

Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide
8/31/22

Titus 2:9–10

⁹ Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

Passage Summary

Paul calls Titus to teach what is fitting with sound doctrine in Titus 2:1 and Titus 2:2-10 puts forward what godliness looks like on a practical level. He considers the mature in vv.2-3, young women in vv.4-5, and then young men in vv.6-8. His address to young men also serves to provide a portrait of godliness for teachers as well. Finally, Paul turns to the most disadvantaged in the household, the slaves or bondservants of vv.9-10. Paul's goal in all of this is to help Titus realize the need to teach not just doctrine but also what practical actions ought to accompany the teaching of Jesus the Christ. Both healthy doctrine and godly living must have as its basis the grace of God and what God has done through Jesus His Son. Therefore Paul reminds Titus of the basis for godly living in vv.11-14.

For our discussion tonight, we will focus on Titus 2:9-10 and consider how it could be that slaves could make attractive the doctrine of God.

Discussion Questions

Paul addresses a very sensitive and loaded question in 21st Century America, that of slaves. How might our cultural view of slaves and slavery influence our understanding of Scripture?

How does the Gospel undermine the very basis of slavery?

Titus 2:9

⁹ Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,

When Scripture says that slaves are to be submissive to their own masters in everything, does that mean that God requires slaves to obey their masters no matter what they request?

Why do you imagine that Paul tells Titus to encourage slaves to submit to masters but does not give any instructions here to masters on how to respond to slaves?

Why is it important for slaves to not just obey but also to be well-pleasing (eager to please)?

What are some areas in which you find it necessary to obey or do the actions of obedience but hard to do so willingly and eagerly? How can right theology help shape your viewpoint?

Titus 2:10

¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

How might a slave rationalize theft?

What is might be a selfish motive behind a slave demonstrating that he or she is worthy of full trust?
What is a proper motive?

While none of us are slaves, what are some challenging situations which you have faced or are currently facing? In what specific ways can you respond to your situation that would demonstrate the character of God and cause others around you to realize His beauty?