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SLAVERY

In the years before the American Civil War, there were many people, including Christians, who claimed biblical authority for the approval by God of human slavery. They pointed to scriptures which told of slavery and saw that these scriptures did not overtly condemn the practice. Let us look at a couple of such bible references.

The Old Testament prophet Ezekiel mentions slave trade. Ezekiel 27:13 tells that the merchants of Javan, Tubal, and Meschech **“traded the persons of men and vessels of brass”** in their markets.

We also find slavery mentioned in the New Testament. In the book of Philemon, Paul wrote of a bondman, a slave, by the name of Onesimus, who had fled from his master Philemon. This slave had become a Christian under Paul’s ministry. Paul wanted Philemon to receive him back as a brother in Christ and not as a slave.

In Christ we are all made free. We are no longer bond servants to either man or Satan.

Just because the scriptures may talk about slavery does not infer that God approves of it. The bible also speaks about murder, incest, thievery, and many other sins, but makes it clear that God is against such things.

Sadly, before 1860, many Americans thought that God and the bible approved of slavery. There were articles written and published on how the bible supported it. They failed to understand that the bible’s mention of it was of a historical nature and not condoning the approval of slavery.

We have abolished slavery legally in America, thus setting an example for the world. Unfortunately, there are still several nations where slavery is still legal.

However, the worst-case scenario of slavery is slavery to sin because that brings eternal consequences. We turn to John 8:36 where it says, **“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”** If you have been set free by the Son, Jesus Christ, then you are free indeed.