

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 10/26-27/2020

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Ephesians 6:1-9*

7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING CLASSROOM AND ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS: CONTINUING IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS!

**Monday 7pm Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484 - Mon 7 pm!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763

Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)

Tuesday 7am Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 Passcode: 715340 - Tues 7 am!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746

Passcode: 715340

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,85309150746# US (Tacoma)

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221
For Audio & notes from previous studies— www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER - Introduction

***Be filled with the Spirit – Submit to one another as to the Lord!
Children and Parents; Employees and Employers.***

In the fifth chapter as Paul deals with the believers' walk, we are to walk in love, to walk as children of light, to walk circumspectly or diligently, accurately, carefully, perfectly! Having told us to walk in love, to walk circumspectly and as children of the light, he then went into our inter-personal relationships. Telling us how we should walk in relationship to our wives, if we are husbands, or walk in relationship to our husbands, if we are wives. As we enter into chapter six he is still dealing with inter-personal relationships, turning first of all to the children. The commandment is, *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS! –Thomas Chisholm – William Runyan (3:14)

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou forever will be.
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth. Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness! Lord, unto me!*

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Ephesians 6:1-9

Review:

Chapters 1-3 Doctrine – all the blessings in the heavenlies

Chapter 4 Walk in unity; Spiritual Gifts; The new man; Do not grieve the Spirit

Chapter 5 Walk in love; Walk in light; Walk in wisdom; Marriage – Christ and the Church

**This week: Coming now to other major relationships - Children-
parents; Slaves-Masters (employees-employers)**

*Children and Parents – The precise Biblical answer to lack of child discipline
and resulting lawless behavior of reaping the wind, having sown the whirlwind!*

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

*Eph 6:2 "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first
commandment with promise:*

Eph 6:3 "THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG

ON THE EARTH."

Eph 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Bondservants and Masters

Eph 6:5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;

Eph 6:6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

Eph 6:7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

Eph 6:8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

Eph 6:9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Eph 6:1 Children, obey (stand under--children, do what your parents say!) your parents in the Lord, for this is right (this is the reason!)

(Col 3:20) Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

- ***Children, obey your parents:*** The command is simple. First lesson, be an obedient child! Children are to ***obey*** their ***parents***. This not only means that children have the responsibility to ***obey***, but ***parents*** have the responsibility to teach their children obedience - one of the most important jobs for a parent. We don't need to teach our children how to disobey, because they have each inherited an inclination to sin from Adam - but obedience must be taught. It is essential that a parent teach the child obedience, so that the child will grow up knowing how to ***obey*** God even when he doesn't understand everything or doesn't want to. This is what all a parent's discipline for a child must come to. Disobedience must be punished, so that obedience can be learned.
- ***For this is well pleasing to the Lord: For this is right!*** This is one of the fundamental laws of living! It is righteous, it is something which is essentially ***right*** and good in and of itself. The apostle gives us two reasons for the child to ***obey the parent***. First, they are to obey ***in the Lord***. This means that their obedience is part of their Christian obedience, in a similar way to the wife's command to submit to her husband ***as to the Lord (Eph 5:22)***. The second reason is because it is simply ***right, well pleasing***, for a child to ***obey their parent***.

Eph 6:2 "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first commandment with promise: (Deu 5:16) 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you

- ***Honor your father and mother - Children, obey your parents, reminding them of this commandment.*** It is ***right*** and God ***commands*** it! Again, we see this differentiating Christianity from paganism. The pagans, in these matters did not link the ***mother*** with the ***father*** but spoke of the father only. But the Christian position, as indeed the Jewish position, as given by God to

Moses, puts the *mother* with the *father*. The injunction is that children are to obey their parents, and the word '*obey*' means not only to listen to, but to listen as realizing that you are under authority, to listen 'under'. You are looking up for a *commandment*, and you not only listen, but you recognize your position of subservience and you proceed to put it into practice.

- **Obedience is to be governed and controlled by honoring father and mother.** Children are to love, regard and respect their parents. They are to realize the position between them. They are to rejoice in it, regard it as a great privilege; therefore, going out of their way to always show this reverence and respect in their every action. What it means to *honor our father and mother* may change as we grow into adulthood, but the principle always endures. The adult child does not owe the parent obedience, but they do owe the parent *honor*.
- **This is not only right, he says, this is also the first commandment with promise annexed to it! (Exo 20:12a)** He means that the honoring of parents is not only essentially right, but that it is actually one of the things that God pin-pointed in the Ten Commandments, which were designed to impress them upon the minds of people, to state them clearly and to say, '*These are the things you must observe*'. The *first commandment with promise*, the fifth *commandment* in the Law of Moses! God has gone out of His way to call attention to this very thing.
- **What is meant by the expression 'First commandment with promise?'** First, as it were, in relative importance, because if neglected, it leads to the collapse of society. A breakdown in home-life will eventually lead to a breakdown everywhere. Once the family idea, the family unit, the family life is broken up—once that goes, soon you will have no other allegiance! It is the most serious thing of all. That is perhaps the reason why God attached this promise to it.

Eph 6:3 "THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH." (Deu 32:46-47) and he said to them: "Set your hearts

on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe—all the words of this law. [47] For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess."

- **THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH."** This promise, going behind the action, to the attitude, to obey willingly and gladly, as to the Lord! Not solemn, bitter obedience! If this obedience is not learned as children, it will follow to adulthood, resulting in lawlessness and disobedience! It was originally given to the children of Israel, meant that if you want to go on living in this land of promise to which I am leading you, observe these commandments, this one in particular. If you want to have a time of blessedness and happiness in that promised land, if you want to go on living there under my blessing, observe these commandments, especially this one'. Here we see the same command and *promise* applying to the whole church – Jew and Gentile! The length of days is in itself a blessing; and though men's days cannot be lengthened beyond God's purpose and decree; and though obedient children do not always live long; yet disobedience to parents often brings the judgments of God on children, so that they die an uncommon death,
- **Observe this commandment if you want to live a blessed life, a full life under the benediction of God.** He may choose to keep you for a long time on this earth as an example and illustration. But however old you may be when you leave this world, you will know that you are under the blessing, and the good hand, of God. What it is meant to convey is that God is very well pleased with people who observe His commandments. If we set ourselves to observe these *commandments*, and this one in particular, for the right reason, then God will look down with pleasure upon us, and will smile upon us and bless us. Thank God for such a *promise*!

Eph 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath,

(Col 3:21) Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

- ***You, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath*** (the place where they lose control and break out against authority!) **Mothers must enforce the discipline in raising children, but it is the father's responsibility as to the result!** Throughout the Bible the principle is that there must be discipline, there must be punishment. But how exactly, is that punishment to be meted out, and particularly in the Christian home? Here, our text is so important. You must exercise discipline, but you must ***not provoke your children to wrath***.
- **There is a wrong way of exercising discipline as well as a right way.** Christians need to be concerned about the true biblical method of exercising the discipline, which is commanded us by the holy Law of God. The modern notion, although it often claims the name of Christ, is a denial of all the basic and fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. It is not surprising that worldly unbelievers are advocating it very loudly with respect to capital punishment, to war, to education, to prison reform, and much else. It is not surprising, that they are advocating it, because we do not expect Christian and biblical understanding of them. But a true Christian should and must understand.
- ***Do not provoke your children to wrath: (two things so contribute, especially today – indulgence and harshness, which are the opposites to bringing up your children in the training admonition of the Lord!)*** Parents certainly have the opportunity to ***provoke*** their ***children to wrath***, through an unkind, over-critical attitude that torments the child instead of training them. But Christian parents should never be like that. The gospel introduced a fresh and revolutionary concept into parental responsibility by insisting that the feelings of the child must be taken into consideration. ***Provoke your children to wrath:*** This harsh kind of parenting gives an unnecessary justification to a child's natural rebellion. When you are disciplining a child, a parent should have first controlled yourself, otherwise what right do you have to say to your child that he needs discipline when you obviously need it yourself? Words, like unreasonableness, fault-finding, neglect and inconsistency should not a pattern of parents' response.
- ***Do not provoke your children to wrath*** by unreasonable commands; by needless severity; by the manifestation of anger but govern them, and to punish them - if punishment is necessary - that they shall not lose their confidence in you but shall love you. (***Heb 12:6a***) ***FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS***. The apostle here has hit on the very danger to which parents are most exposed in the government of their children. It is that of souring their temper; of making them feel that the parent is under the influence of anger, which is understandable.

but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (***Gen***

18:19) *For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." (Heb 12:11) Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

- **First and foremost, the bringing up of children 'in the training and admonition of the Lord'** is something which is to be done in the home and by the parents. It's not children bring up your parents, but parents bring up your children, avoiding harshness and indulgence! This is the emphasis throughout the Bible. It is not something that is to be handed over to the school. It is the duty of parents, their primary and most essential duty. It is their responsibility, and they are not to hand over this responsibility to another. It does not mean merely scolding your children in the sense of ***admonition***. It means to ***train*** and ***admonish***, giving them a reason. Encouragement and rebuke must be combined with training and teaching. First ***train***, then ***admonish***!
- ***Training and admonition - training***, is more general than ***admonition***. It is the sum total of nurturing, rearing, bringing up the child, including general discipline, with emphasis upon

actions, cultivating the mind and the spirit, the morals and the moral behavior, the whole personality of the child. That is our task. It is to look upon the child and care for it, and guard it, conveying the same idea as with the relationship of husbands and wives, where we were told that the Lord Himself *nourishes and cherishes* the church. Here we are told to do the same with respect to our children.

- **Admonition has reference rather to words which are spoken.** *Admonition* carries much the same meaning, putting greater emphasis upon speech. First we have to deal with general conduct and behavior, the things we have to do by actions. Then, in addition, there are certain *admonitions* that should be addressed to the child, words of exhortation, words of encouragement, words of reproof, words of blame; **solid discipline, clear verbal instruction, all wrapped in nourishing tenderness!** The two terms includes all these, indeed everything we say to the children in actual words when we are defining positions and indicating what is right or wrong, encouraging and exhorting. It is a time when lives are made and broken.
- **Admonition of the Lord!** Children are to be reared in *‘the training and the admonition’*—and then the most important addition of all—*of the Lord!* This is where Christian parents, engaged in their duty towards their children, are in an entirely different category from all other parents. This appeal to Christian parents is not simply to exhort them to bring up their children in terms of general morality or good manners or commendable behavior in general. The children of Christians are to be brought up *‘in the training and admonition of the Lord’*.
- **Parents’ greatest desire and ambition** - This is not only their supreme task; **their greatest desire and ambition for their children should be that they should come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and as their Lord!** Is that our main ambition for our children? Does that come first?—that they may come to ‘know Him, whom to know is life eternal’, that they may know Him as their Savior and that they may follow Him as their Lord? *‘In the training and the admonition of the Lord!’*
- **Summary of Parents-Children relationship:**
 1. **Provide an emotional climate in the home** – atmosphere for building personal relationships.
 2. **Be a good example** – do as I do and not as I say! Depending on the Lord and walking closely with Him in everything.
 3. **Allow a gradual loosening of parental authority.** Feel freer to let them make, and learn, from their mistakes.
 4. **Provide counsel in an informal setting.** Spend time in abuilding relationship that are acceptable to a child.
 5. **Set limits.** A parents’ task which builds security in a child’s life. Children desperately need discipline and limits!
 6. **Apply the law of natural consequences.** Further, comes with the loosening of parental control as the child grows and develops, let them make some mistakes and see what the results are, but early enough that the consequences are not so likely to damage their entire life.
 7. **Finally, and most important – surround them with a fortress of prayer,** which is a mighty force to keep children true and honest and open, keeping communication lines clear That our children grow up to be an honor to our homes and most importantly, to Jesus Christ! (paraphrased from Howard Hendricks/Ray Stedman)

1

Eph 6:5 Bondservants (employees), be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, (1Ti 6:1) Let as many bondservants 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.

- **We need to remember the ground is level for all at the foot of the cross!** How should we conduct ourselves in all employer-employee relationships, or any relationship where one person comes under the authority of another having the responsibility of obedience in the realm of work? The issues are exactly the same today in the employee-employer relationship as in that of slave-master. Here we have the Biblical answer.
- **Turning to Bondservants- slaves, employees.** (*Doulos*; a slave, bondman, a servant, attendant – used by Apostles Paul, James, Peter and Jude in their epistles, describing their relationship with Jesus Christ). Today it would usually be employees. **Bondservants** are exhorted in the Scriptures that whatever we do in word or deed we should do all to the glory of God! We should do things as unto the Lord. As a **bondservant** (an employee), I am to be diligent. I am to act as though as I am serving the Lord in doing my work. I am to do it **as to the Lord**. Obedient to those that are my employers, **according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of your heart, as unto Christ**. So why should I be concerned if it seemed like a very menial type of a task? It doesn't matter. You do it as unto the Lord. You expect to receive your reward really, from the Lord!
- **Notice first is an activity of obedience is required! Be obedient to those who are your earthly masters!** This is uniformly directed in the New Testament; see (**1Pe 2:18**) *Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. (1Ti 6:1) Let as many bondservants 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.* They were to show in that relationship the excellence of the Christian faith which they professed. If they could be made free, they were to prefer that condition to a state of bondage. (**1Co 7:21**) *Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it, but while the relation remained, they were to be kind, gentle, and obedient, as became Christians.* In They were to obey their masters in all things, evidently with the limitations implied in the case of wives and children. A master would have no right to command that which was morally wrong.
- **Bondservants, be obedient to them that are your masters.** The apostle enlarges on the duty of **bondservants**, who, generally speaking, were more rude and ignorant, and less pains were taken with them to instruct them. They were apt to be impatient and weary of the yoke. The duty of

Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart,

(2Co 7:15) And his affections are greater for you as he remembers the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling you received him

- **According to the flesh** - that is, those who have the command of your bodies, but not of your souls and consciences: God alone has dominion over these. This is designed, evidently, to limit the obligation to obedience. The meaning is, that they had control over “the body, **the flesh**.” They had the power to command the service which the body could render; but they were not lords of the spirit. The soul acknowledged God as its Lord, and to the Lord they were to be subject in a higher sense than to their masters!
- **With fear and trembling** - With great humility and respect, with reverence of them, and giving honor to them, with carefulness not to offend them, lest they should justly incur their anger and indignation, with submission to their reproofs and corrections, and with fear of punishment; but **more especially with the fear of God**, being by that influenced and constrained to obedience.

- ***In sincerity of heart*** - With a simple, sincere desire, without hypocrisy, without subtle insubordination, to do what ought to be done, to do what is right, not pretending obedience when **masters** design disobedience, but serving them with faithfulness, readiness and cheerfulness, serving them as you would serve **Christ** Himself!

as to Christ; (1Ch 29:17) *I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You.*

- **As to Christ** - Bondservants should have an eye **to Jesus Christ** in all the service that they perform to their masters, *doing service as to the Lord, and not to men*. When servants, in the discharge of the duty of their places, have an eye **to Christ**, it puts an honor upon their obedience, and an acceptableness into it. Service done to their earthly masters, with an eye to him, becomes acceptable service to Him also. To have an eye **to Christ** is to remember that He sees them and is ever present with them, and that His authority obliges them to a faithful and conscientious discharge of the duties of their station. **Christ** knows!

Eph 6:6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, (Col 3:22) *Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. (Php 2:12) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;*

- **They must not serve their masters with eye-service, as men-pleasers** only when their master's eye is upon them; but they must be as conscientious in the discharge of their duty, when they are absent and out of the way, because then their Master in heaven sees them. They must not to act **as men-pleasers** - as though they had no regard to the pleasing of God, but regard pleasing Him above all else!
- **Our eye must not be on men at all.** That is the whole trouble with the non-Christian and with the non-Christian life? He has his eye constantly on men—on self, on other men, asking, what do they think of me, of my appearance, of my ability? These become the dominating considerations. The whole life is thus controlled by men and their opinions. He wants the praise of man, so he always has his eye on men, always watching other people. But that should not be true of the Christian—**‘not as men pleasers’**. It must not be our ambition to please men, but to please God!
- **But as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, not to** wake up tomorrow morning by saying to yourself, “Well, here is another day. I have to work hard and shall be beaten if I do not do it. I shall not be given enough food; I am just a slave; it is all wrong. These pagan masters do not understand, I am not going to put up with it, I am going to rebel! No, you must not speak in that way, but rather say, I am, incidentally, the slave of this man; but, in reality, **I am the slave of the Lord Jesus Christ and my service must all be done as to Him**”⁴. This is what Paul, in that frame of mind always says about himself. He did all his work as a **bondservant of Jesus Christ**. Here he reminds these slaves that the same is true of them.

Eph 6:7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

- **With good will doing service as unto the Lord, and not as unto men**⁵. Each day Christians are to remember that they are servants of God, a **bondservant of Christ**! Show it in your work, show it in everything you do! Always, let this come out. Realize whatever your calling, whatever your lot or position in life, it is a glorious one. Never feel a sense of drudgery again! Your job may be mechanical and monotonous. If so, get hold of this idea! Whatever I do, I want to do it **as to the Lord, and not to men!**

- ***With good will doing service as unto the Lord, and not as unto men!*** Perhaps someone looking at me and seeing me enjoying the drudgery, doing it with gladness and joy that the world can never produce, may suddenly be convinced and convicted of sin, and that they may become a seeker of salvation. Get rid of the notion that you have to be preaching or teaching explicitly in order to evangelize. You can evangelize where you are, just as you are. You do it primarily by your life, by the way in which you do your daily work. You prove that you are a Christian in that way, because only a Christian can possibly do it in that way.
- ***Or you can do it as to the Lord,*** Praise the Lord! To learn to do things as to ***the Lord*** because you'll do them with a totally different attitude. It's amazing how that your attitude affects the way you do things. And how it affects you in how you do them. You are either doing them with anger and it's poisoning your system, or you are joyfully doing them and are being blessed because you are ***doing it as to the Lord***. That's basically what Paul tells the employee to do your work ***as you are doing it to the Lord***.
- ***The Christian's chief desire is to please His Lord and Savior,*** and to show forth His excellences and His praise. ***As to the Lord, with good will doing service as to the Lord, and not to men.*** Summing up the matter we can put it in this way. We show that ***our chief ambition in life is to do the will of God, to prove ourselves to be the slaves of Christ, bought with His precious blood.*** That will be manifested by the way in which we perform our daily tasks.

Eph 6:8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

- ***Then for the employer, Knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.*** This is the second significant motive that should govern the whole of our Christian life and living; namely, ***our accountability to the Lord Jesus Christ***. It is the realization of the fact that we are His slaves, and that we shall all have to render up an account to Him. This is a principle which many dislike at the present time; indeed, a dislike of this whole idea of accountability and judgment has been characteristic of much religious thinking during the whole of this present century.
- ***The Christian knows that we shall all stand before this blessed Lord and Master and 'receive the things done in the body, whether good or bad'. He shall receive!*** There is the judgment issuing in rewards. ***(2Co 5:10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*** That should be the over-ruling and over-riding consideration in all our thinking and behavior in every respect! Before we get there we receive a great deal in this life, do we not? We serve a very generous as well as a very just Master. He does reward us! He does encourage! Is there anything in life, in the whole world, comparable to His smile upon us, His expression of His satisfaction in us?

Eph 6:9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, (Col 4:1) Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

- ***You masters, do the same things.*** The world can never speak like that because it always tends to polarize positions and differences. It addresses one appeal to the ***servants***; and makes a different appeal to the ***masters***. But the Apostle says, ***'Do the same things'***. It means that they have to behave in their relationship exactly as the servants do in theirs. They have to live ***'with fear and trembling'***, though they are ***masters***. The ***'fear and trembling'***, remember, does not mean cowardly fear, but a fear of displeasing the heavenly Master, a fear of doing harm to the Gospel,

and to the Kingdom of God. They have to live in *'fear and trembling'* and they have also to behave with regard to their slaves *'in sincerity of heart'*, exactly as the slaves have to do. They have to do it *'as to Christ'*, and they have to do it *'as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart'*, and *'with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men'*. There is no difference in those respects between them and the slaves. All the principles that were laid down in the case of the slave are equally applicable in the case of the master.

- ***Giving up threatening:*** Employers are also to *give up threatening* and other forms of harsh treatment. They do this knowing that they are employees of their Master in heaven - and He judges without regard to wealth or position.
- ***It is possible to threaten people without saying a word.*** A harsh way of looking at them, or general brusque behavior can amount to threatening. To keep them rigorously in their position of subordination, to let them know that that is where they belong, and that they are going to be kept there; to hint to them that they had better be careful—all this can be done though you may not raise a hand, or swear or curse or shout! **Treat** everyone with dignity!

knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

- ***There is no partiality with Him.*** He does not look upon our earthly human divisions and distinctions as we do. He is not interested in them as we are. The world today is as full of such distinctions and divisions as was the ancient world, divided up in various ways. But that is quite irrelevant in the sight of this Master, this Lord. His great interest is in a man's relationship to Himself; with Him the soul is paramount. It does not matter in His sight where you live or what country you are from. There is only one thing that matters—Have you seen that you are a sinner in the sight of God? Are you trusting utterly and entirely to the Lord Jesus Christ who has died for you and your sins? Do you know that you are a miserable sinner saved only by the grace of God, and given new life; and that the one thing that matters is that new life, not the old life?
There is no partiality with Him
- ***In the blessed name of Jesus, Christian servants and masters get down on their knees*** together, looking up into His face in submission to Him, which is the only way to solve the problems of society. They do so because He is 'the Lord'. He is the Lord of lords, the King of kings. He is supreme both in this world and in the world to come. 'All authority has been given to Him in heaven and in earth', and by Him 'all things consist! The moment you look at Him, the terms 'bond' and 'free' become comparatively unimportant and almost irrelevant. He also says, ***he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free!*** When you come into the realm of the absolute, all other distinctions vanish, they cease to count; here ***masters according to the flesh become servants and slaves exactly as the others!***

Closing Prayer