

**THE CHRISTIAN
DOCTRINE
OF SLAVERY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649536443

The Christian Doctrine of Slavery by Geo. D. Armstrong

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

GEO. D. ARMSTRONG

**THE CHRISTIAN
DOCTRINE
OF SLAVERY**

THE
pro
CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE
OF
pro
"SLAVERY,"

BY
Good
GEO. D. ARMSTRONG, D.D.,
PASTOR OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORFOLK, VA.

"Wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the doctrine which is according to godliness."—1 TIM. VI. 3.

NEW YORK:
CHARLES SCRIBNER, 377 & 379 BROADWAY.

1857.

P R E F A C E .

WITH the hope of doing something toward bringing God's people, North and South, to "see eye to eye" on the much vexed question of Slavery, this little book has been written, and is now given to the public.

Throughout, the author has kept these two ends in view :—

1. *A faithful exhibition of the doctrine respecting Slavery taught by Christ and his Apostles.* Nothing which they taught, has been intentionally omitted. No topic which they omitted—however essential to a full discussion of Slavery as a civil and political question, it may be—has been introduced. As the simplest method of exhibiting the true meaning of the text, the author has given a paraphrase of each passage of Scripture particularly examined, and in connection with his own, the paraphrases of Whitby, McKnight, and Doddridge, expositors of established reputation both for piety and learning, that the reader may have at hand the means of determining whether or not he is putting forth novelties in the interpretation of God's Word : together with such notes as seemed needful to illustrate and establish the paraphrase.

2. *An examination of the "false glosses," as the author thinks them,*

which Dr. Barnes has put upon these passages in his "Notes." Dr. Barnes' Notes are the only exposition of Scripture, in common circulation in our country, in which the attempt has been made, systematically, to "wrest the Scriptures" respecting Slavery; and on this account, they are thus singled out for examination. Occasionally, quotations are made from Dr. B.'s "Scriptural Views of Slavery," and his "Church and Slavery," for the purpose of showing how he himself would develop the doctrine laid down in his Notes.

"God's word is truth," and, as truth, will ere long govern the world.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

PRESUMPTIVE EVIDENCE.

	PAGE
§ 1. Preliminary Statements.—Slave-holding not in any Catalogue of Sins or "Offences" given us in the New Testament,	7
§ 2. These Catalogues full and minute,	9
§ 3. New Testament written in Slave-holding States,	10
§ 4. Nature of Slavery in Christ's day,	11
§ 5. Often referred to by Christ and his Apostles,	18

CHAPTER II.

APOSTOLIC EXAMPLE.

§ 6. Doulos,	18
§ 7. Slave-holders received and retained in the Church.—Eph. VI. 9; Col. IV. 1; 1 Tim. VI. 2; Phil. I. 2,	21
§ 8. Case of Onesimus.—Phil. 10-19,	28

CHAPTER III.

APOSTOLIC PRECEPT.

§ 9. Duties of Masters and Slaves taught as Christian Duties.—Eph. VI. 5-9; Col. III. 22-25, IV. 1; 1 Tim. VI. 1, 2; Titus II. 9, 10; 1 Pet. II. 18, 19,	30
§ 10. The Doctrine of Christ.—1 Tim. VI. 2,	31
§ 11. Slavery a Matter of Little Moment.—Gal. III. 28; 1 Cor. XII. 13; Col. III. 11; 1 Cor. VII. 20, 21,	35

CHAPTER IV.

APOSTOLIC INJUNCTION.

	PAGE
§ 12. Doctrine to be taught in the Church.—1 Tim. VI. 4, 5; Titus II. 9, 10, 13.	75
§ 13. "Blasphemies,"	82
§ 14. "Logomachies."—1. "Mere Property," 2. "A Chattel, a Thing," 3. "Unrequited Labor," 4. "Theft," 5. "Exclusion from the Pulpit,"	86

CHAPTER V.

NATURE AND ORIGIN OF SLAVERY.

§ 15. Paul's Definition of Slavery.	102
§ 16. Bible Theory of the Origin of Slavery,	110
§ 17. Counter-arguments,	114

CHAPTER VI.

RELATION OF THE CHURCH TO SLAVERY.

§ 18. The Discipline of the Church,	117
§ 19. The Teaching of the Church,	123
§ 20. Church and State,	124

CONCLUSION.

God's Work in God's Way,	121
------------------------------------	-----

THE
CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF SLAVERY.

CHAPTER I.

PRESUMPTIVE EVIDENCE.

§ 1. *Preliminary Statements.*

“THE Church is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. Its officers are his servants, bound to execute his will. Its doctrines are his teachings, which he as a prophet has given from God. Its discipline is his law, which he as a king has ordained.”

“The power of the Church accordingly, is only ministerial and declarative. The Bible, and the Bible alone, is her rule of faith and practice. She can announce what it teaches; enjoin what it commands; prohibit what it condemns; and enforce her testimonies by spiritual sanctions. Beyond the Bible she can never rightfully go, and apart from the Bible

she can never rightfully speak. 'To the law and to the testimony,' and to them alone, she must always appeal; and when they are silent, it is her duty to put her hand upon her lips."—*Synod of South Carolina*, 1848.

What do Christ and his Apostles—commissioned by him to complete the sacred canon, and perfect the organization of his Church—teach respecting slavery, and the relation in which the Church stands to that institution?

We reply—They teach that slave-holding is not a *sin* in the sight of God, and is not to be accounted an "*offence*" by his Church. Having a regard to the distinction between slavery and the incidental evils which may attach to it in any particular country or age, as fundamental to their doctrine; and carefully defining slavery itself; they direct that the Church, both by her teaching and her discipline, shall labor to remove the incidental evil; and this in a way which they distinctly point out:—And, that, beyond this, the whole subject shall be left to be regulated by the State, as other civil institutions are, under the wholesome influence of God's providence, and his gospel truth faithfully exhibited by the Church.

The evidence that this answer is according to the Word of God, we now proceed to set before the reader.