

# Slaves and Servants



The Eucharist of Christ is not a crumb, but a feast; and without it, all nations shall be snared under the bondage of Cain, Nimrod, Pharaoh, and the Caesars of the world.

If we will not be the servants of mankind, we will be the slaves of men.

“Thou shalt not covet... any thing that [is] thy neighbour’s.” (Ex. 20:17)

“Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee:” (Exodus 34:12)

“When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee: And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite. Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.” (Proverbs 23:1)

“And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.” (2 Peter 2:3)

“Let their table become a snare before them: and [that which should have been] for [their] welfare, [let it become] a trap.” (Psalms 69:22)

“My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.” (Proverbs 1:10)

“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (2 Corinthians 6:16)

“But I say unto you, Swear not at all... for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.” (Matthew 5:34)

“But above all things, my brethren, swear not,” (James 5:12)

“And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them:” (Ro. 11:9)

“For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:”

“And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.” (Hebrews 8: 10,11)

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**A brief look at Romans 13** before we begin, for those who have not yet read the Church's essay on these controversial verses:

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.” Romans 13:1

This statement by Paul is very true, but the common understanding that God desires men to be subject to the will of other men is false. What Paul is clearly saying with an honest reading of the Greek text is:

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher *liberty*. For there is no *liberty* but of God: the *liberties* that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth (opposes) the *liberty*, resisteth (opposes) the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the *liberty*? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same.” Romans 13: 1,3

This rendering of the text is unquestionably correct, too, despite the fact that it seems to contradict the interpretation often applied Romans. There are many words that can be translated *power*, but the word used by Paul in Romans is *exousia*. It means specifically “power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases.”<sup>1</sup> The same Greek word is even translated “liberty” in 1Corinthians 8:9 and “right” in both Hebrews 13:10 and Revelations 22:14.

Aristotle actually exemplifies *exousia's* use in the statement, “The right (*exousia*) to do anything one wishes...”<sup>2</sup> *Liberty* is a *power* and a *right* endowed by God to every man. The translation in the King James Version is not incorrect, though interpretations of it may be flawed.

The reference in verse three that “rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil” is also true. That does not mean that God desires men to rule over men. If we recall the bondage of Egypt, where men were subject to the rule of Pharaoh and forced by law to pay 20 percent of their income to Pharaoh,<sup>3</sup> this was a direct result of the evil deed of abusing and selling their own brother into slavery.<sup>4</sup>

**When the voice of the people** of Israel cried out for a commander in Chief to fight their battles<sup>5</sup> for them, God called it a *rejection* of Him.<sup>6</sup> God was specific in His description of the multitude of problems that would befall men who made such a wicked and foolish choice.<sup>7</sup>

Prophecy comes true when men fail to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. The power of God's precepts and the consequences for their neglect are inescapable. The consequence is predictable, too.

“And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.” 1 Samuel 8:18

When Saul *foolishly*<sup>8</sup> forced the sacrifice of the people(taxed), his kingdom was doomed. When David *foolishly* numbered the young men of Israel for the draft, he repented.<sup>9</sup> When Solomon and his son oppressed

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1 Hebrew-English and Greek-English Lexicons, OnlineBible.com

2 *Lawmakers and Ordinary People in Aristotle*, by Paul Bullen (1996) <http://paul.bullen.com/BullenLawmakers.html> (VI. 4.1318b38-1319a4)

3 Genesis 47:24 And it shall come to pass in the increase, that ye shall give the fifth [part] unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own...

4 Acts 7:9 “And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,”

5 1 Samuel 8:20 “That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.”

6 1 Samuel 8:7 “And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.”

7 1 Samuel 8:11-17 “... He will take your sons... your daughters ... your fields... even the best ... And he will take... take... and ... take.”

8 1 Samuel 13:13 “And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.”

9 2 Samuel 24:10 “... he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: ... for I have done very foolishly.” See also 1 Chronicles 21:17

the people,<sup>10</sup> they repented from their sin of rejecting God, that a man should rule over them. But as the *evil* had already been set in motion, the nation was divided and conquered.

“Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.”  
Judges 10:14

There are other verses that may lead to confusion if not seen in the context of the spirit of love and the dominion of God:

“But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous [are they], self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.” 2 Peter 2:10

Everywhere else the word is translated as *government*; in 2 Peter 2 it is translated *dominion*.<sup>11</sup> If *dominion* is a right and responsibility endowed by God, and men give that divine inheritance away in exchange for comforts of the flesh, then have we *despised the dominion* of God?

“Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage ... thus Esau despised [his] birthright.” Genesis 25:34

**From Cain to Nimrod**, or from Pharaoh to Caesar, governments were instituted by men who would not be ruled by God. God's punishment has not the vengeful purpose that is sometimes applied to God by men. It is God's desire to draw man to the natural state for which he was created. The *terror* of tyrants come from the sin of the wicked. The sting that results from that sin is a *gift* to awaken man to the wisdom of repentance.

The Bible says in James that you should:

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7

The word devil here is *diabolos* and is often applied to those “opposing the cause of God.” God's cause is to free men, not to put them in bondage. If we desire to set men free, evil will flee from our hearts.

“Then Peter and the [other] apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29

Should we submit to God or men? Should we ever go under authority or sell ourselves into bondage in exchange for free bread or pottage?

But we also see Peter say that you should:

“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;” 1 Peter 2:13

If we look at this verse word by word and put it into the context of the whole scripture we may see it in a new light.

First, the Greek word *Oun*<sup>12</sup> is not translated in King James version. The meaning of *oun* is *consequently* or *therefore*. Peter's verse 13 is an instruction in relation to prior statements.

“Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by [your] good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.” 1 Peter 2:12

We must always read the Bible in the context of the whole Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Jesus preached that Kingdom is *at hand*. While all the Jews of Judea did not accept Him as the king, thousands of people did...at His entry into Jerusalem, and at Pentecost.

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10 2 Chronicles 10:11 “For whereas my father put a heavy yoke upon you, I will put more to your yoke: my father chastised you with whips, but I [will chastise you] with scorpions.”

11 “Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise **dominion**, and speak evil of dignities.” Jude 1:8 See Eph. 1:2, Col. 1:16, 2 Peter 2:10

12 *oun* 1) then, therefore, accordingly, consequently, these things being so

All who accepted Him as the Messiah<sup>13</sup> were cast out<sup>14</sup> of the religion of the Pharisees. That means they would get no benefits or aid from their government, no “Corban.” Both the “world” of Rome, and Judea at that time, provided for their needy in society through their civil temples. They collected contributions from the people to provide welfare for the widows, orphans, and needy of their societies.

About 78 BC, the Pharisees, which were a political party, thought they had a better idea and decided to create a socialist state that could exercise authority over the people. They managed to enact a law to enforce the collection of temple tribute for those who would become a member.<sup>15</sup> The right hand of government increased its power while reducing the status of the people. The people lost the spiritually maturing benefit of exercising charity in freedom and their right to choose.

All governments expand their power or influence over the people by offers of gifts, gratuities, and benefits, in schemes that require a decrease in their individual *right to choose* what they will contribute, to whom and for what purpose. Someone else will have their power of choice.

**Herod's grand scheme** of a vast membership were *baptized*, after an *application* and the prescribed fees, with annual contributions collected and recorded by the scribes in a system called Corban. Members were given a white stone as ID,<sup>16</sup> and Herod was able to expand his hope of a kingdom of God on earth by this *religious system* of social security (Corban) and statutory enforced collection of its taxed membership. Pilate "... used the sacred treasure of the temple, called corban (qorban), to pay for bringing water into Jerusalem by an aqueduct. A crowd came together and clamored against him..."<sup>17</sup> because those funds were for their welfare, but their welfare system had brought them into bondage.

“Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap.” Psalms 69:22

Because this precept of God is so fundamental, Paul repeats it:

“And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them:” Romans 11:9<sup>18</sup>

Why do I say this social security system was religious?

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit<sup>19</sup> the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world.” James 1:27

The Greek word for *world* in this verse is defined as “an apt and harmonious arrangement or constitution, order, government” and comes the Greek word *komizo*, defined “to care for, take care of, provide for.”

Christ's Kingdom offered the same religious benefits, care, and assistance as the “world”, but was dependent on faith, hope, and charity to provide the resources of its government, as God has always intended.

Other nations offer *social contracts*<sup>20</sup> that *bind its members*. These subject citizens have *duties incumbent*<sup>21</sup>

13 Messiah, in Greek it would be the word Christos, was a term applied to Kings of Israel like David. It means Anointed. Christ meant king.

14 John 9:22 “These [words] spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.”

15 Salome- Alexandra (about 78 BC), that the Pharisaical party, being then in power, had carried an enactment by which the Temple tribute was to be enforced at law. Alfred Edersheim's book *The Temple*.

16 “The missionaries... with their... white stones, would come back with the same wallets full of money, in foreign currency. Once put into Jewish currency by the money-changers [porters of the temple], it would be stored in vaults ...Herod's scheme of initiation into a new form of Judaism was immensely successful...” *Jesus and the Riddle of the Dead Sea Scrolls* by Barbara Thiering, Harper Collins: 1992

17 The Aqueduct- Josephus, War 2.175-177, Antiq 18.60-62

18 Ex20:17, 23:32, 34:12...; Pr1:10, 23:1...; Ro13:9, Mr7:22, Mt5:34, Ja5:12

19 Episkeptomai “to look upon or after ... have care for, provide for:”

20 2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

21 Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

including *full faith*<sup>22</sup> and *allegiance*.<sup>23</sup> These were the *benefactors* who *exercised authority one over the other* that Christ told us we were *not to be like*<sup>24</sup> when He appointed the Kingdom to His ambassadors.<sup>25</sup>

This is why 1 Peter 2:12 talks about our conduct among the Gentiles. The word *Gentiles* is from *ethnos* meaning *other nations*. The Kingdom is a nation at hand but it does not *exercise authority* over the people. Like Herod's kingdom, it had members all over the world, but unlike Herod's kingdom, Christ's Kingdom was based on the perfect law of liberty and free will choice spoken of by Paul.

**“The union and discipline of the Christian republic”** was praised by Edward Gibbon concerning the early Church, as “it gradually formed an independent and increasing state in the heart of the Roman Empire.”<sup>26</sup>

The word 'conversation' in 1 Peter 2:12 has the meaning of *conduct*, and is translated from the Greek word *anastrophe*<sup>27</sup> which is from *anastrepho*<sup>28</sup> meaning to “to turn upside down, overturn, to turn back.”

We see a variation of that same word referencing *Jason and certain brethren* accused of *turning the world upside down* in Thessalonica.

“And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;” Acts 17:6

The nature of the charge was that they were doing *contrary to the decrees of Caesar*, saying that there was *another king*. These acts were upsetting the *rulers*, so much so that they were arrested and appear to have been forced to post a bond in order to get out of jail. Then Paul and Silas were sent away in secret and went to Berea where many *believed* after researching the scriptures.<sup>29</sup>

**Believed what?** What was so controversial to the rulers and citizens, and what were they discovering in Berea?

Paul did explain that Jesus came and suffered for them, and that he was the *Christ*. *Christ* meant *Anointed* or *Messiah* which have been terms used to identify the king of Israel or Judea since King David. Jesus had been proclaimed King by foreign rulers from the east, and by the people of Jerusalem who hailed him as the highest son of David. Pilate, as procurator of Rome, had officially proclaimed *Jesus as the King of the Jews*. Christians like Paul claimed this Christ as King, and preached His government. Agrippa recognized their political position. By Christ's sacrifice and death, He sealed the truth of His Kingship in His innocent blood.<sup>30</sup>

Jesus' Kingship was very controversial. He was restoring every man to his possession and family.<sup>31</sup> The

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22 Matthew 6:30 “Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, [shall he] not much more [clothe] you, O ye of little faith?” Mark 11:22 “... Have faith in God.”

23 Acts 5:29 “Then Peter and the [other] apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

24 Matthew 20:25, Mark 10:42, Luke 22:25.

25 Luke 22:29 “And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;” See also Matthew 21:43, Luke 12:32

26 *The Decline And Fall Of The Roman Empire*, Edward Gibbon. Chapter XV.

27 391 *anastrophe* from 'anastrepho' 1) manner of life, conduct, behaviour...

28 390 *anastrepho* [return 2, have conversation 2, live 2, abide, overthrow, behave (one's) self, be used, pass] 1) to turn upside down, overturn ...

29 Acts 17:7-11 Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, [one] Jesus. And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things. And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go. And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming [thither] went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

30 Col. 2:14 “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;”

31 Leviticus 25:10 “And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout [all] the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.”

Kingdom of God is a network of families coming together under the perfect law of liberty,<sup>32</sup> binding themselves by faith, hope, and charity,<sup>33</sup> rather than social contracts<sup>34</sup> with civil *benefactors* who *exercise authority one over the other*.

The early Church did not *pray* to the *Patronus of Rome*<sup>35</sup> for mercy and justice, nor for *free bread*. Christians prayed to *Our Father who art in Heaven*<sup>36</sup> for forgiveness, as they showed forgiveness for others, and for their *daily bread*. Christian bread was contributed freely by the *thanksgiving* of Christ's faithful believers. Anyone who professed Christ was cast out of the social welfare system, Corban, of the Pharisees at Herod's golden temple that *made the word of God to none effect*.

“Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition,<sup>37</sup> which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.” Mark 7:13

**Corban is sacrifice.** It is also translated *offering, oblation, offered, sacrifice, and treasury* in the Bible. The purpose of the sacrifice was to care for the needy of society, which included anyone who did not have sufficient resources within their family to provide for a crisis. Corban has been a part of all governments and societies of man.

Corban was a religious Rite for the welfare of the people. Cain, Nimrod, Pharaoh, Caesar, and Herod were benefactors in the provision of *free bread* by forcing the sacrifice, the *contributions*, of the people.

The followers of Jesus the Christ also made provision to care for the needy of their society. They accomplished this without the *benefactors* of the “world” which *exercised authority* over the contributions of the people.<sup>38</sup> *Pure Religion* was providing for society in a way that was unspotted by the covetous authoritarianism of the “world”.

“And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so:” Luke 22:25. Also Matthew 20:25, Mark 10:42.

Early Rome, the Republic, depended entirely on the distribution of charity through the congregation of the family hearths. These networked families provided for the welfare needs of their society.

Public works projects, commercial ventures, and even war was financed through similar fund raising institutions or temples. This community, in affluence and apathy, eventually built temples to manage services on a centralized governmental scale with a broadened scope. By 70 B.C., a bread dole was *decreed*, distributing free bread to 40,000 adult males which increased over the centuries to include over 300,000.

There was little need for individual charity with the *government* taking over this responsibility. Every year,

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32 James 1:25 “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth [therein], he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

33 1 Corinthians 13:13 “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these [is] charity.”

34 Ex. 23:32 “Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods.” Ex 34:12 “Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare...”

• 2 Cor. 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

• Matthew 5:34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:... for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

• James 5:12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and [your] nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

35 Title for Caesar, *Patronus of Rome* means *Our Father who art in Rome*.

36 Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.... Give us this day our daily bread.

37 paradosis from 3860; -tradition 12, ordinance 1 1) giving up, giving over 1a) the act of giving up 1b) the surrender of cities

38 Acts 11:29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:

500,000,000 bushels of grain were imported from Egypt alone. This grain was stockpiled and redistributed daily from warehouses along Trajan's dock, covering over 160 acres. With these massive government giveaway programs in place, the local farmers needed to be subsidized, and charity died from neglect.

As the republic moved away from voluntarism and charity, the people were seduced by the temptation of *easy entitlements* offered by *benefactors* who *exercised authority*. The voluntary charitable network which had bound families together into a strong society was gradually replaced by an authoritarian system which imposed a civil duty and legal obligation to contribute. A once titular leadership became lawmakers whose authority and power was soon centralized into the hands of one Caesar or dictator after another, until Rome declined and fell.

“Protection draws to it subjection; subjection protection”<sup>39</sup>

It has always been common practice to expand the power of government through the offer of social contracts and schemes to an acquiescing, if not consenting, populace by enticing people with benefits and promises provided at the expense of their neighbors.

“The real destroyers of the liberties of the people is he who spreads among them bounties, donations, and benefits.”<sup>40</sup>

**The Bible warns** over and over again concerning such covetous foolishness.<sup>41</sup> The modern Church, through ignorance or design, has subverted the meaning and intent of the authors and followed an illicit and covetous path, while neglecting the path of God's righteousness.

**The unrighteous path** is the unrighteous mammon. Mammon is not money, although money may represent a form of mammon. Mammon is *entrusted wealth*;<sup>42</sup> like the camp of the golden calf, people deposit their wealth under the control of another. Jesus compares *God and mammon* as two masters, both requiring service and bestowing benefits and grace upon its faithful members. One will *fail*, the other is *everlasting*.

“And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.... If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true [riches]?” Luke 16:9-11

Jesus also tells us to be faithful with the unrighteous mammon, while we should pursue the righteous. We should not be cheating the present master while we are in the process of seeking the Kingdom.

The people in Egypt were required to pay their *tale of bricks*, but they gleaned in the field for their *straw*. These are metaphors where the *tale* was what they owed the government, and *straw* was their entitlements and benefits. As these systems decline, so do their benefits, but the burden increases upon the people and they cry out to the true God.<sup>43</sup>

If men understood that these systems of entrusting *benefactors* who *exercise authority* with the wealth and welfare of the people snares them in a plague of bondage, then they might not seek the *flesh pots*<sup>44</sup> of Egypt,

39 *Protectio trahit subjectionem, subiectio protectionem.* Coke, Littl. 65.

40 Plutarch, 2000 years ago.

41 Psalms 69:22, Romans 11:9, Exodus 20:17, 23:32, 34:15, Proverbs 1:10., 23:1-3, Romans 13:9, Mark 7:22, Matthew 5:34, James 5:12

42 “Mammon, an Aramaic word *mamon* “wealth” ... derived from *Ma'amon*, something entrusted to safe keeping. Encyclopedia Britannica.

43 Exodus 5:8-18 And the tale of the bricks, ... ye shall lay upon them; ye shall not diminish ought thereof: for they be idle; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God.... Go therefore now, and work; for there shall no straw be given you, yet shall ye deliver the tale of bricks.

44 Exodus 16:3 “And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, [and] when we did eat bread to the full; ...”

• Ezekiel 11:3-11 “... let us build houses: this [city is] the caldron, and we [be] the flesh... (7) Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Your slain whom ye have laid in the midst of it, they [are] the flesh, and this [city is] the caldron: .... (11) This [city] shall not be your caldron, neither shall ye be the flesh in the midst thereof; [but] I will judge you in the border of Israel.”

• Leviticus 26:29 “And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat.”

Rome, and Herod, and pursue the righteous path of God.

**During the Christian persecutions**, emperor Decius [249-251] required all to *sacrifice to the gods* of the temple. The purpose was not to please idols of stone, but to fill the treasury of the temples. The severe penalties were meant to intimidate their members. We see that "...the chiliarchs<sup>45</sup> were calling upon each one by name from a roll."<sup>46</sup>

**Inflation** had been staggering since the silver was removed from the denarii, and the endless fighting against the barbarian terrorists had drained the funds of government. In order to keep the people placated and passive, benefits would need to be provided. The government built temples and institutions used to manage those "mammon" funds.

There have been accusations that "The Emperor Decius, wishing to break and suppress the law of the Christians, issued his edicts throughout the world."<sup>47</sup> Christians were not *of* that "world," nor were "believers" members on the "rolls" of the temples *or* partakers of its mammon.

Although Christians were separate, with their own law, anyone not participating in those systems of sacrifice were immediately suspect. This system of sacrifice and benefit was called Qorban by the Romans, Corban in the Bible, Korban in the Hebrew, and even Holy Qurbana.

All Corban is the same. The Corban of the Pharisees *made the word of God to none effect*. God had told the people to *love their neighbor as themselves* with freewill offerings through a system of voluntary charity managed by their public servants, the Levites. They were the public servants of a Kingdom, chosen by ten families in congregations and paid based on their service.<sup>48</sup> The Church was no different.

"The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute." Proverbs 12:24

"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils." 1 Cor. 10:21

The Pagans had their "*Liturgy*" from the Greek word *leitourgi* meaning "public service."<sup>49</sup> The Christian *Liturgy* was not about singing, pious rhetoric, or vestments of modern religions. It was about the serving the public in congregations of the Kingdom of God, operating under the perfect law of liberty in true worship of God by actively loving one another in a religious system of, by, and for the people.

The Christian community was well-disciplined in their hearts and minds, and organized from the bottom up, through a system of charity rather than force. The Roman Mammon was failing. But the Christ's Mammon of righteousness successfully provided for Christian welfare.

Justin Martyr, in about AD 150, hoping to clear the misconceptions and prejudices surrounding Christianity, wrote the Emperor Antoninus Pius in defense of the Christian faith and allegiance to Christ:

"There is then brought to the president of the brethren bread and a vessel of wine mixed with water; and he taking them, gives praise and glory to the Father of the universe... And when the president has given thanks, and all the people have expressed their assent, those who are called by us deacons give to each of those present to partake of the bread and wine mixed with water over which the thanksgiving was pronounced, and to those who are absent they carry away a portion."

"And the wealthy among us help the needy ... and willing, give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the president, who succours the orphans and widows and those who, through sickness or any other cause, are in want, and those who are in bonds and the strangers sojourning among us, and in a word takes care of all who are in need." (First Apology, Ch. 65-67)

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45 A commander of 1000.

46 *Diocletian, Medieval Source Book*, De Mart. Pal. ch. 4.

47 *Bibliotheca Hagiographica Latina*, II, p. 852. BHL [Passion]

48 Numbers 7:5 "Take [it] of them, that they may be to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; and thou shalt give them unto the Levites, to every man according to his service."

49 The American Heritage ® Dic. of the English Language, Fourth Edition.



This was not a token breadcrumb given as a mere ritual but was the life-saving Bread of Life. Through charity and hope, a brotherhood is born in the Eucharist of Christ by the charitable sharing of provisions.

"We call this food eucharist (thanksgiving), and no one else is permitted to partake of it, except one who believes our teaching to be true and who has been washed in the washing which is for the remission of sins and for regeneration [baptism] and is thereby living as Christ enjoined." (First Apology, Chapter 66:1-20)

This was clearly the precept of the Kingdom as defined by John the Baptist,<sup>50</sup> Christ,<sup>51</sup> and Moses.<sup>52</sup> This is the Kingdom of God at hand, doing the will of the Father, and following the dictates of Christ.

The true faithful of Christ, not deluded by half a gospel, would not send their brothers to the *benefactors who exercise authority*. Such welfare systems would snare them into bondage like like Egypt. They would instead be partakers of the Eucharist of the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

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50 Luke 3:11 "He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise."

51 Luke 22:27 "For whether [is] greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? ... I am among you as he that serveth." John 13:34, 35 ... love one to another. John 15:12-17.

52 Leviticus 19:18 "... love thy neighbour as thyself: I [am] the LORD."