



# BERKSHIRE COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

## BULLETIN

01/14/2024



### Willing Servant/Slave

*“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ...”*

**(Jam. 1:1).** In the book’s opening verse, the author makes what may seem like an astonishing admission to many people. He says he is a “servant” of both God and Jesus. Interestingly, he is not the only one to do so. Paul does so in **Rom. 1:1** and **Php. 1:1**, Peter does so in **2Pe. 1:1**, and Jude does as well in the first verse of his book. It is even more astonishing when we discover what the words mean in the original language. The NT Greek term for a slave is “doulos,” which literally means “a slave.” What a strange claim to make, especially in light of the words of **Gal. 5:1**, *“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”*

Did God capture and enslave the poor, unfortunate James? Was he forced into a life of hard labor, having to submit to every whim and wish of his captor? Who would want to entertain the thought of being a Christian servant when the supposed advantage is to be free? How, then, can someone who is supposed to have been set free from slavery claim to be a servant of the very system that guarantees his freedom? The problem does not lie in the meaning or context of the word but rather in our understanding of it. When we think of slavery, we think of it in terms of the plight of African Americans in this country.

We recall from history the terrible circumstances of their existence under a system that was designed to strip them of all their rights and dignities, but that is not the type of slavery James, Paul, Peter, and Jude were speaking of. So, if not in the traditional sense, what then did they mean by it? Unlike the African American story, theirs was not forced subjugation using extreme violence. Theirs was a voluntary acquiescing to a merciful God, not a merciless man. The first thing all four of the NT protagonists in question displayed was a profound sense of humility before the incredible power and might of their Masters. When we are humble, we allow ourselves to be receptive to complete obedience to the will of God through Jesus Christ.

PTO...

No one was more humble than the Apostle Paul, as indicated by **1Co. 15:9-10**, “*For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.*” Once we understand that we are who we are and what we are because of the grace of God, we begin to clothe ourselves in the humility Paul is speaking, the same kind the brother of Jesus was displaying when he penned the words of our selection today.

When we are that humble, we are far more likely to be completely loyal, another hallmark of a servant of Christ. Paul described this virtue perfectly in **Gal. 1:10**, “*For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.*” If we have any smidge of a conflicting sense of loyalty, we are no longer worthy of the title “child of God,” which, incidentally, also carries the title “servant.” Our will does not matter in the grand scheme of things. Our will cannot save us. Man’s will cannot save us.

Our Master’s will is the only means for salvation, and our servitude to Him determines our eternal destination. We serve not because we are compelled. We serve because we know the reward of serving a God who is the Creator and sustainer of all things. We serve because we know that in doing so, our faith is on display, and our due wage is guaranteed. Therefore, we, the devoted followers of Christ, are willing and devoted servants.

<b><u>AM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u></b>	<b><u>PM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u></b>
<b><u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u></b> - Bill Joy	<b><u>ANNOUNCEMENT</u></b> - Bill Joy
<b><u>SONG</u></b> - 682 - To God Be the Glory	<b><u>SONG</u></b> - 348 - Jesus Is All the World to Me 1,2,4
<b><u>PRAYER</u></b> - James 1:5 Bill Joy	<b><u>PRAYER</u></b> - Bill Joy
<b><u>SONG</u></b> - 950 - Lamb of God	<b><u>SONG</u></b> - 523 - Our God, He Is Alive 1,2,4
<b><u>COMMUNION</u></b> - John 6:53-56 Douglas Roy	<b><u>SERMON</u></b> - “Am I Worthy”
<b><u>SONG</u></b> - 951 - Majesty	<b><u>SONG</u></b> - 667 - There Is Power in the Blood 1,2,4
<b><u>SERMON</u></b> - Wisdom, An Uncommon Request	<b><u>COMMUNION</u></b> - Douglas Roy
<b><u>INV SONG</u></b> - 873 - Love, Love	<b><u>INV SONG</u></b> - 937 - I Stand in Awe
<b><u>CLOSING PRAYER</u></b> - Emmanuel Twumasi	<b><u>CLOSING PRAYER</u></b> -Jeffery Tarmey



## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS



Please silence your phone by placing it in airport mode.

**We ask all visitors to please pick up a visitors card and fill it in.**

- Bulletins are on the fireplace table and sermon notes are inside when available.
- Please put your offering in the provided envelope (don't write anything on it)..
- If you look on the back of the visitors card you will see space to right a prayer request if you have one - feel free to do that and hand it in to us so we can pray about it.
- Our next potluck meal will be on 28 January following morning service. Please invite a friend and bring a dish to share ( enough to feed 12 people)
- Ladies breakfasts will be 3 February at 10:30 am(weather permitting).
- invite a friend and bring a dish to share.



## PRAYER REQUESTS



- 
- Continued Prayers for Melinda's mom Isabel du Toit who is still undergoing Chemotherapy.
- Prayers for Cleve's dad, Edgar Stafford who is struggling with early onset dementia.
- Prayers for all our service people wherever in the world they have been deployed to.
- Safe travels to all who are driving.

## PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for our sponsors.
- Praise God for the privilege to worship in safety
- Praise God for the measure of health and wealth we enjoy

## BIRTHDAYS / SPECIAL OCCASIONS



### January Birthdays

- 4 - Damien Tarmey
- 5 - Candice Twumasi
- 1 - Benjamin Twumasi

Sunday morning Bible Class - 9:00AM  
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00PM  
 Personal Bible Study (Convenient time)



Web Page



WiFi



Facebook

### Word Search



#### Word List

ASK	CHRIST	DOUBTING	FAITH
GOD	GOVERN	JESUS	LIONS
MOUTH	PRINCESSES	SACRED	SEA
SERVANT	SHIELD	SINNERS	SOLOMON
TALENTS	WIND	WISDOM	WIVES
WIVES			