

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE**  
**SERMON OUTLINE**  
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**AUGUST 18 2019**

**“HOW TO LIVE FOR GOD AT WORK!”**

**1 Timothy Series: #18**

**1 Timothy 6:1-2**

1 Timothy is about **ecclesiology** or the nature of the church. Along with 2 Timothy and Titus, these Pastoral Epistles teach us how the church should function in the midst of a fallen world. Let's notice again how 1 Timothy can be logically divided.

- **Chapter 1** gives us the **MISSION** of the church. We are not to be deterred by legalism or license but to proclaim, "**the glorious gospel of the blessed God**" (1:11).
- **Chapters 2 and 3** teach us about the **METHODS** of the church. Prayer is vital. Women are to train up godly children. Elders are to teach and lead. Deacons are to serve faithfully.
- **Chapter 4** is about **SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP** in the church. It gives us the characteristics of godly leaders.
- **Chapter 5** is about the **FAMILY NATURE** of the church. We are to treat older men as fathers, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers and younger women as sisters. Godly widows are to be honored as they serve the Lord. Elders especially are to be honored as they "**rule well**" and "**labor in the word**."
- **Chapter 6** clues us in to why there are so many failures in church ministry. It all comes down to greed and selfishness. Oh, how in our striving for the comfort and prestige we have left our first love. **Oh, how we need to learn again to love people and use money instead of love money and use people (amen and amen!)**. That's why we are not going to race to the end of the book. We are going to settle down here for a few weeks and milk these verses for all the application we can get. Paul starts by describing the plight of those who were "**bondservants/servants- KJV**" or slaves in New Testament times. When we hear the term "slavery," our minds often flash to the scene of the pre-Civil War South where Africans slaves were used to keep the southern economy flourishing. We've read "**Uncle Tom's Cabin**." We've seen "**Roots**" on TV and countless other films that make us aware of how poorly many of those slaves were treated. However, slavery in Paul's day was very different.

Slaves were the working class of the Roman Empire. Estimates run as high as fifty to sixty million people were slaves, one-third to one-half of the whole Empire.

Now understand that, "**bondservants**" of the New Testament era correspond with **employees** in our modern times. Instead of slaves and masters, we have **employees** and **employers**. Of course, we have one advantage over those first century "**bondservants/slaves**." If we are really dissatisfied, we can find another job. In these two verses, let's notice instruction for both believers who work for unbelieving employers and for those who work for believing employers.

**I. INSTRUCTION FOR BELIEVERS WHO WORK FOR UNBELIEVERS(v.1).**

**A. The Reason for Our Honor V-1a.**

We have a Command to "**honor**" in V-1b. Then he precedes V-1a with "**As many**" tells us that Paul was not excluding anyone. We've talked about **honoring** widows (**5:3**) and elders (**5:17**), but here we are to "**honor**" or fully respect those who are over us in our work. Now remember and think about Joseph in Gen. 39.

**B The Result of Our Honor V-1b**

Why are believers to be so conscientious at work? Why are we to be so careful about our actions and attitudes on our jobs? Paul says in verse 1b "***so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.***"

**II. INSTRUCTION FOR BELIEVERS WHO WORK FOR BELIEVERS (v.2).**

Negatively, you are not to "**despise**" or lessen your respect for your employer just because he is a fellow Christian. Positively, you are to "**serve**" him not only because he pays you a salary but also because it is right to serve our brothers. Let's take those two thoughts individually.

**A. Believing Employees must not Despise Believing Employers.**

"**Despise**" is from a Greek term that literally means to think against" or "to think down." It is the opposite of esteem. One of the preeminent teachings of the New Testament is the equality of believers found in **Galatians 3:28**.

**B. Believing Employees must Diligently Serve Believing Employers.**

Rather than "**despise**" believing bosses, Christian workers should "**serve**" them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved."

Let me conclude with Paul's instruction to Timothy at the end of **verse 2**, "**Teach and exhort these things.**" 1 Timothy 6 will challenge us. This chapter will call us not to live selfishly and greedily but to examine our jobs, our ambitions and our use of money in light of the kingdom of God. This study will be painful, but it will be profitable pain. It will hurt to heal.