

## Prisoner of Christ Jesus

### Ephesians 3:1

#### **BOND SERVANT**

- Slave; one who gives himself to another's will; devoted to another with disregard to one's own interests, will, emotions or desires
- One who simply follows his master completely
- Love as Christ loved. Walk as Christ walked.
- Not letting up, giving up or putting up with anything less than a true and full relationship with God thru Christ by doing his will.
- Taking full responsibility for one's own walk with the Lord

#### **TITLE ADOPTED BY THE CHURCH FOUNDERS**

- Titus 1:1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness,
- James 1:1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ; to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.
- 2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a bondservant of apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.
- Jude 1:1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:
- Perhaps we should also identify the same?
- 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

#### **CHRIST'S ATTITUDE--PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11**

#### **MYSTERIES OF GOD ARE UNLOCKED TO PRISONERS OR BOND SERVANTS**

- Only when you take on a servant attitude towards Christ are the mysteries of the Gospel unlocked and experienced
- Ephesians 3:1-13
  - Grace
  - Heirs
  - Power
  - Riches
  - Manifold wisdom
  - Boldness, access & confidence

#### **BOLDNESS, ACCESS & CONFIDENCE**

- Only those who are completely surrendered to God's will experience this kind of boldness and confidence towards God
- A surrendered life gives you confidence to approach God's throne
- Hebrews 4:14-16

- Trusting God's grace thru faith in Jesus gives you full legal access to God's throne
- A servant's attitude gives you the boldness to act--ask, seek and knock

#### **EPHESIANS 3:20-21**

- Far over and above
- Ask and think
- It is time to think and to ask bigger!

### **Prisoner of Christ Jesus Discussion Guide**

Read Ephesians 3:1-7

- How do you define the grace of God?
- How can you better rely on the grace of God?
- Why is this way of following Christ referred to as a "mystery?"

Read Ephesians 3:8-13

- What does the manifold wisdom of God include?
- What are the principalities and powers in the heavenly places?
- How does the church make known the manifold wisdom of God to these principalities and powers?

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

- What good things might result from praying this prayer consistently over your own life?
- What are the riches of God's glory?
- Read and discuss verse 20.
- What does exceedingly abundantly mean?
- What does God want to do for you?
- Are you asking and thinking big enough to honor God?
- How does it please and honor God for us to ask for big things?