

## “NOT SERVANTS OF MEN!”

### INTRODUCTION:

“SLAVES EMANCIPATED”, “SLAVERY ABOLISHED”. But these headlines in Lincoln’s day didn’t mean there was nothing more to be done or said about the issue. It was only after a bloody battle between countrymen that it became a reality! Likewise, we don’t HAVE to be servants of men or of Satan now! But many find it much easier to yield to man than to God”:

- 1) By respecting/ reverencing their word OVER God’s Word.
- 2) By giving more importance to the person’s of men than to the holy, eternal person of God.
- 3) By allowing them to influence us to commit wrong.
- 4) By permitting MAN to stand between us and our God; by wooing and courting their favor instead of God’s; encouragement in EVIL!

IN THIS WORLD TODAY, HOW can anyone be SERVANTS OF MEN?

### I. BY BEING ENSLAVED TO THE PERSON’S OF MEN!

A. Must beware not to be overwhelmed by spiritual leaders of this world. They’re still human, and liable to err -- and blind adherence will cause all to be affected!

1. Hear the counsel of Jesus in Matt.23:1-12

a) Marks of undue exaltation: “*Rabbi, Master, Father*”.

b) Present day designations include such as: “*Reverend, Doctor, et al*”.

2. Further admonitions regarding the persons of men are found in places such as: Jas.2:9-“*But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.*” 2 Cor.10:7-“*You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ's, so also are we.*” 1 Sam.16:7-“*But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.*”

B. The purpose of such warnings must be kept clearly before us.

1. Men are apt to teach doctrines foreign to Christ. Matt.15:8-9-“*THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. 9 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'*” 1 Cor.3:18-21-“*Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become foolish that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS"; 20 and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS." 21 So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you,*”

2. However, we should not form the idea we’re not to respect men at all. 1 Cor.11:1; 1 Thes.5:12-13-“*But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.*”

C. IDEA IS--- “*Be not ye servants of men....*”

### II. BEING BOUND TO FRIENDSHIPS/ RELATIONS TO THE NEGLECT OF DUTIES TO GOD IS SLAVERY!

A. Close friends/ relatives frequently come before God.

1. Jesus urged in Matt.10:37-38-“*He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.*”

2. Not infrequently people refuse to obey gospel because of pressures from various quarters:

a) Parents have been known to disown children who obey the Gospel of the Lord!

b) Ridicule/ derision not uncommon from “loved” ones. Mk.8:38-“*For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.*”

- c) A time-worn excuse often heard: “**My parents/ all my people were [denominationalists] and that’s good enough for me!**”

Page 2.

- B. The Bible is very outspoken on this subject in examples of those who fell victim to erring influences.
1. Solomon and his wives: **1 Kings 11:1, 4**- *"Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, 4 it came about when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been."*
  2. Even David and Absalom: **2 Sam.19:4-6**-*"And the king covered his face and cried out with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!" 5 Then Joab came into the house to the king and said, "**Today you have covered with shame the faces of all your servants**, who today have saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters, the lives of your wives, and the lives of your concubines, 6 **by loving those who hate you, and by hating those who love you**. For you have shown today that princes and servants are nothing to you; for **I know this day that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, then you would be pleased.**"*
- C. Again . . . “**BE NOT YE THE SERVANTS OF MEN**”!

### **III. BY ALLOWING OURSELVES TO BE CARRIED AWAY BY A MULTITUDE OF VOICES REGARDING RELIGIOUS MATTERS!**

- A. Some Old Testament examples serve well to illustrate this:
1. Aaron and the golden calf! **Exod.32:4, 21-22**-*"And he took this from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, and made it into a molten calf; and they said, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt." 21 Then Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you, that you have brought such great sin upon them?" 22 And Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my lord burn; you know the people yourself, that they are prone to evil."*
  2. Israel’s rebellion under Samuel: **1 Sam.8:6-9**-*"But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD. 7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, **for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them**. 8 "Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day-- in that **they have forsaken Me and served other gods**-- so they are doing to you also. 9 "Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them."*
- B. Hear also the voices of the prophets: **Isa.30:9-10**-*"For this is a rebellious people, false sons, Sons who refuse to listen To the instruction of the LORD; 10 Who say to the seers, "You must not see visions"; And to the prophets, "You must not prophesy to us what is right, Speak to us pleasant words, Prophecy illusions." **Jer.5:31**-*"The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their own authority; And My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?"**
- Hosea 4:6; Micah 3:11**-*"Her leaders pronounce judgment for a bribe, Her priests instruct for a price, And her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the LORD saying, "Is not the LORD in our midst? Calamity will not come upon us." **And then Isaiah warns in Isa.8:20**-*"To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn."**
- C. We must travel cautiously lest we fall as did those Israelites of old! **1 Cor.10:6**-*"Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave [lust after] evil things, as they also craved."*
- D. Paul/ Peter/ and other N.T. writers bear the same witness of warnings TO US!
1. Jesus was crucified by the **MULTITUDE!** [**Urged on by the religious leaders.**] **Matt.27:20**-*"But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the multitudes to ask for Barabbas, and to put Jesus to death."*
  2. **Matt.7:14**- *"FEW there be who find it...!"*

### **CONCLUSION:**

**"...BE NOT YE THE SERVANTS OF MEN..."** We ought to SERVE J.C. because we BELONG to Him! **2 Cor.6:20; Lk.6:46; Gal.1:10.**