

- 36** Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters so far as this present physical existence is concerned. ²Do so with fear and trembling, by a single-minded commitment of your heart, as unto the Messiah. ³Not like service rendered when someone is watching, as people-pleasers, but as slaves of the Messiah, doing the will of God from one's true inner person. ⁴With good intent, perform the service of a slave as to the Lord, and not as to men—knowing that each person, if he does some good thing, he will receive it back from the Lord, whether slave or free. ⁵And masters, dispense with your threatening and do the same things with respect to them. ⁶You are to understand that the master of both them and you is in the divine realm, and there is no partiality with him.

6:5-9

§ 3 • Exhortation to Persevere in One's Belief

PART 15

- 37** To finish up—be firm in your commitment to the Lord, even with the strength of his force. ²Put on the full armor of God so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ³Because our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the compelling attractions to a religious system in this present darkness, against the evil invisible forces at work within the teachings regarding transcendent matters.

6:10-12

- 38** Therefore, take up the full armor of God so that you will be able to resist in the evil day and, having dealt successfully with everything, to stand firm. ²Stand firm, therefore, having girded your loins with the truth, and having put on the breast protector of righteousness, and, in an act of final preparation, having bound your feet with the gospel of peace. ³In all of these, take up the shield of belief, by which you will be able to extinguish all the burning arrows of the evil one. ⁴And accept the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the declared promise of God.

6:13-17

-- (b) --

- 39** In every prayer and petition, be praying in your spirit on every occasion even to this end: that you stay awake with complete readiness. ²And, pray this same thing in your petition for all the saints. ³And pray this same thing on my behalf. ⁴Furthermore, pray that a message might be given to me when I open my mouth to make known publicly the secret of the gospel—for which I am an ambassador in chains. ⁵Pray that I will speak of it freely, as I ought to speak.

6:18-20