

Title: **CHRIST THE SERVANT**
Text: Exodus 21:1-6
Subject: *The Law of the Bond Servant*
Date: Tuesday Evening — August 19, 2008
Tape : Exodus #78
Readings: *David Burge and Larry Criss*
Introduction:

In Exodus 21 the Lord God begins to give his judgments (civil statutes) to Israel, by which he typified and portrayed redemption, grace and salvation by Christ¹. The Lord willing, next week we will look at this whole series of civil statutes in chapters 21-23; but tonight we will focus our attention on Exodus 21:1-6. Here is the first of the civil statutes given to Israel. It appears to be the basis of all those that follow it. Exodus 21:1-6 gives us the law of God concerning the bond-servant. This the very first civil statute given to Israel was a blessed picture of redemption and grace by our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Exodus 21:1-6) “Now these *are* the judgments which thou shalt set before them. (2) If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing. (3) If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him. (4) If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her master’s, and he shall go out by himself. (5) And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: (6) Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him for ever.”

Proposition: This law describes a man who would voluntarily make himself a bond-servant to his master for life; and that Man is the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

¹ Ever remember, the law of God, these civil statutes, ceremonial rites, and all the commandments were messianic. They were given to Israel alone and applied to Israel alone. The law of the Old Testament has absolutely nothing to do with Gentiles. It was never given to Gentiles. The law was messianic. It pointed to Christ, who is the fulfillment and the end of the law.

CHRIST THE SERVANT

The Servant spoken of in this passage of Scripture, by type and picture, is the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. It is him whom we have come to hear, him we have come to worship, him we must have and him I have come here to preach. The title of my message is – **CHRIST THE SERVANT**.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became the Servant of God that he might redeem and save sinners chosen of God from the foundation of the world (Matthew 1:21). He “*came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many*” (Mark 10:45). — How blessed it is to see and know Christ in this relationship! The eye of faith sees the Servant and rejoices in all his work.

Let me show you five things about this law of the bond-servant, by which our Lord Jesus Christ was typified.

VOLUNTARY SERVANT

*First, **the Lord Jesus Christ chose to become Jehovah’s Servant**.* — We understand and rejoice to know that this servant is himself God, one with the Father in being, glory and greatness, in all things equal with the Father. In his eternal Deity, as God the Son, our Savior is altogether equal with the Father. But he became a man, became our Surety, became our Mediator, that he might subject himself to and obey his Father’s will as a man (2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:6-8).

(2 Corinthians 8:9) “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”

(Philippians 2:6-8) “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Those words are of unspeakable importance. Much, very much indeed, depends on a right understanding of them. Here let it be clearly understood that **the Son of God is and must be God, the second Person of the**

CHRIST THE SERVANT

blessed Trinity. — We are Trinitarians. We believe, according to the Scriptures, that there is one God, subsisting in three eternal Persons, in all things equal to one another (1 John 5:7).

(1 John 5:7) “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”

The Son of God cannot possibly be inferior to the Father in his divine nature. If Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh, as the Scriptures declare, there cannot be any measure of inequality between the Father and the Son.

Augustus Toplady, wrote, “The uncreated and eternally begotten Son of the Father Almighty is and must be as truly a divine being as the Father who begat him.”

Therefore, when we read in the Scriptures of Christ’s being the Servant of God, subjecting himself to the will of God, and obeying the commandment of God, we are assured that his servitude is and must be by his own free and voluntary consent. He is indeed the Servant of God; but his service was no forced work. — “*He gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works*” (Titus 2:14). — “*Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it*” (Ephesians 5:25). — Our Lord himself declares, “*As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep*” (John 10:15)

There was a perfect understanding between the Father and the Son from eternity. Let there be no misunderstanding in our own minds. Christ became the Servant of Jehovah by his own will (John 10:16-18).

(John 10:16-18) "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd. (17) Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. (18) No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."

CHRIST THE SERVANT

- The Commandment of the Father — “*This commandment have I received of my Father*” (v. 18).
- The Obedience of the Son — “*I lay it down of myself*” (v. 18).
- The Love of the Father to the Son — “Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again” (v.17).

(Isaiah 50:5-7) “The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back. (6) I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. (7) For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.”

Illustration: Honey-Do Day

(Isaiah 42:1-4) “Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. (2) He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. (3) A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. (4) He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.”

CHRIST’S SERVICE

*Second, **the Lord Jesus served.*** From the moment of his birth, until his final breath in this world, the Lord Jesus served. He was ever Jehovah’s righteous and faithful Servant. He said, to his disciples, “*I am among you as he that serveth*” (Luke 22:27; Hebrews 10:5-14).

(Hebrews 10:5-14) “Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: (6) In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin thou hast had no pleasure. (7) Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. (8) Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*; which are offered by the law; (9) Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He

CHRIST THE SERVANT

taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. (10) By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. (11) And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: (12) But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; (13) From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. (14) For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”

SIX YEARS

Now, listen carefully. According to Exodus 21, a servant could only serve for six years, no more, except he become a voluntary bond-servant forever.

(Exodus 21:2) “If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing.”

Six years was the measure of a man’s obedience. That is not accidental. **Six is the number of man**, the number of incompleteness, frustration, and failure. The Lord Jesus Christ came here to do as Jehovah’s Servant what no man had ever done before, but what all men must do; and he did it. – **He came here to make up for, to make reconciliation for man, to make atonement for iniquity, to make an end of sin, to make restitution for transgressions and to bring in everlasting righteousness** (Daniel 9:24; Romans 8:1-4). — If you take time to read this section at one sitting (Exodus 21-23), you will see that all these civil laws given to Israel are laws requiring equity, righteousness and justice. Wherever a breach was found, wherever an offense was committed, restitution was required.

- Honor for Reproach.
- An Eye for an Eye.
- A Tooth for a Tooth.
- An Ox for an Ox.
- A Dollar for a Dollar.
- A Life for a Life.

Christ became Jehovah’s Servant to make restitution for us!

CHRIST THE SERVANT

(Daniel 9:24) “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”

(Romans 8:1-4) “*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

1. This Servant of God fulfilled the law perfectly, bringing in everlasting righteousness.
2. This Servant of God put away the sins of his people by the sacrifice of himself. – He finished the transgression and made an end of sins!
3. Our blessed Savior taught us, by example, how to serve our God. – He washed his disciples’ feet (John 13:1-5).

The Lord Jesus chose to become a Servant. He actually served the will of God. Now, be sure you get the third thing stated in the text.

THE SERVANT’S OPTION

Third, the servant, according to the law, had an option. — Had he chosen to do so, he could have gone out free. — Our blessed Savior could have gone out free. It was the servant’s choice, back here in Exodus 21, whether he remained a servant or went out free. So it was with our Savior, even after he had come into the world.

Living here as a Man, the Lord Jesus had perfectly honored and pleased his Father.

(Matthew 17:5) “While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which

CHRIST THE SERVANT

said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”

Even in Gethsemane, the Lord Jesus told Peter he was under no constraint, except the constraint of his own voluntary will to die in our place at Calvary (Matthew 26:52-54).

(Matthew 26:52-54) “Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. (53) Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? (54) But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?”

BUT – Had he gone out free, he would go out by himself.

FREEDOM REFUSED

So, *fourth*, I want you to see that **our Lord would not go out by himself.** Look at Exodus 21:5, and watch the order.

(Exodus 21:5) “And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free.”

(John 12:27-32) “Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. (28) Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, *saying*, I have both glorified *it*, and will glorify *it* again. (29) The people therefore, that stood by, and heard *it*, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. (30) Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. (31) Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. (32) And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.”

“If the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free.” – Oh, how I thank God that he said, “I WILL NOT GO OUT FREE!”

CHRIST THE SERVANT

(Isaiah 50:7) “For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.”

(Luke 9:51) “And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,”

Let’s see what we can learn from these words. Picture in your mind the great covenant of grace. The Lord Jesus, way back before the world was made, stood before God the Father, and said...

“**I love my Master.**” — Why did the Lord Jesus Christ come into this world? The answer is found in these words. Christ came here because of his great love for his Father, to glorify God the Father. The first Adam, who was made for the glory of God, failed miserably. The last Adam succeeded gloriously! He restored that which he took not away.

He was altogether competent for the work he came here to do, because this man is God, because this God-man was altogether without sin.

- -”*In him is no sin*” (1 John 3:5).
- -”*He knew no sin*” (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- -”*He did no sin*” (1 Peter 2:22).
- -When tempted of the devil, Satan found nothing in him by which to seduce him.

He had no work, no ambition, no will, but to do his Father’s will.

- **When he was just a boy**, he corrected his mother on this subject, saying, “*Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business*” (Luke 2:49). – There was never a boy who loved, honored and sought to please his mother like this boy; but there was someone he loved more, sought to honor more, sought to please more, someone more important than his mother. He loved his Father too much to be detracted from his work by the fleshly sorrows of his mother.
- **When he was a man**, he said, “*I do always those things that please him*” (John 8:29).
- **When his labor was ended**, when his work was done, when the faithful Servant gave an account of the work he had done, he said, “*I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do*” (John 17:4).

CHRIST THE SERVANT

It is by the covenant Surety's glorification of the Father that elect sinners are saved with an everlasting salvation and eternally justified. The love of God for us and the love of Christ for his Father is the source and cause of it all.

Next, the Servant says, "**I love my wife.**" — You who are loved of Christ cannot fail to see your Beloved here. Here we see something of the marvelous love of Christ for his bride, the Church. What David said concerning Jonathan we say from the heart concerning our Redeemer: — "**Thy love to me is wonderful!**" (2 Samuel 1:26). **I pray for you, and for myself, as Paul did for the Ephesians, that we might know the unknowable,** — "*That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God*" — (Ephesians 3:17-19).

(Ephesians 5:25-27) — "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

ILLUSTRATIONS

Where can we find illustrations of Christ' great love for his elect bride? **Jacob's Love for Rachel** was rewarded with deceit, but it did not dampen his love. Our Savior's love for us caused him shame and suffering unknown, but the more he endured the more his love was made manifest. His love for us is stronger than death and as firm as the very life of the eternal God!

(Genesis 29:18-20) "And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her."

CHRIST THE SERVANT

Adam's love for Eve gives us another illustration of our Savior's love for us. Nowhere do we see the love of Christ, the last Adam, for his bride more fully illustrated than in the love of the first Adam for his wife Eve. The Holy Spirit tells us plainly that Adam was not deceived by the devil (1 Timothy 2:14). He knew exactly what he was doing. He sinned with his eyes wide open. He saw Eve in the depths of her sin, guilt and shame. Yet, he loved her. **Because of his love for her, before he would be separated from her, he chose to be damned with her.** He cleaved to his wife, for they were one. He plunged himself into ruin. He freely, deliberately plunged himself under the wrath of God. He made himself sin for Eve's sake, because he loved Eve! In all this Adam stands out as an eminent type of Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us.

Next, the Servant says, "**I love my children.**" — Even back then, in the covenant of grace, before the world began, the predestined children of God were given a family relation with the Son of God. Is he the Son of God? So are we, by divine adoption and special predestination, from eternity.

Thomas Bradbury wrote, "Through the perfection of His righteousness — the preciousness of His blood — the power of His resurrection — and the prevalency of His intercession, He brings forth the progeny of grace (His Seed – A Seed To Serve Him) from the womb of the eternal purpose, to serve, praise and adore the eternal Three in One to all generations."

In us Christ sees the fruit and satisfaction of his soul's travail. In him is all our salvation (1 Corinthians 1:30).

- In him we were chosen to salvation.
- In him we have been redeemed from all sin.
- In him we are begotten again unto a lively hope by his resurrection.
- In him we have been quickened into spiritual life by his Spirit.
- In him we have been born again never to die.
- In him we are saved!
- He carries us in the bosom of his everlasting love.
- He washed us from every stain of sin in his own precious blood.
- He has justified us with his spotless righteousness.
- He shall at last present us faultless to the Father in perfect holiness (Hebrews 2:13).

CHRIST THE SERVANT

Why did Christ become the Servant of God? Because he loved his Father, he loved his wife, and he loved his children.

SERVANT FOREVER

Now, there is one more thing about this Servant of God who is our Savior. Look at Exodus 21:6. “*He shall serve forever.*” — Fifth, **our Lord Jesus Christ shall serve forever.** How delightful and blessed it is to our hearts to see the willingness, the delight of Christ to bow, to humble himself, to become obedient to the Father’s will, to suffer and die for us. Oh, how he loved us!

- He said, “*I will not go out free!*”
- He had his ear bored. — He solemnly and publicly (before the Father, before the Spirit, before the heavenly angels) declared himself to be Jehovah’s Servant forever, and never had a second thought!

A human body was prepared for the Son of God and he came into this world as Jehovah’s Servant in that body. — “*A body hast thou prepared me!*” What a glorious sight for the comfort of every believing heart! — The Son of God wears and forever dwells in a human body!

- **A REAL HUMAN HEART** to feel the sorrows and sufferings of his loved ones in this world.
- **REAL HUMAN EYES** to watch over his people, to weep with those that weep, to weep for those who cannot weep for themselves.
- **REAL HUMAN EARS** ever attentive to the cries of his beloved.
- **REAL HUMAN HANDS** to minister to the necessities of his family.
- **REAL HUMAN FEET** frequently weary in errands of mercy for his beloved.
- **REAL HUMAN LIPS** ever filled with grace, ever flowing with words of love and life for his chosen.
- **A REAL HUMAN SOUL** which was troubled and sorrowful, even unto death, that his sinful, sorrowing people might be sinless and joyful to all eternity.

Blessed be God, yonder in heaven’s highest glory there is a man, a real man, Jesus, the Christ, Jehovah’s Servant, my Savior!

Once more, pause to consider what our Lord Jesus has done and is

CHRIST THE SERVANT**doing for chosen sinners as Jehovah's Servant.**

- He brought in everlasting righteousness by his obedience to God as our Representative.
- He put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.
- He lives in heaven, to make intercession for transgressors, according to the will of God.
- He sends his Spirit to regenerate and save his redeemed ones, in the time of love.

Illustration: David to Ziba, — “*Fetch Him!*”

- He keeps and preserves his believing people secure unto eternal glory.
- He rules the world for the good of his redeemed ones.
- He is coming again to gather his elect up to glory.

(1 Corinthians 15:24-28) “Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. (25) For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. (26) The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death. (27) For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him*, *it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. (28) And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”

(Ephesians 5:25-27) “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; (26) That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, (27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

(Jude 1:24-25) “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, (25) To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.”

All praise to Christ, THE SERVANT! — “*Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and*

CHRIST THE SERVANT

priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen” (Revelation 1:5-6). — Whatever our need may be, it is supplied from the unfailing stores of our heavenly Bridegroom. The time of our destitution and helplessness gave him opportunity to exercise his love and care. When we were lost and loathsome, he came to us in love. When we were naked, he clothed us with the garments of salvation.

(Isaiah 61:10) “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”

When hungry, he feeds us. When fainting, he restores us. When helpless, he upholds us. Do we long for glory? He will bring us in!

Now, look at the last two words of our text. — “**For Ever**” (Luke 12:37).

(Luke 12:37) “Blessed *are* those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.”

Time will not terminate his service of love. In the ages to come God will show the exceeding riches of his grace toward us through Christ Jesus. When time shall be no more, the Lamb in the midst of the throne will feed us, lead us to fountains of living water, and bless us with eternal joy in his presence! — “**FOR EVER!**”

Application:

1. Would you be partaker of these rich blessings of grace and life? Come to Christ!
2. Forever adore, love and trust Christ, who stooped so low to lift us so high.
3. If Christ our Savior is the Servant of God, let us imitate him as we endeavor to serve our God and one another. — “*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*” (Philippians 2:5).

Amen.