

# THE Rock COMMUNITY CHURCH

## 1 Timothy 6:1-2

### “Bondservant - Honor Your Master”

6\_4\_2023

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17:38

We're gonna look at 1st Timothy chapter six, verses one and two that we're gonna study this morning. So 1st Timothy chapter six, verse one, it says, Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things.

18:08

These are the words of the Lord. So would you pray with me this morning? God, we thank you for your word. We thank you for this gathering of the church as we have an opportunity to come and to encourage and to study together.

18:20

So God, we pray that as we look to your word this morning, God, we pray that you would speak and that you would give us ears to listen, that you would give us eyes to see what you have for us this morning.

18:30

So we just wanna give this time to you, we pray that you would speak and we pray that you would and that we would listen. That's in Jesus' name we pray, amen. All right, well as we jump in, nothing like a nice light Sunday morning for us, right?

18:42

So when you look at that passage, I think there is a big topic that we should at least touch on for a few minutes. And that is what the Bible has to say about slavery, right? This is a much bigger topic than we have time to kind of comprehensively cover today.

18:56

But as we read these verses, I wanted to take just a few minutes and address the topic of slavery briefly as today's passage speaks to a group of people that are referred to as bondservants or slaves, depending on your translation that you've got.

19:11

Yeah, at first glance, when we look at these verses, it seems like Paul may be giving this statement, and it almost appears to be an endorsement of slavery, right? He's addressing these slaves, he's addressing these bondservants, and it seems like he doesn't speak out strongly enough against that, but this is not an endorsement of any kind.

19:31

In fact, elsewhere, in other places in his writings, he states that slaves should pursue their own freedom, if at all possible. He also forbids Christians from becoming slaves. We see that in 1 Corinthians chapter 7.

19:45

Also, in the same way, it seems like Paul is acknowledging that slavery is a sinful institution that should be avoided. In fact, people will point to passages like this one, where we see that Paul or other writers will address slaves in their context, and they believe that the New Testament talks about slavery, but it doesn't denounce slavery.

20:08

When you read this, it's not strong enough, but people will suggest that the Bible is pro-slavery, because Paul may address slaves in verses like this one, but that's simply not true if you look at all that the Bible has to say on the topic.

20:22

If you take the entirety of the Bible under consideration, what is often overlooked is the fact that the Bible actually does take a strong stand against slavery in a handful of places. Paul himself, in this book, if you were with us just a couple of months ago as we were starting 1 Timothy, Paul himself has condemned the buying and selling of human beings at the beginning of 1 Timothy.

20:43

In 1 Timothy chapter 1, let me just start in verse 9, he's addressing 1 Timothy and he says, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just, but for, and then he goes into this list of sinful things, the lawless and disobedient for the ungodly and the sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who would strike their fathers and their mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for men who practice homosexuality.

21:09

And then he says, enslavers. Well, that's literally translated, the King James translates it well, it refers to man-stealers, talking about someone who would go and would kidnap someone and enslave them with the intentions of selling them into slavery.

21:24

And then he continues on liars, perjurers, whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine. And he's talking about these things and he clearly states that those who would enslave another human being are sinful in the same way that all those other things in that list.

21:39

In fact, Exodus 21, if you go all the way back to the Old Testament near the beginning of the book, right, in Exodus 21 or Deuteronomy 24, both of those passages combine to

say that both kidnapping and the enslavement of another human being are punishable by death.

21:56

Those are capital offenses. And so that's kind of the background for what Paul is thinking here as he addresses this topic in 1 Timothy. As he stated in 1 Timothy chapter one, that those who are enslavers would be sinful people.

22:10

But as we think about slavery, we think back on the slave trade that happened in our country a few hundred years ago, right? The slave trade from Africa to the Americas in the 17th to 19th centuries.

22:23

But the entire system of American slavery was based on the kidnapping of people in another part of the world and bringing them to America, specifically with the intention of enslaving them and using them as property.

22:38

And that slave trade was an abomination and one simply cannot defend it from any sort of a biblical position. And I say that knowing that historically there are some people who would try to defend slavery from a biblical position.

22:52

But you simply cannot take the entirety of what the Bible has to say under consideration and land at that conclusion. So I think it's important for us as we look at this passage here in 1 Timothy chapter six, when we look at the context of what Paul is trying to accomplish in 1 Timothy chapter six.

23:10

It's good for us to acknowledge Paul is not, listen to me, Paul is not trying to make a comprehensive statement about the systemic injustices, about the social inequality of slavery. He's not addressing slavery as a whole and he's certainly not addressing the American slave trade as a whole.

23:28

He's not intending to offer a moral evaluation of this issue of the institution of slavery. And in fact, if you want to consider this topic a little bit more, what does the Bible have to say about slavery?

23:42

We don't have time to get real, real deep into this. I studied and dug around a little bit this week and realized that this was much bigger than we had time to spend this morning. But if you want to do a little bit more digging for yourself, I stuck in a QR code for an article that I found especially helpful.

23:58

If you want to grab your phone and scan that QR code, it's going to take you to an article titled, *Does the New Testament Support Slavery?* It's on The Gospel Coalition's website. And it was an excellent read that kind of gives us a little bit more of a framework for how does the Bible talk about this?

24:14

Because I think there are many people in our culture, many people who will read through passages like the one that we're going to look at this week. And we'll go, wait a minute, is the Bible saying that slavery is okay?

24:25

Is the Bible encouraging slavery? And certainly that's not the case. So I want to encourage you to take a picture of that, scan that and check that out later. But what we're looking at right here and in the context of what Paul is trying to accomplish in these two short verses that we're looking at this morning here in.

24:43

In 1 Timothy chapter six, what Paul is doing is Paul is addressing Christian slaves. He's addressing people who have given their life to Jesus Christ and they find themselves in the life situation that they are a slave.

24:57

They are the property of someone else at this point. And so just a special note, I guess we should acknowledge this as well. Paul actually addresses masters in a few other places as well, right? In Ephesians chapter six and Colossians chapter four, in the book of Philemon, the whole book, Paul addresses masters, slave owners.

25:19

And so he gives them instruction as well. But what we're going to look at this week is Paul is addressing these Christian slaves that were in the church in Ephesus and giving them some instruction for how to live out their life, how to live out their faith properly before God and before the people that are around them.

25:37

So, you know, anytime that I've talked to a counselor, any counselors that I've ever spoken with about this topic before, they've all kind of agreed and said generally the same thing. But hypothetically, if you and your spouse were to come and, hey, we need to sit down and talk for a few minutes and you wanted to come into a counseling session.

25:57

What I'm about to say is the first thing that I'm going to tell anybody that would come in in a situation like that. Because we come into that circumstance and inevitably the spouse is always going to sit down and I ask, you know, hey, what's going on?

26:13

And they're going to immediately point to, you know, my wife and start telling me all the things that their wife does. Or, you know, my husband and start telling me all the things that I need to fix in him, right?

26:23

But I'm going to sit here and really honestly tell you, hey, no, no, no, no, we're not going to talk about him. We're going to talk about you, right? That you cannot control what someone else does. You cannot control how other people respond to whatever the situation is, whatever the circumstances is.

26:39

You don't need to worry about what the other person needs to fix. What we need to focus on right now is what you've got going on and what you need to fix. You need to control what you can control. You need to do what you can do.

26:51

And so essentially that's what Paul is doing here in this passage. No, no, we're not going to talk about masters right now. We're going to talk about slaves and we're going to talk about what it looks like for you to live out your faith in an appropriate way, in the situation that you find yourself in.

27:06

So Paul is addressing these that he's referring to as bondservants, those that find themselves under a yoke as bondservants, and how they should respond to their masters. And what he's going to start into and start by telling them a little bit about is that they need to be obedient to Christ and trust Jesus with the outcome of their circumstances.

27:27

They don't need to be focused on all of the stuff that's going around them. They need to focus on what they can do and how they should respond to Jesus. And so Paul is going to address them in this passage.

27:39

So this passage, what we're going to see is Paul's directions to servants, Paul's directions to slaves. And so while praise God, thankfully, this wicked institution of slavery has been abolished in America, I look at these verses, and I think there's still beneficial stuff for us to consider here today as well, because I look around this room and I see person after person in this room who serve earthly masters in kind of a similar way to what Paul is talking about here in these verses.

28:09

We should, excuse me, we should consider what Paul has to say here in 1 Timothy chapter 6 and how it might apply to our context that we find ourselves in today. So let's read that again and start to look for, hey, not just focusing on what was historically, but how does this apply to us today?

28:29

1 Timothy chapter 6, it says, Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers.

28:45

Rather, they must serve all the better, since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things. Just as historically at this time when Paul was writing this letter, the primary economic relationship in society at that time was master and slave.

29:04

Well, today if we look at the primary economic relationships that exist in our world, it's not master and slave, it's more boss and employee. Right? What Paul is saying here to slaves generally applies to everyone who has a job in our context today in America in 2023.



29:22

And when he says in verse one, Let all who are under a yoke as servants, as bondservants regard their masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. I think the way that we need to apply this verse for ourselves today very simply is that every boss that's out there, every boss that's represented by an employee that's in this room, every boss deserves a full day's work from every Christian employee.

29:48

Now I want you to look at this and we're going to dig a little closer into these verses. So when you look at that verse, when it comes to honoring your boss, do you see any exceptions in that verse that are mentioned?

30:01

Does the Bible grant any exceptions for bad working conditions that you may look at? But my boss isn't worthy of honor. My boss isn't worthy of obedience or respect. I don't see them here and in fact, if we were to flip over, I'm going to stick the verse on the screens, but Peter, the apostle Peter was even more direct in first Peter chapter two when he says, Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and the gentle, but also to the unjust.

30:34

He's essentially saying, hey, no, no, no, no, don't make excuses. Don't try to tell me that, well, I was going to obey, but then they were a bad person. So I decided I wasn't going to do that anymore.

30:44

You know, if God is giving these commands in 1 Peter and in 1 Timothy, if God's giving these demands to slaves, I think they apply all the more to free men and women like us that are sitting here in this room.

30:58

When you go into the marketplace, when you go back to your job tomorrow morning or whenever it is, I believe that respect and honor is something that every Christian worker owes to every boss that is represented, even in the very worst of working conditions.

31:15

You notice it doesn't, when we look at this verse, it doesn't say that workers need to show honor or show respect only when their boss is in the office. It doesn't say that you only show honor or respect when you're talking to a coworker or someone that might represent the company in some way, shape, or form.

31:32

In fact, it doesn't even say that you show honor and respect to your boss if your boss deserves it. I don't see those in here anywhere, right? No, what the Bible says is that workers and servants should regard their own masters as worthy of all honor.

31:48

It's pretty straightforward, right? It's pretty simple. Now, I heard that question. You didn't know it, but I'm actually a mind reader as well. And I heard the thought that went through a few of your minds.

31:58

So I heard that question where you just hypothetically ask, well, what if the boss is asking me to do something immoral? Am I supposed to honor and obey and respect them if they're asking me to do something that goes against what God has told me?

32:12

Well, Paul has made that clear as well, right? He's made that clear elsewhere that human authorities are not ultimate authorities. That Romans chapter 13 tells us that all authority that exists in the world is placed there by God and is subject to God.

32:28

God put that boss in your life. God put that government official in that position. God put whoever that is in that person of authority, that position of authority that they hold. God put them there. And God ultimately is supreme over all earthly authority, but all authority comes from God.

32:47

And so if God has put that person into a position of authority, that means that we honor them and we obey them and we respect them as long as it also fits underneath of our responsibility to the higher authority to what God has to say to us.

33:03

So that means that if a human authority instructs a Christian to do something that God forbids, or a human authority asks us not to do or commands that we don't do something that God has commanded for us to do, well then that Christian must defy the authority.

33:20

But then at that point we follow the example that I'm sure you've heard, you know, living in the context that we lived over the past few years, you've heard this statement, heard this reference from Acts chapter 5 as the apostle Peter and the other apostles were being told, no, no, no, you are not going to preach the Gospel anymore.

33:37

You need to stop talking about Jesus and Peter and the other apostles responded and said, hey, I hear you, but we need to obey God rather than men. So I hear what you're saying and I don't care because God has told us something more important.

33:52

We're going to obey God rather than men. But when it's possible, Christians are to do all that they can to honor a person's position, to honor a person's authority, and to acknowledge that God has placed that person in that position of authority.

34:07

And by honoring and respecting and being obedient to that person when we're able to, we portray Christ in a positive light. We do what Paul is talking about here in verse one when he says, let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their masters as worthy of all honor so that, what's the reason that he gives here, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

34:34

Ultimately, Christian workers are not seeking just to please their boss. They're seeking to please the Lord. We have a higher responsibility and we have a higher calling. That means that we can and should be faithful in a job, be faithful as a good student with your teachers, or be faithful with whatever the opportunity is that presents itself.

34:55

You can and should be faithful even when the boss is not. That doesn't mean that you have to stay in that job. If you've got options, feel free to pursue those options. But as long as you remain in the circumstance that you're in, as long as that person is the authority that God has placed over you in whatever the context is, we cannot respond to the boss's sinfulness in a sinful way.

35:16

We control what we can control, right? We focus on what we can do. We respond appropriately, even when somebody else is not responding the way that they should. We don't respond to the boss's sin with more sin.

35:30

We respond by saying, no, no, I'm doing this for Jesus, not for that person, whoever it is. Paul talks a little bit more about this same topic, a little bit more pointedly in the book of Colossians, chapter three.

35:42

Colossians chapter three, he's talking to slaves, he's talking to servants as well. And in Colossians 3:22, he says, bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters. Not by way of eye-service as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

36:00

And whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men. Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward, for you are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrong doer will be paid back for the wrong that he has done, and there is no partiality.

36:17

It's simply put, it's telling us, it doesn't matter what the circumstance is that you find yourself in, it doesn't matter if the boss deserves respect, it doesn't matter. Any of those other things that we can sit here, we're pretty good at making excuses, right?

36:30

We're pretty good at sitting here and we come home and we cross our arms, sit at the dinner table and we look at our spouse and go, you know, I'm just not gonna do it anymore. I'm not going to respect that man or that woman.

36:40

I'm not going to do what they're asking me to do anymore. I'm done with it. But the reason why we serve and obey that person is not because they deserve it. Paul's talking about here in Colossians chapter three is that we work hard, not for them.

36:56

We work hard because Jesus is worthy of it because Jesus is the one that put us in that job and Jesus is the one that we are ultimately serving. Not just serving a boss, not just serving a man or a woman that has been put in that earthly position.

37:12

We're serving a higher calling. And when we serve that person, we serve Jesus and we should do it well. Now what about, we're talking about kind of evil bosses and wicked people and people that aren't deserving of respect but what about when verse two starts to talk about what about when your boss is a believer?

37:30

What do you do when that person is a Christian? So he addresses that temptation that can kind of creep in there as well in verse two. He says, those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they're brothers but rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved.

37:49

Sometimes Christians face a temptation in the workplace as well. And their work relationships with other believers, other brothers and sisters in Christ, we are one, we are united, we are a part of a family inside of the church.

38:03

And so when you look at your boss and you go, wait a minute, we're brothers, right? This is a special relationship. That means that you're gonna give me some favors, right? That means that I'm gonna get the promotion because you're gonna look out for me, right?

38:16

So we got that little wink and nod and Christian thing that we got going on, right? So you may assume that you're entitled to special favors because you're a brother or a sister in Christ. And you may even say, whether it's by your words or by your actions, my boss is a Christian.

38:32

That means that they're supposed to be kind and loving and forgiving, right? Forgiving boss, that's always a good thing for us to have. So that means I don't actually have to

work that hard. When the boss says that we open at eight and I need to be there at eight, but they're pretty forgiving and pretty kind.

38:48

So if I roll in at 8:15, that's probably all right, right? I don't really need to work as hard as I possibly can because it would be really unloving for them to fire me if I'm not doing my job. They would never do that and put me in that terrible situation.

39:02

So I'm just gonna take advantage of that, kind of cut some corners, maybe take the easy way out every once in a while. What Paul's saying here is that if you're tempted to find yourself in that circumstance as well, he's clearly stating that it is sinful to take advantage of a Christian boss or a Christian master.

39:20

In fact, you should work even harder for that boss, not looking for an opportunity to take advantage of their kindness, but rather knowing that that person is a brother or sister in Christ, you should work even harder in that context.

39:33

You know, simply to summarize much of what it's talking about here. You know, a good work ethic isn't important and in fact, I think it's a fundamentally valuable ethic for the Christian. It's important for us to work hard.

39:50

When we humble ourselves, when we work hard, when we serve the people that are around us, we are identifying with Jesus Christ, who was the ultimate servant. In fact, the same word that we see here used in 1 Timothy chapter 6, as Paul is talking about servants, bondservants, people who are slaves to their master, that same Greek word, the Greek word *doulas*, that same word shows up in the book of Philippians chapter 2 when Paul is describing the ministry of Jesus in 1 Timothy 2 verses 5 through 8.

40:24

Excuse me, Philippians 2:5-8. Philippians 2:5-8, Paul says, Have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God as a thing to be grasped, but he emptied himself by taking the form of a servant and being born in the likeness of men, and being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

40:51

What those verses are telling us is that the Son of God, the high and the holy one that has eternally existed in heaven before the earth was ever created, the one that is worthy of all praise and glory, that God of the universe, Jesus Christ, even though he deserved everything that he had in heaven, he laid all of it aside and he willingly humbled himself to become a slave.

41:16

Verse 7 says that Jesus emptied himself by taking the form of a servant, that word servant, slave, bondservant. Jesus became our slave when he came and he put on flesh and he came and lived among humanity.

41:32

When Jesus came and obeyed the law of God perfectly in our place, when Jesus went to a cross and paid a penalty that he didn't deserve, when he gave his life as the penalty that the payment for sin, even though he had never sinned, when he gave his life as a sacrifice, he suffered the penalty that we deserve.

41:53

He paid for our sins when he died on the cross. It's one thing for us to obey an earthly master, but it is another thing entirely for us to obey a master who would be willing to lay aside the glories of heaven to humble himself to come and to lay down his life for sinners like me and you.



42:13

When Jesus was so generous that he willingly served us as a slave, I think the only reasonable, the only response that is appropriate for us to give back to him. If we truly understand what Jesus has done in humbling himself to the point of going from God of the Universe to someone who was killed violently as a common street criminal, that sacrifice that he made, the only appropriate response that we can give.

42:40

If we truly understand what Jesus did, the only response is for us to look at Jesus and go, hey, whatever it is that you ask for, it's yours. Whatever it is that I can do to serve you, you got it. So if he's going to ask us, hey, humble yourself and work hard at your job, seems like a pretty reasonable expectation, doesn't it?

43:01

It seems like a pretty reasonable request for him to ask. Since Jesus has already done so much for us, this is the least that we can do for him. Whether you are at work or anywhere else that you find yourself, the life of a Christian is a call to service.

43:17

It's a call to put others' needs above our needs. It's a call to consider others as more important than yourself, as Philippians 2 also talks about. We work hard because we work for Jesus. And so while these verses in 1 Timothy chapter six seem to have the boss and employee relationship most clearly in mind for us as we're reading through it today, I think it's clear throughout the rest of scripture that Christians are expected to work hard, excuse me, to work hard and to serve in all kinds of different areas in life.

43:50

There's all kinds of different places that working hard and that giving ourselves diligently to this and humbling ourselves and becoming a servant is an important thing for us to keep in mind as Christians, right?

44:02

If you are married in this room today, marriage, if you're doing it right, is servanthood. And in fact, if I were to ask you, I think some in the room might even describe it as slavery, right? But being a good husband, being a good wife, it requires giving of yourself.

44:19

It requires giving it all that you have. It requires humbling yourself at times, even when they don't deserve it because believe it or not, you're married to a sinner. And believe it or not, they're married to a sinner and that means that we give of ourselves even when they don't deserve it sometimes.

44:35

Hey, hey, hey, I saw a couple of you guys, elbow your spouse there. We're talking about both of you, right? You focus on your thing, they'll focus on their thing. But being a good husband, being a good wife, it requires hard work.

44:47

Being a good parent, family life is servanthood as well. I mean, selflessly serving in order to see your family thrive, to see your family grow into spiritual maturity like God wants it to. That means that you as a father or as a mother, you give sacrificially to your family on a regular basis, right?

45:07

The workplace also is servanthood. Being a good employee is servanthood, giving the best hours of your day, the best hours of your week, the biggest portion of your life is probably going to be given to that work context, to that organization or business.

45:23

And so working hard is not just something that we do for a boss to try to work our way up the ladder. Working hard is something that we do because we're not working for that person. We work, like Colossians 3 said, we work because we work hard as if we were working for the Lord.

45:39

And that's what he commands of us. And you know, just in case bosses thought they were gonna get off the hook as well, I see a few business owners that I know are in the room as well. So being a good boss, rightly understood, is servanthood as well.

45:51

Because you wanna put the needs of your employees above the needs of the company at times, right? You wanna be a good boss and put their needs above your own sometimes. And so you serve those under you with a heart for their success.

46:04

See, everywhere that we go, everything that we do, we should be giving our lives in service to other people. And true servanthood is Christ -centered. True servanthood leads us to Christ and true servanthood makes us more like Christ.

46:20

In fact, let's look at what Jesus had to say real briefly in Mark chapter 10, verses 43 through 45. Jesus is speaking here. He says, whoever would be great among you must be your servant, must be your slave.

46:34

And whoever would be first among you must be slave of all, for even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. The apostle Paul also speaks on this same topic in 1 Corinthians chapter nine.

46:49

He says, for though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all that I might win more of them. Ephesians chapter five tells us to submit to one another out of reverence to Christ. We see, we give of ourselves, it's the appropriate Christian posture

for us to take in any circumstance that we find ourselves in, but especially in the employer -employee relationship like we're talking about here this week.

47:11

So with that all in mind, I wanna read for you guys one more time as we finish up this time. I want you to listen, not just to the words of the text, not just to the words of applying this to boss and employee, but I want you to listen to the heart of what we have been talking about here today.

47:28

First Timothy chapter six verses one and two. Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

47:40

Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers, but rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers, and beloved. Teach and urge these things.

47:52

Give your boss and give those people that you're working for, give them your best because they deserve it. Because Jesus deserves it. By giving them your best, you're giving God your best and you're causing other people that know, if you've ever come into the workplace and people have asked you, hey, what'd you do this weekend?

48:14

Oh, I went to church. If you've ever responded in that way, if you've ever worn a T -shirt with a cross on it or something that would identify you as a Christian, people in your workplace know that. People in your workplace are paying attention and they probably know that you would identify yourself as a Christian.

48:29

And so if you come in and you're doing things just halfway and you're being lazy and you're kind of being identified by that, people are gonna look at that and go, I guess they're not that good of a person, huh?

48:41

I guess they're not that committed to doing all the things that the Bible tells them that they're supposed to do. By giving your job your best, by giving God your best, you're causing others, it says here, you're causing others to look more positively on God and on his teachings, who you represent.

49:00

So when you go to work tomorrow, be a good representative of the God that you serve. Our prayer team is gonna be down here at the end of the service. If you need prayer, they would love to pray with you.

49:10

Also, if you don't wanna come down here, we also have a prayer wall in the back hallway that maybe you wanna write those prayer requests down and drop them in a box or roll them up and stick them in that wall.

49:19

They would love that as well. But now I wanna just transition briefly into our time of communion that we've got scheduled for this morning as well. So I wanna read for you guys an invitation that I found in the pastor's book, right?

49:33

Real creative title for the book that they wrote, but this little invitation to communion. Let me read this for you guys real quick. It says, our Lord Jesus gave thanks on the day that he instituted this sacrament. He broke the bread and he gave thanks. And as he was thankful at that last supper for the Passover, for God's provision for his people of the perfect lamb and the lamb's blood that was shed for their sins.

49:58

So we now give thanks for this, our perpetual Passover meal. For the ultimate lamb of God, the Lord Jesus himself who shed his blood so that we through faith might claim it as our protection and as our provision. Brothers and sisters, this is a day to give thanks. This is a time to give thanks. And this is the meal at which we give thanks. To give thanks to Jesus, the lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world. To give thanks to the Son of God who feeds us even now through his supreme sacrifice.

50:30

So this morning I would invite all those who profess a sincere faith in Christ and all those who are living according to his word with a clear conscience to join me in partaking of this Thanksgiving meal. So in just a minute, I'm gonna read a passage from Matthew 26 as Jesus was instituting the Lord's Supper. I'm gonna pray and then I wanna invite you just wherever it is that you're seated, we've got three tables here at the front and one at the back.

50:53

And if you are a believer who has placed your faith in Jesus alone for salvation, we are an open communion time. So if you are a Christian, it doesn't matter if you're a part of this body, you might be traveling or whatever.

51:05

We wanna invite you, if you are a Christian, if Jesus is your sacrifice, if Jesus is your hope for salvation, after I pray, I wanna invite you to come and take of these elements and then you can return to your seat and take a moment to reflect and to pray and to thank the Lord for his sacrifice.

51:21

Then I'll invite you just when you're ready to take of these elements at your seat. So let me read from Matthew 26 verses 26 through 28. It says, now as they were eating, Jesus took bread and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, take and eat, this is my body.

51:39

And he took a cup and when they had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Would you pray with me?

51:52

God, we thank you for, God for your word, we thank you for your sacrifice, we thank you for Jesus. It's through Jesus's willingness to come and to humble himself, to take on the form of a servant. To humble himself and to become obedient even to the point of death on a cross.

52:12

God it is only through His sacrifice that we come this morning. It is only through His sacrifice that we have hope to do any of the things that we talked about here this morning. But God as we remember His sacrifice, God as we remember the perfect Lamb of God that laid down His life as a sacrifice, even though He didn't deserve to die, He willingly laid His life down so that sinners like us who do deserve it, could be forgiven.

52:37

God we thank you for your perfect plan of pouring out your wrath on Jesus and not on us if we place our faith in Him for salvation. And so God as we come to this table in just a moment and take of this bread and of this cup, we pray that you would use these elements to remind us, to renew us, God that you would fill our hearts and our spirits with the goodness of who you are and the incredible gift of the sacrifice of Jesus when He laid His life down on that cross.

53:06

God we thank you for Jesus, we thank you for His sacrifice and it is through His name and through His work that we come and that we pray. It is in His name. Take and eat.