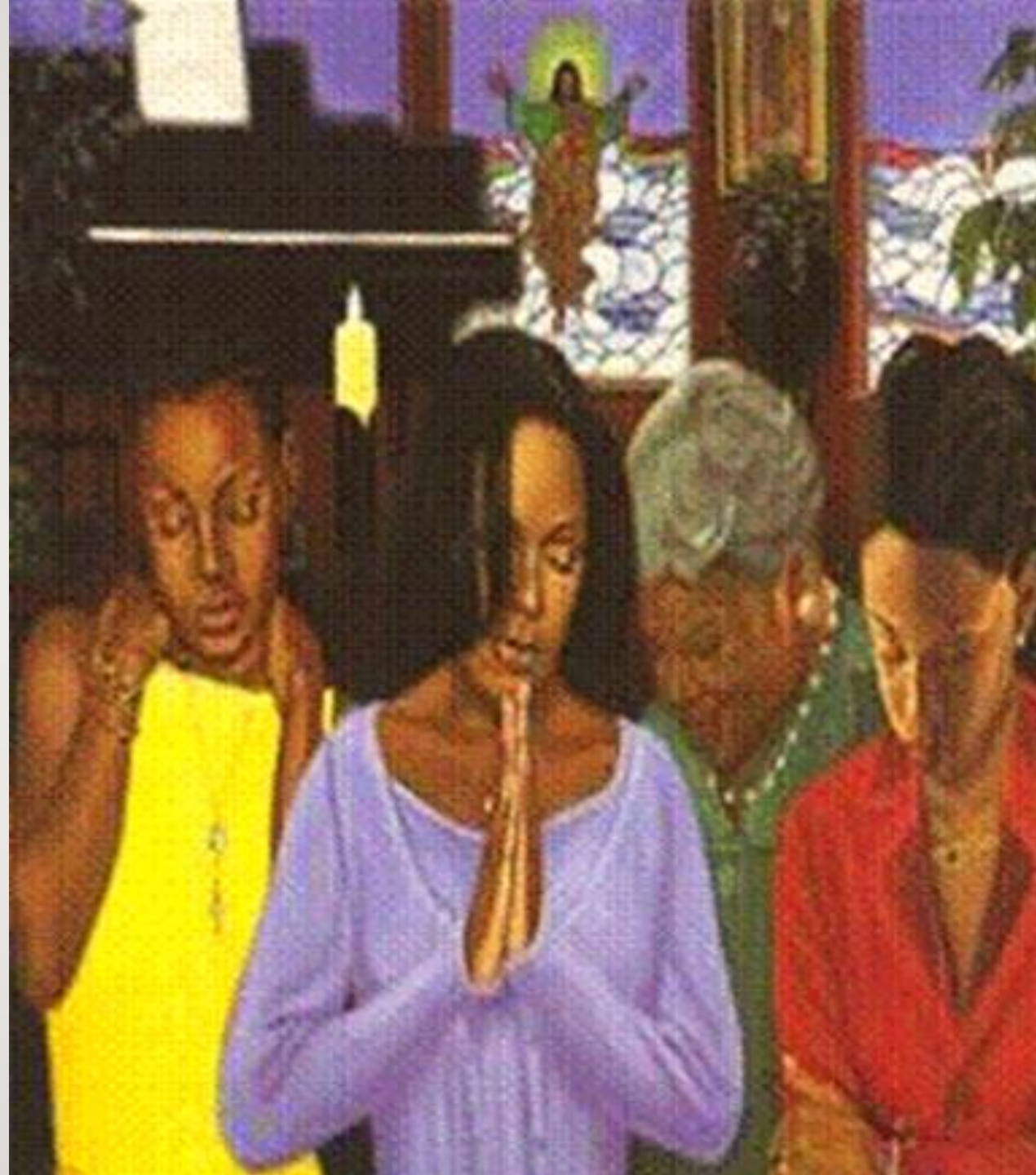


Welcome Today



OPENING PRAYER

- Dear Lord,
- As I approach Your throne of glory, I pray that you forgive me of my sins so my prayer can be heard.
- Dear Lord, I ask for your blessing over this workshop, I pray that these great women (young and old) will be blessed and carry any of the lessons they may hear today and apply them to continue to spread the borders of your Kingdom to the world around them.
- I pray that I conduct myself in a way that you approve of as I strive to teach your Truths.
- I pray for your blessed peace, not only for the workshop that I will moderate, but for the Entire Ladies of Virtue conference.
- This is my prayer, in Jesus' name
- Amen.





STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE IN SERVICE

SISTER CAROLYN BOLTON

EAST BALTIMORE CHURCH OF CHRIST, BALTIMORE MD

GOOD MORNING SISTERS, SAINTS, AND CHILDREN OF GOD!

I am honored to have the pleasure to be with you all today. My name is Sister Carolyn Bolton and I have been a member of the Church of Christ in East Baltimore, In Baltimore, Maryland since 2005.



TOOLS NEEDED

FOR THIS WORKSHOP
YOU WILL NEED:

- BIBLE
- NOTEPAD/PAPER
- PEN/PENCIL
- VULNERABILITY





THIS WORKSHOP IS DESIGNED FOR WOMEN OF ALL AGES SEEKING TO USE THEIR GIFTS IN SERVICE TO THE LORD

The goal of this workshop is to encourage you all to be confident in the skills God has given you to be ready, willing, and able to use them in service to the Lord- within our scriptural role as women in the church and with selfless humility instead of personal acclaim.

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

PART 1

- BEING A BONDSERVANT FOR CHRIST, OBEDIENT TO HIS COMMANDS WITH FEAR, HONOR, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

PART 2

- FINDING PURPOSE IN GOD AND CHRIST AND USING YOUR GIFTS WITH HUMILITY TO SERVE HIM ALWAYS

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW (-CONT.-)

PART 3

- CULTIVATING VULNERABILITY FOR THIS WORKSHOP

15 MINUTE BREAK

- GET A DRINK
- GET A SNACK
- TAKE A BATHROOM BREAK

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW (-CONT.-)

PART 4

- EXPLORING THE LEVELS OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

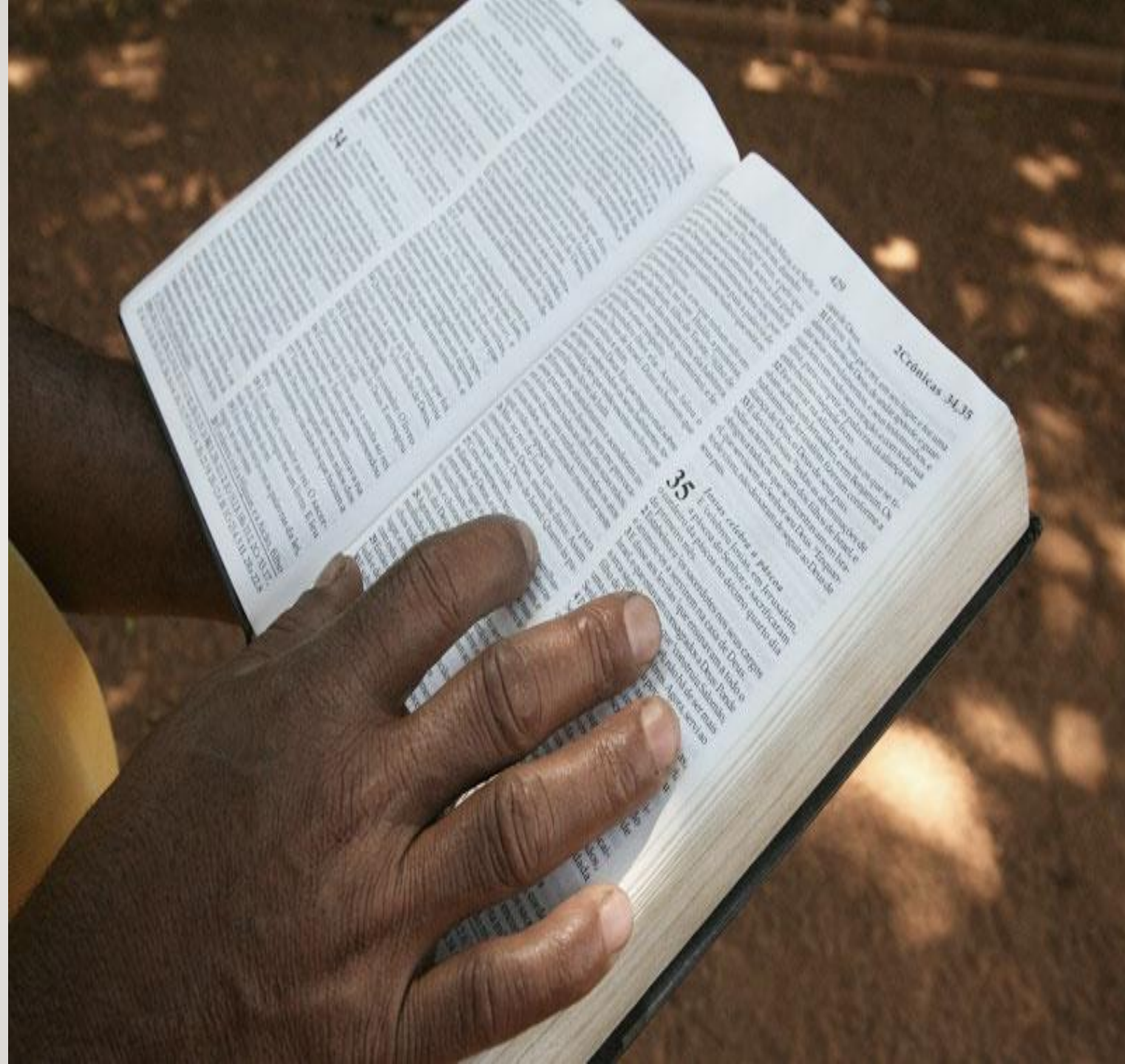
Q&A/COMMENTARY

- HOW WILL YOU STEP UP TO THE PLATE

PART 1 AND 2: BEING A BONDSERVANT FOR CHRIST & SERVING WITH HUMILITY

We will cover the following
scriptures:

- COLOSSIANS 3:23-25
- EPHESIANS 6:5-6
- ROMANS 16:1





COLOSSIANS

3:23-25

23 AND WHATSOEVER YE DO, DO IT HEARTILY, AS TO THE LORD, AND NOT UNTO MEN;

24 KNOWING THAT OF THE LORD YE SHALL RECEIVE THE REWARD OF THE INHERITANCE: FOR YE SERVE THE LORD CHRIST.

25 BUT HE THAT DOETH WRONG SHALL RECEIVE FOR THE WRONG WHICH HE HATH DONE: AND THERE IS NO RESPECT OF PERSONS.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-25 (COMMENTARY)

- This verse continues Paul's instructions to Christian "bondservants," or slaves. The concept he presents, however, is phrased in a very general way. The principle applies to all believers, for all those we work for: serve as if serving God Himself. According to the next verse, this is for a good reason. Our ultimate rewards are with God, not the human beings we serve for only a short time.
- Paul echoes his teaching from verse 17, that Christian conduct should extend to all aspects of life, not just a small set of rules. As it pertains to servants, this might include cleaning dishes or serving dignitaries. "Whatever" includes any and all contexts. Christians of all kinds are to work "heartily," from the Greek phrase *ek psyches*, meaning "from the soul." This implies the ideas of enthusiasm and passion. Demonstrating a good work attitude makes a tremendous difference in one's personal life and in our influence on others.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-25 (COMMENTARY)

- Paul's words remind us that, regardless of our station in life, God is the one ultimately judging all we do, so all of our service is really for Him. From the most mistreated slave to the highest-paid leader, every person is called to work for God's honor. We do not work "for men" or simply earthly goals, but to glorify our heavenly Father and Master. Living for the Lord's honor is relevant in one's personal life, immediate family, and work contexts.
- Paul will conclude this line of thought in Colossians 4:1, where he reminds those who rule over slaves that they, too, have a master: a Master in heaven. For this reason, those who control bondservants should remember that God's judgment is impartial: evil will be punished, no matter who does it (Colossians 3:25).

COLOSSIANS 3:23-25

(CONTEXT SUMMARY)

Colossians 3:18—4:1 gives specific instructions from Paul for those living in Christian homes. This passage includes directions for husbands, wives, children, and servants. Paul makes a point of reminding believers not to merely "get by" with the bare minimum of what we are obligated to do. Rather, we should serve knowing that Christ is our ultimate judge. Paul also places "masters" under the same obligation to kindness and fairness as slaves and servants: both are equal in the eyes of Christ.

ROMANS 16:1

I I COMMEND UNTO YOU PHEBE OUR SISTER,
WHICH IS A SERVANT OF THE CHURCH WHICH IS AT
CENCHREA:

ROMANS 16:1 (COMMENTARY)

- Paul continues to wrap up his long letter to the Romans. He launches into a list of recommendations and greetings, mentioning quite a few people by name.

He begins with Phoebe. She is the person who will deliver Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome, traveling from where Paul was staying in Corinth. Cenchreae was a seaport town located not far from Corinth. Paul describes Phoebe as "our sister" [in Christ] and as a servant of the church in Cenchreae.

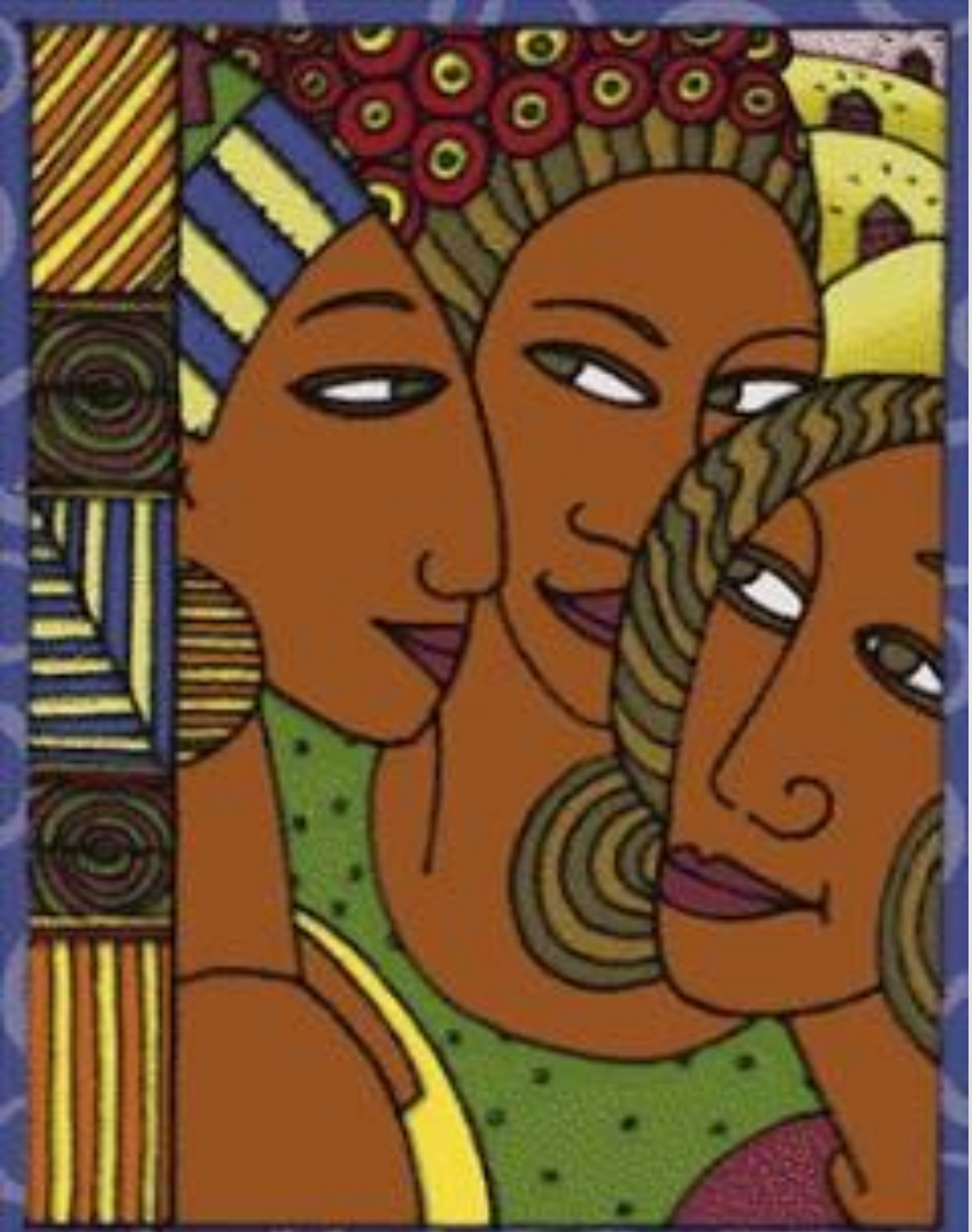
- The Greek word Paul uses for servant is *diakonon*, the same word sometimes translated as "deacon." It's possible Phoebe held some official position in the church, which may be one reason she was qualified to deliver the letter to the Romans on behalf of Paul. It's of note that Phoebe is referred to as a *diakonon* "of the church," rather than a servant in general. Likewise, in the next verse, she will be described as a *prostatis*, a term which often refers to a female guardian or overseer.

While Paul's explanation of the role of an elder is clear, when it comes to gender (1 Timothy 3:1–7), verses such as Romans 16:1 are one reason some Christians believe roles such as deaconess are biblically valid.

ROMANS 16:1

(CONTEXT SUMMARY)

Romans 16:1–16 includes a list of two dozen or so people or groups that Paul wants his readers to greet for him in Rome. He begins by introducing them to Phoebe, the lady who will deliver this letter from him in Corinth. He asks them to greet his good friends and longtime partners in work and ministry Prisca—or Priscilla—and Aquila, who have returned to Rome from their time in Asia. Also on the list are close friends, slaves, royal families, and members of the various house churches that meet in Rome.



EPHESIANS 6:5-6

5 SERVANTS, BE OBEDIENT TO THEM THAT ARE YOUR MASTERS ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING, IN SINGLENESS OF YOUR HEART, AS UNTO CHRIST;

6 NOT WITH EYE SERVICE, AS MENPLEASERS; BUT AS THE SERVANTS OF CHRIST, DOING THE WILL OF GOD FROM THE HEART;

EPHESIANS 6:5-6 (COMMENTARY)

- Verses 5 through 9 provide Paul's instructions for servants and masters. In this verse, Paul notes the importance of obedience to one's master: Three specific aspects are noted. First, Paul mentions "fear and trembling." The terms do not imply terror or living in dread. Rather, this carries the idea of respect and reverence.
- Second, Paul adds that service should be done with "a sincere heart." A servant should not attempt to deceive a master, but rather genuinely work hard to do his or her best.

EPHESIANS 6:5-6 (COMMENTARY)

- Third, Paul sets the highest standard possible in stating that a servant's obedience should be as serving Christ. This would have been a difficult challenge, especially for servants under the rule of harsh masters. Though servants in Ephesus lived with relatively pleasant conditions, compared to the African slavery experienced in America, not all did. Even in the worst situations, Paul wanted servants to show the love of Christ. Paul often sought freedom for slaves (Philemon 1:15–16), yet also encouraged those in bondage to still live for Christ.
- Paul will specifically address those who command servants, or who own slaves, in verse 9. There, he will remind them that they are no better than those they oversee, and God will not show favoritism.

EPHESIANS 6:5-6

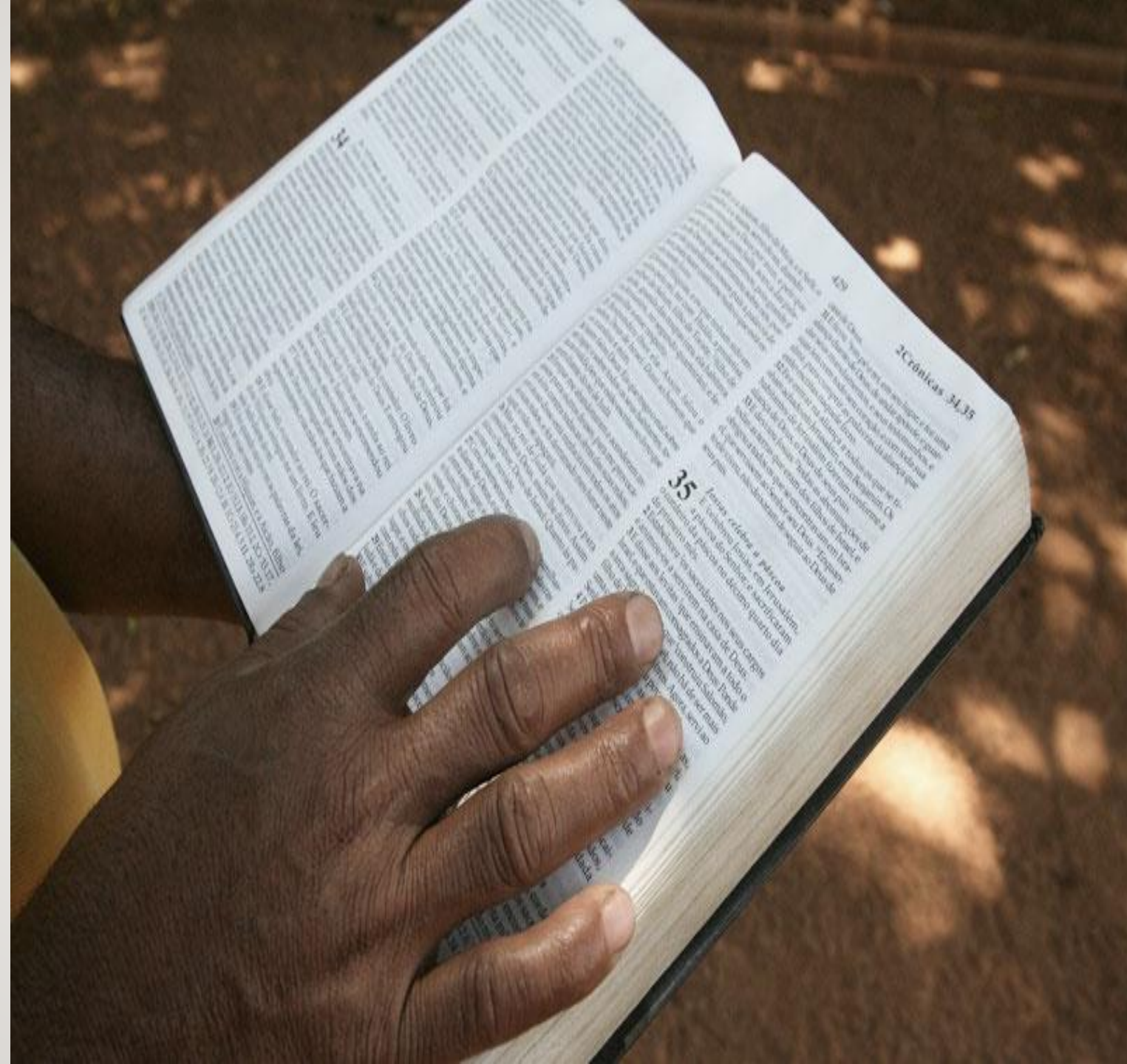
(CONTEXT SUMMARY)

Ephesians 6:5–9 gives specific instructions for both servants and masters. Servants should give a good effort, more than just for show, in all things they are required to do. This shows respect for their master, but it also provides a good example of one's relationship to Christ. At the same time, masters are explicitly told not to be abusive to their underlings. God sees masters as no better than those they command, and He is the ultimate Master of both.

SUMMARY (PART 1 & 2)

BEING A BONDSERVANT FOR CHRIST & SERVING WITH HUMILITY

- Serve knowing that Christ is our ultimate judge.
- There are many great examples of women serving such as Phoebe who was a servant of the church in Cenchreae.
- Servants should give a good effort, more than just for show, in all things they are required to do. This shows respect for their master, but it also provides a good example of one's relationship to Christ.
- Always be ready to serve the Lord with the gifts that he has blessed you with, and do so with selfless humility instead of personal acclaim.



PART 3: CULTIVATING VULNERABILITY

- Mini Meditation (by Fatima Farmer)
- <https://insighttimer.com/soulbeautychat/guided-meditations/cultivating-vulnerability>
- 15 Minute Break



15 MINUTE BREAK

**PLEASE GET SOME COFFEE, TEA, WATER, OR SMALL SNACK
AND WE WILL CONTINUE WITH OUR FINAL ACTIVITIES**

PART 4:

EXPLORING THE LEVELS OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- How Close are You to God?
- Self Assessment of Your Immersion with God
- Survey (submit answer in chat)



HOW CLOSE ARE YOU TO GOD?

- HOW MUCH DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE WAYS OF GOD?
- ARE YOU OPERATING IN ACTIVE FAITH OR BLIND FAITH?
- WHAT KIND OF PICTURE DOES BLIND FAITH PAINT OF GOD?
- WHAT CONSTITUTES ACTIVE FAITH?

SELF ASSESSMENT: YOUR IMMERSION WITH GOD

#1.

OUTLINE THE FREQUENCY IN WHICH YOU ENGAGE IN GOD RELATED ACTIVITIES:

- HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO TO CHURCH?
- HOW OFTEN DO YOU STUDY THE BIBLE?
- HOW OFTEN DO YOU PRAY?
- HOW OFTEN DO YOU ATTEND CHURCH RELATED EVENTS?

SELF ASSESSMENT: YOUR IMMERSION WITH GOD

#2.

EXPLAIN TO YOURSELF HOW GOD IMPACTS CERTAIN AREAS IN YOUR LIFE:

- SOME LIFE AREAS MAY BE RELATIONSHIPS
- OR MANAGEMENT OF MATERIAL POSSESSIONS
- OR MAYBE YOUR THOUGHT PROCESS

SELF ASSESSMENT: YOUR IMMERSION WITH GOD

#3.

SHARE HONESTLY WITH YOURSELF WHAT METHODS YOU THINK THAT GOD USES TO SPEAK TO YOU. FOR EXAMPLE:

- YOU'RE PONDERING AN ISSUE AND YOU MIGHT READ A CERTAIN SCRIPTURE THAT SEEMS TO ANSWER THE QUESTION?
- OR MAYBE IT'S THE TIMING OF A PARTICULAR SERMON?
- OR MAYBE YOU EXPERIENCE A STILL SMALL VOICE?
- OR MAYBE IT'S SOME SORT OF INNER KNOWING?

SELF ASSESSMENT

**AS YOU REVIEW YOUR ANSWERS WITH YOURSELF YOU CAN
DECIDE IF YOU WANT TO MAKE ANY ADJUSTMENTS IN
YOUR IMMERSION EXPERIENCE WITH GOD**

SURVEY: YOUR IMMERSION WITH GOD

HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE YOUR LEVEL OF IMMERSION IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? *(SUBMIT ANSWER IN CHAT)*

- A. I TEND TO FOCUS ON GOD WHEN I AM IN A CRISIS
- B. I ACKNOWLEDGE GOD BY RITUAL (CHURCH ACTIVITIES, DAILY PRAYERS, BIBLE STUDY)
- C. I AM COMPLETELY IMMERSED (I FOLLOW GOD'S LEAD IN ALL THINGS)
- D. I TRUST GOD, BUT I HAVE A HARD TIME UNDERSTANDING WHY I EXPERIENCE WHAT I EXPERIENCE

Q&A / COMMENTARY

- WHAT DOES STEPPING UP TO SERVICE MEAN TO YOU? (I.E.- SERVING IN EDUCATION MINISTRY)
- DOES STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE MEAN TO SHOW CASE YOUR GOD GIVEN TALENTS AT CHURCH?

Q&A / COMMENTARY

- DOES STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE IN SERVICE MEAN TO HONOR GOD?
- DOES STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE IN SERVICE MEAN SERVING IN THE CAPACITY AS A SONG LEADER, DEACON, OR MINISTER?

Q&A / COMMENTARY

- DOES STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE IN SERVICE EXTEND BEYOND THE BORDERS OF YOUR CHURCH BUILDING?
- DOES STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE IN SERVICE MEAN TO SHINE GOD'S LIGHT IN THIS DYING WORLD?

THANK YOU!

SISTER CAROLYN BOLTON

EAST BALTIMORE CHURCH OF CHRIST, BALTIMORE MD

