

# A COMPLICATED COMMAND

Ben Orchard / May 19, 2024 / 1 Timothy 6:1-2



Week of May 19, 2024

**Introduction: Slavery: some helpful background.**

**Give \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ in authority (1)**

**So that \_\_\_\_\_**

**So that \_\_\_\_\_**

**Do not \_\_\_\_\_ in authority (2)**

**Because \_\_\_\_\_**

**Because \_\_\_\_\_**

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Slavery is a difficult subject, especially given our nation's history with it. Slavery in Biblical times, however, bears only partial resemblance to the race-based slavery in America's past. Do some research on this – what were some of the differences between slavery in the time and place Paul and Timothy lived and the form of slavery that was practiced in American history?

3. How might America's history with slavery impact the way we read and understand a passage like this? What issues or difficulties might arise with interpretation and application of a passage like this one as a result?

4. While the Bible never explicitly condemns slavery as an institution (though "man-stealing" is condemned in Exodus 21:16), many abolitionists of the 18th and 19th century (William Wilberforce, John Newton, Benjamin Rush, and others) saw slavery as incompatible with Biblical Christianity. Were they correct? Why or why not?

5. While Paul only addresses slaves in this passage, he addresses masters elsewhere in Scripture. Summarize Paul's message to slave owners found in Ephesians 6:9, Colossians 4:1, and the book of Philemon.

6. How should passages like 1 Peter 2:16, Ephesians 6:5-6, Colossians 3:23-24 impact our understanding of a Biblical view of slavery?

7. What difficulties might a church face that is comprised of a wide range of rich and poor? Of various races? Of people from different cultures? What principles from the Gospel and from our passage on slaves and masters would be essential in these scenarios?