

THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

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WHO IS YOUR MASTER JORDON SMITH

The President of the United States of America carries the title of being the “leader of the free world.” As Americans we have more freedoms than most other countries in the world. But are we truly free? Is there any country or society in the world that is, in the truest sense, free? Paul wrote to the church in Rome, “Do you not know that when you present yourselves as slaves of obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?” (Romans 6:16)

Any given citizen is a slave to the society of which they live in, whether it is a tribal community or a national government. The rulers, then, are slaves of their citizens because it is the citizens who gave them their power and

could have the influence to take their power away, either by judicial process or by violence. However, every individual is, and always has been, a slave to a spiritual master regardless of the individual’s own beliefs.

Earlier in Paul’s letter he wrote, “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23). As Christians, when we sin, we become slaves to sin. Those who are living outside of the body of Christ are slaves to their own lusts and pleasures, and essentially are slaves of the devil because they are doing the work of the devil. Jesus instructs us that it is not merely enough to just claim that Jesus is our Master (Matt. 15:8) but we must live as Jesus lived, by completely submitting ourselves to God, Romans 12:1, “Therefore I urge you

brethren by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

In America, when we vote, we have an influence on who will be the leader of our country and law enforcement and so on. In our spiritual lives we also have a choice in deciding who our Master will be. The difference is, in our spiritual lives the only “vote” that matters is yours. YOU decide whom you will serve. Is it God or man? Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:24 that “No one can serve two masters for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other: You cannot serve God and wealth (or man).”

If you decide to make “man” your master, then you will only do the work of

The Southeast Church of Christ meets at:

35 Walnut Ct.

*Mogadore, OH
44260*

Phone:

330.628.7432

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study:

10:00 am

Worship:

10:50 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:

7:30 pm”

the devil. By living in this way you have become a slave to sin, and in doing so you rule out any possibility of having God as your Master because you refuse to live in accordance with His commandments. If you are a slave to sin your reward for your “faithful” service to your master will be an eternity in torment. On the other hand, if you make God your Master then you must do the work of the Lord each and everyday. Then, once your life has come to an end and you have lived faithfully and did the work God gave you to do, you will receive a much greater reward. The apostle John described this reward for us in Revelation 21:3-4, *“And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”* John continues to tell us that, those who lived faithfully, will no longer face death or sadness or pain.

No matter who you decide to be a servant to, God is the Ruler of all. At the end of our lives and after the destruction of this world, *“We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad”* (2 Corinthians 5:10)

So, again, I ask you, who is

your master?

The Philistine City of Gath

Leon Mauldin

The first biblical mention of the city of Gath is in Joshua 11:22, contextually speaking of the giants (Anakim) who remained in the land after the initial conquest: “None of the Anakim were left in the land of the children of Israel: they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod.” Gath was one of five cities of the Philistine cities of Pentapolis: Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron (1 Sam. 6:17). Gath was the more prominent and is mentioned in the Bible more often than any of these.

Perhaps the most well known reference to Gath is due to the narrative of David’s killing of Goliath, the Philistine giant. The fearsome champion’s home was Gath (1 Sam. 17:4). Later, David fled from King Saul, seeking asylum from Achish, king of Gath (1 Sam. 21:10), but when he saw he was in danger there, David pretended to be insane. However, he was later successful in finding refuge at Gath (1 Sam. 27:1ff), though subsequently the Philistines gave David his own city of Ziklag.

When Saul and his son Jonathan (David’s best friend) died at Mt. Gilboa, David wrote a song that included the words, “Tell it not in Gath, Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon—Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,

Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph” (2 Sam. 1:20).

Like many biblical cities, Gath had lesser towns associated with it. “Later David defeated the Philistines and subdued them. He took Gath and its surrounding towns away from the Philistines” (1 Chron. 18:1; NET). Later (ca. 755 BC) it was again a Philistine city (Amos 6:2), but in 711 BC, Gath was conquered by the Assyrian King Sargon II.

Also, bear in mind that when you see the word Gittite, that reference is made to a resident of Gath. One of David’s most loyal followers was Ittai the Gittite. When David was forced to flee Jerusalem during his son Absalom’s rebellion, he told Ittai that he was not expected to accompany David. “But Ittai replied to the king, ‘as surely as the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king may be, whether it means life or death, there will your servant be” (2 Sam. 15:21; NIV).

DON’T FORGET!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

OUR GOSPEL MEETING:

MARCH 26—31 (SUNDAY—FRIDAY)

SPEAKER :

LYNN WESSEL

BRING A BIBLE AND BRING A FRIEND!