

# WHOM DO YOU SERVE? (1)

By Keith Greer

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” {Matthew 6:24}

This is a fundamental truth spoken by the Lord in His great Sermon on the Mount. A similar account is found in Luke 16:13. God will not accept divided service from a divided heart. We are either for or against Him {Matthew 12:30}. This truth can be clearly seen in the choice given to Israel by Joshua as he was about to die {Joshua 24:15}. Our Lord gave us the true course to follow, “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment.’” {Matthew 22:37,38}

How can we accomplish this in our lives? We must make a choice—**the yoke of Christ or the yoke of Satan**. Each of us, without exception, will yield himself to one or the other. Christ offers freedom, and Satan offers bondage and enslavement to sin. Listen to Paul’s words to the church in Rome, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” {Romans 6:16-18} Let us examine these two choices. First, the yoke of Satan...

**For unbelievers.** “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?” {2 Corinthians 6:14,15} When a person is in the world, he is yoked to all other unbelievers. This association can lead to many problems {1 Corinthians 15:33}. All evil people and unbelievers are under the influence of, and in bondage to, their master—Satan! Such company cannot bring good results, Titus 1:15.

**Love of the world.** “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” {1 John 2:15-17} Those who are under Satan’s influence will also be in love with this world. Such folks never understand the fleeting and temporal nature of worldly things. Satan has blinded their hearts and eyes to the truth {2 Corinthians 4:4,5}.

**Law of bondage.** “Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?” {Acts 15:10} Returning to the Old Law was placing these people back under bondage. “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” {Galatians 5:1} Satan is seeking to keep his yoke on everyone he can.

**Pollutions escaped.** “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.” {2 Peter 2:20} Obedience to Christ provides the ability to break Satan’s bondage. Yet, because of free moral agency, people sometimes choose to return to their sinful ways. Such a return will bring eternal consequences. There is a better choice. Sadly, many in the religious world teach that any choices men make following their acceptance of Christ has no bearing on their salvation. Utterly false. – there are very serious eternal consequences to choose the path of sin again! In the next part of this article, we examine the BETTER choice – the yoke offered by Christ.\*\*\*