

WE ARE BORN AGAIN TO SERVE

The theme of this year's Rock of Ages is foundational to the walk of a believer, for when an individual is born, he is born to live, but being born again, he is to serve. Yes, we are born to live, but born again to serve. The first principle in a man or woman's life, within the context of God's household, is sacrificial service. Romans 1:1 opens with the words, "Paul, a servant. . . ." In this first verse of the first book of the seven Church Epistles, which are the basic curriculum for all believers, the word "servant" is the word *doulos*. *Doulos* means you are a sold-out, committed bond slave, bought and paid for by the master. Without this *doulos* service, a believer's life, his endeavors, will be of little value to God.

Jesus Christ was a *doulos*, and God's Word says he is our example. It is a significant and wonderful walk to follow in the steps of our lord and savior. Look at Jesus Christ's example of service.

Philippians 2:6:

Who, being in the form of God [having a form given to him by God], thought it not robbery to be equal with [agree with] God.

Jesus Christ had a form given to him by God, and he agreed with God. The first characteristic of a *doulos* is that he or she agrees with God.

Philippians 2:7:

But made himself of no reputation [he became empty of self], and took upon him the form of a servant [doulos], and was made in the likeness of men.

Jesus Christ did not have a "me first" attitude. By his own free will and self-determination, he placed himself under the Word and will of God. He had all power and authority available, he could have had worldly riches, he could have commanded twelve legions of angels. If anyone had a right to brag, it was the Lord Jesus Christ. Instead, he placed his life under God in sacrificial service. Jesus Christ was the Son of God, yet a servant. You and I are sons of God, and we must be His servants.

Philippians 2:8:

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

"Humbled himself" means he was absolutely the opposite of proud and haughty. "Unto death" means all the days of his life. Even if he had to die the most humiliating and excruciating death, he was still going to be a *doulos*, obedient to God.

Hebrews 12:2:

Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Death on the cross was no joy. It was the greatest shame the Adversary could inflict upon a man. Had Jesus Christ not been a *doulos*, he never would have had that joy set before him.

A *doulos* is never greater than his lord. As servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are never above him, but are under his authority. This means that he gives the orders and we literally carry them out. If we look at this truth in all the simplicity and honesty God intended, we can see many times where we have missed the mark of God's Word, yet it is available and thrilling to be a *doulos*.

We are not greater than our lord, we are under his authority. But what about Jesus Christ? He that is sent is not greater than He that sent him. Those who teach that Jesus Christ is God are using the Scriptures to say only what they want them to say. If Jesus Christ is God, then whose *doulos* would God be? Who would God place Himself under?

Yes, Jesus Christ was the example of all examples, for God marked him out in His foreknowledge to be the greatest *doulos*.

Acts 2:22 and 23:

Ye men of Israel, bear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Him, being delivered by the determinate [marked-out] counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.

This is Jesus Christ, our example, a *doulos*, a man.

We too are marked out by God. We are branded with the mark of the master as his slaves for a lifetime—by our own free will and self-determination.

Galatians 6:17:

From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks [the brand] of the Lord Jesus.

One of the outward marks of service that we bear in our bodies is the manifestation of speaking in tongues. What fantastic evidence that we belong to the master! Because we speak in tongues, we know that we are God's sons and that the Adversary has no right to touch any of God's branded people. That is a marvelous truth to carry in our hearts wherever we go, whatever we do.

A man or woman is born to live, but born again to serve. Unless a person is born again, all he can do at best is simply exist until death comes. But the least you can do when you are born again is to serve, following in the steps of the Lord Jesus Christ. The greater your knowledge of God's Word, the greater your service must be, for God has marked you with His brand. That is your call to service.

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