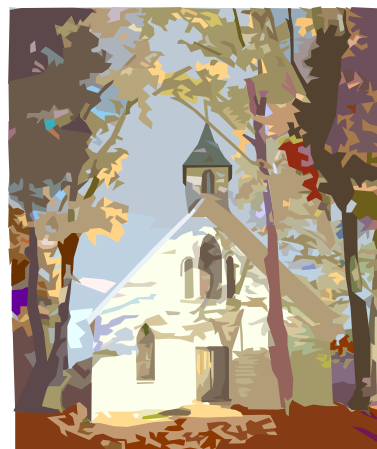


Port Orchard Church of Christ



Where Jesus is Lord, Jesus is
Lifted, Jesus is Lived

Does the Bible Condone Slavery?

When it comes to slavery and the Bible, it can be quite an uncomfortable conversation. Does the Bible condemn slavery? Does it approve of slavery? Were Christian slave-owners in the United States justified in owning slaves? Let's discuss that topic briefly.

Slavery in the Old Testament

The Old Testament was the civil law for Israel. It did not forbid, and it even regulated, slavery. Though the reasons a person might be a slave were many and the laws about slavery were somewhat complicated, here are a few things to keep in mind about ancient Israelite slavery:

1. In the absence of prisons, enslaving captives of war was an alternative to killing them.
2. Many people became slaves when they found themselves financially bankrupt. Instead of going hungry, people were allowed to sell themselves into slavery (indentured servitude).
3. The Law of Moses was not recommending, or even condoning slavery, but was ensuring the protection and fair treatment of all people--including slaves.

God did not invent slavery, but He did establish a legal system to help ensure that the poor, the foreigners, the prisoners of war, and the servants would be treated with fairness and mercy. As hard as it might be for us to fathom, becoming the slave of a God-fearing and

Law-keeping Israelite would have been far better than many other possible fates in the ancient world.

These are not all of the laws concerning slavery in the Old Testament, but here are a few to consider:

1. Hebrew slaves were only supposed to serve for six years and then were to be released with a generous supply of sheep, grain, and wine (Deuteronomy 15:12-15).
2. In the year of Jubilee, all Hebrew slaves were supposed to be released (Leviticus 25:10, 47-54).
3. It was illegal to kill a slave (Exodus 21:20).
4. A slave who was permanently injured by his master was to be released (Exodus 21:26-27).
5. If a man married a slave woman, he was obligated to love her and provide for her in the same way he should care for any wife; if he neglected or mistreated her, she was free to leave him (Exodus 21:10-11).
6. It was illegal to return an escaped slave to his master; he was to live freely, wherever he chose (Deuteronomy 23:15-16).
7. The punishment for kidnapping someone and selling them into slavery was the death penalty (Exodus 21:16). *(Continued back)*

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Kelli Keagle..... 757.389.1382

Deacons:

Gary Chasteen..... 360.895.4143
Gene Gerard..... 360.876.4612
Troy Hill..... 360.674.7181
Brad Orser..... 360.874.8184

Welcome Guests

We are so glad that you decided to visit Port Orchard Church of Christ this morning! Since you took this step to join us for worship, we would like to extend to you a warm welcome. Wherever you are this morning, as we lift worship to God, we pray that you are able to leave feeling uplifted, convicted, or encouraged in your faith.

We seek to worship God like the first century

church did, with a sense of awe and with a fear of the Lord. Some things we do might seem old fashioned or traditional, but we want you to know that at its core, it is for the praise of God's glory.

You are not required to do anything weird or ostentatious. We hope that you feel free to join us in worshipping God to the best of your abilities. If you have any specific needs, we have a

ministry staff that would love to connect with you. Ask the people sitting around you for names of the ministry staff and to point them out!

Once again, we are so happy to have you here worshipping with us and we hope this is a chance to worship God in a deep and meaningful way.

-Port Orchard Church of Christ

Save the Dates!

Saturday 12/2 Deacons
8:00 AM Meeting

Sunday 12/3 Congregational
Meeting

Sunday 12/10 All Saints Potluck
& Pounding for
Woodrows

Port Orchard News and Events

Pulpit Preview

Brad Orser will be preaching this upcoming Sunday. Worship Service begins at 10:45. We hope to see you here!

Happy Birthday!

Wish a happy birthday to the following members and extended members: Trinity Delay--01, Serenity Delay--01, Brandon Zepf--02, Nicole Nystrom--02, Tim Blair--06, Jessica Zepf--07, Micah Blair--08, Tiffany Rousseau--10, Dan Gross--15, Julie Snyp--21, Renny Woodrow--24, Haddie Keagle--29, and Matthew Esquivel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gene Gerard

Gene Gerard shared a sermon with us last Sunday. If you missed his message, please visit the church website at pococ.weebly.com to listen.

Guest Speaker

Tom Sibley, missionary to Croatia at the Biblijski Institut, will be speaking the first two Sundays of December: the 3rd and the 10th. More information to come.

Serving November 26, 2017:

Prayer Leader:	Wayne Hammock	Communion Prep:	Barbara Chasteen
Scripture Reader:	Brad Orser	Communion Cleanup:	Bratcher Family
Offering Thoughts:	Bob McDaniel	Song Leader:	Darrell Fry
Communion Meditation:	Ken Avery		
Servers:	David Lawrence & Jacob H.		
Ushers:	Brandon K. & Terry Bratcher	Children's 9:30 Helper:	Karen Taylor
Greeters:	Sarah Hill & Sandi Warner	Children's Church:	Laura Fry
Prayer Partners:	James & Connie Greer	Preaching:	Brad Orser
Sound:	Forest Gerard		
Slides/Lighting:	John Bickle		



Men's Breakfast

When: December 2, 2017, 8:00 am

Where: Lakeview church of Christ
1709 South 112th Street
Tacoma, WA 98444

Suggested Donation: \$4. All proceeds benefit Delano Bay Christian Camp.

Woodrows

We will be hosting a Pounding for the Woodrows on Sunday, December 10th. A pounding is an opportunity to stock someone's pantry. *Items need to be with NO SALT and NO SUGAR ADDED. Preferably the Kroger brand from Fred Meyer.*

Canned Goods

- Green beans, French cut
- Peaches
- Crushed Pineapple
- Applesauce (NO SUGAR) in the small cups
- Peanut Butter
- Flour
- Cornmeal

Frozen Vegetables

- Petite peas
- Broccoli, Cauliflower, & Carrots

Household Items

- Bathroom tissue

If you would like to participate please let Bonnie Mitchell know or use the sign-up sheet in the foyer so that we don't get too much of one item or another. If you have already purchased items for this event, please let Bonnie or the office know what you got so that we can coordinate with others going forward.

Our Prayer List

Healing:

Delores Brun
Runell Mason
David Latham
Wayne Hammock's friend Dave
Melvin Byrd
Lisa Bratcher

Encouragement:

Victoria
Those Grieving the loss of Loved Ones

Travelling:

Jim & Cindy Snead
Thanksgiving travellers

Other:

Herberts expecting their 7th child
Our children, church, nation, President Trump and ministries.
That God will bless our deacons with wisdom in reaching the many decisions they are entrusted with.

November 19, 2017

Worship: 87

Class: 34

Offering: \$2,485.00

(Continued from front page)

Slavery in the New Testament

That being said, the coming of Jesus changed everything. When a first-century Roman slave owner became a Christian, his relationship to his slave was turned upside-down. This is the way His new King, Jesus, tells him to treat his slaves:

- Treat them as he would want to be treated (Matthew 7:12).
- Love them as he loves himself (Matthew 22:39).
- In humility, consider them more significant than he considers himself (Philippians 2:3).
- Truly look out for their interests (Philippians 2:4).
- Rather than threaten them, serve them out of reverence for Christ (Ephesians 6:9).

It seems strange that the New Testament does not command masters to release their slaves; but if you think about it, what it commands is far more radical than that. **Slavery is turned upside down, so that the master becomes the servant of his servant.**

One of the best pictures of this is Paul's letter to a slave owner named Philemon. Paul wrote to say he was sending Onesimus back home. Onesimus used to be Philemon's slave. He had run away to Rome, met Paul, and ministered to Paul in prison. **Paul was not sending Onesimus back to be Philemon's slave.** That would seem to violate the Law of Moses (Deuteronomy 23: 15-15); something Paul was not in the habit of doing. Paul

was reconciling two equals, two brothers in Christ (see Philemon 1:16).

The gospel changed a master and a slave into family and that is one of the miracles of Christianity.

Slavery in the United States

With all of that said, I must say a few words about slavery as it was practiced in the United States by those often claiming biblical authority for their practice.

First of all, slavery in the United States was originally built upon slave-traders kidnapping Africans and selling them. This practice carried the death penalty under God's civil law; not only for the kidnapper, but also for **anyone found in possession of the kidnapped person** (Exodus 21:16).

Second, the slavery practiced in the United States was founded on **the deplorable idea of racial superiority**. When the Southern States seceded, the Vice President of the Confederacy boasted, "Our new government is founded upon...the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man." This idea is irreconcilable with the biblical truth that all people are family in Adam, are image-bearers of God, and should be treated with love and kindness.

Finally, the type of **cruelty, injustice and inhumanity** that accompanied American slavery was condemned in the Old Testament, but was especially condemned under the new covenant of Jesus Christ. **Furthermore, I would argue that Americans who failed to genuinely**

love and serve their African American neighbors were not Christians. The New Testament clearly teaches, "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love" (1 John 4:8).

The Bottom Line

Some will say, "You can't judge people in the 1860s by today's moral standard." My response is: They're not being judged by *today's* moral standard; they're being judged by Jesus' moral standard.

If a slave-owner in 1860 read the Bible and became a Christian, he should have told his slaves, "Your family was kidnapped from your homeland. I cannot be right in God's sight if I detain you against your will. Furthermore, I would not want to be enslaved and I must treat you the way I would wish to be treated. But if you choose to stay and work alongside me and my family, you will be family to us. We will **love, serve, and provide for you as if you were our own flesh and blood.**"

Perhaps some slave owners in America did something similar to that. But, sadly, most did not. There is nothing we can do to change the past. But we can be opposed to the mistreatment of people in the present. We can truly love our neighbor as ourselves. We can help break the cycle of violence, hatred, and strife that has plagued our world ever since the beginning. We can be Jesus' covenant people; a people of love.

I love you and God loves you,
Wes McAdams

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