

Elder Bobby Willis



Matthew 20:27, “**And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.**”

There always seems to be someone around who wants to be the chief. It happens even in the ministry, sad to say. However, the meaning of this text is that the position of chief is to be that of a servant, not one of lording over God’s heritage. Most people do not get this at all. To be a servant is not the most talked about ambition. Graduation will come soon for both high schools and colleges and there doesn’t seem to be anyone aiming for the occupation of a servant.

To be a servant of the Lord means there is work to be done. This work is not in order to obtain eternal life, but is to render praise and honor to the one who gives eternal life (Christ). A servant will be one of two things, either faithful or unprofitable. Matthew 25:23 says that a faithful servant is rewarded for his faithfulness and receives much joy while he lives out his life. The unprofitable servant is met with his reward of “**weeping and gnashing of teeth**” (Matthew 25:30) which leads to much misery in their life. Unprofitability as a servant does not lead to eternal consequences, but rather timely chastisement. Paul said, “**But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world**” (I Corinthians 11:32).

Often times, those who would be chiefs make bad choices and do not honor God as they should. Paul, in speaking to the Roman brethren, said this, “**Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?**” (Romans 6:16). We are to be reminded often “**Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men**” (I Corinthians 7:23). To those who seek to be chief is not necessarily a bad thing as there must always be leaders (shepherds) for the sheep to follow. But, in being a leader in the church of our Lord, the whole purpose is not for self glory but to glorify God. This is a big difference from what the world (flesh) teaches.

The scriptures tell us of chief captains of armies, chief butlers, chief bakers, chief man among the people, chief of the house of their fathers, chief of tribes, and even chief over the chiefs (Numbers 3:32). There is one who was described this way, **“My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand”** (Song of Solomon 5:10). Though he was the King of kings and the Lord of Lords, Christ **“...made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men;”** (Philippians 2:7). We would be wise to follow Him and be the chiefest of servants. ***Think About IT!***