the life you were created to live and be filled with all joy!
3. Invitation.

<b>2017 SPIRITUAL MENU: HELP YOURSELVES!!</b>				
YEAR	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
2017	June	Jamestown Church Picnic	TBA	
2017	June 18-23	Virginia Christian Camp	Christiansburg, VA	
2017	July 28-30?	In-House Seminar	Jamestown, NY	Family: The Divine Institution of God
2017	July 21-23	Eric Lyons Gospel Meeting	Jamestown, NY	Is the Bible Reliable?
2017	August	VBS	Jamestown, NY	The Who, What, Why of Christianity
2017	Aug. 18-24	Polishing The Pulpit	Seveirville, TN	
2017	TBA	Ladies Retreat	Franklinville, NY	
2017	TBA	Men's Retreat	Franklinville, NY	
2017	Oct. 22-26	WVSOP Lectureship	Moundsville, WV	
2017	Nov.	CBI Retreat	Columbia, TN	
More Items to come as they become known				