

Born to Be Slaves

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Resistance to Slavery

Psalm 2:1-3

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."

- Q: Why do the heathens rage against Jesus Christ? (Ps. 2:1-3) v.3 – Because they are in bondage and they want their freedom.
- God's response – mockery, derision. "You are born a slave, and a slave you will be forever. That will never change."

Slavery to Pre-Determinism

- In what way are we in bondage? We are not in control, never have been, never will be.
 - Eg. We did not choose our parents, historical era, gender, wealth, circumstances
 - Men think that this is the problem that wealth can satisfy. Illusion of being able to control our destiny and circumstances.
 - They rage against God when they find out it doesn't work. Wealth does not meet their expectations. The only thing they can control is their response to that which is out of their control.
- We will always be slave to pre-determinism. God will never give up control.
- You were born a slave and will be a slave throughout eternity. Didn't get a chance to vote on it.
- All people in all cultures and all ages have always believed and understood pre-determinism. Hindus call it Karma, Muslims call it Will of Allah, Greeks call it Fate, and the Bible calls it Providence. All have in common that you are not in control and anyone who thinks about it realizes he is not in control.

The Illusion of Control Comes from Satan

- **Garden of Eden – Knowledge of Good and Evil**
 - God tells Adam and Eve, "You will die if you eat of that fruit."
 - Satan says, "If you eat, you get to be in control and like God where you can determine what is good and evil." Irresistibly they took and ate.
 - This was Satan's idea – if you eat then you will be in control. God did not say that and it will never be the case. We will never be able to determine what is good and evil – only God Himself can determine that.

'Slave'

- In KJV, the word 'slave' appears only once. In Jeremiah.
- The word, 'slaves,' appears only once, in Revelation.
- The Greek word, 'doulas', appears 158 times in the NT.
- Comes across as 'servant' rather than 'slave', which is a softer term since servants have choice and slaves do not.

God's Sovereignty and Determinism

Acts 4:22-28

- Peter quotes Psalm 2 after he returns from being arrested and brought before the rulers:
 - Plot against baby Jesus was prophesied in Ps 2 and allowed by God's will.
 - Acts 4:25-28:

“WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE,
AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS?
' THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND,
AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER
AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.'
For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your
holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius
Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do
whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.”

Hebrews 4 – Importance of Entering into God's Rest

- We enter God's rest by believing what God says. Believing that God is in control and that nothing is given to chance. Nothing in history has surprised God.
- If you don't believe, you will wander in the wilderness of unbelief.
- 3 Kinds of Rest
 1. **Creation Rest** (God rested 7th day)
 - a. Important in Hebrews argument. Sabbath Rest created by God when He rested on the 7th day (Pre-Fall). God refers to it as “my rest”, which people will not enter into if they are disobedient.
 - b. The work was finished from before the foundation of the world. History is the unfolding of what God determined before the fact. Nothing is given to chance.
 2. **Canaan Rest**
 - a. Rest for the Jews
 - b. Israelites missed this when the spies brought back their report and caused people to be too afraid to take possession of the land. They wandered for 40 years in the wilderness because they refused to believe God.
 - c. Joshua had not given that rest, otherwise they would have had that rest (Heb 4:8).
 3. **Christ's Rest** (Matt 11:28-30)
 - a. Believe God's plan through Christ.
 - b. To enter into Christ's rest, you have to believe in Creation Rest. Be obedient and submissive to God's plan through Christ.
 - c. Jesus gives us rest (Matt 11:28). His yoke is easy and light because Jesus shares it with us.
 - We begin to understand the way of God and trust that Jesus has our best interests.

2 Kinds of Slaves

1. Those shackled to circumstances they can't control

- God mocks these people in Psalm 2. They have no vote.
2. Those enslaved to Christ
- Strictly voluntary. You can vote.
 - OT analogy:
 - If financial difficulty, you can become a slave to another Hebrew and be set free after 7 years. But if the slave thinks slavery is better than his freedom before, he can choose to be his slave in perpetuity. Then he pierces his ear and becomes slave for life (voluntary).
 - We get to decide whether to be slaves of Christ.
 - We can either submit to slavery to Christ, or set ourselves free to wander in the wilderness of unfulfilled dreams and unmet expectations and then die and go to hell.
 - Matt 11:28-30
 - You were born with a yoke, taken where you didn't want to go, told what to do. You are opposed in your vocation and no man is as rich or talented as he wants to be. Everyone strives to break the bondage that keeps him from meeting his expectations. We chaff under authority of our parents, and then find ourselves under authority of state. This yoke goes into eternity.
 - Or, you can pick Jesus' yoke. It's easier and lighter because Jesus shares it with us. There's purpose, direction, and hope in the end, none of which is available to the person who refuses the yoke of Christ.

Our Response

- We cannot control the fact that we are in slavery, but the only thing we can control is our response to it.
- Reprehension and Resistance:
 - If thought of slavery is utterly reprehensible to you or if you find yourself resisting the commands of God, then you cannot be a slave to God. If God offered you total freedom, would you take it? You can only become Christ's slave if you would rather be that than live. Needs to be more important than your existence and your independence.
- Joy, Non-Willfulness, and Commitment:
 - If you want to be slave of Jesus, like the OT voluntary slave, in reality nothing should thrill you more than the thought of being the slave of our Lord Jesus for all eternity. One cannot be a slave of Jesus, until one concludes with commitment and clarity that it is the best thing in the universe, even over tree of knowledge of good and evil and being like God.
 - Slave lives in perpetual obedience, dependence, and brokenness, eager to do the will of God. Not willful. Jesus said He had no will of His own, but that He only did the will of God.
 - Kierkegard: "Purity of Heart is to Will One Thing", and that is to be the slave of Jesus.
- We should be grateful to God that He does not give us what we want.
- Don't relate to God on your terms. Relate to Him only on His terms.