

Sunday, September 19, 2010—Titus: The Practice of Grace—Titus 2:9-10: The Believer's Work Life

Introduction

- In Titus 2:9-10 Paul turns his attention to another group of people within the local church those who were servants or slaves.
- Slavery was quite common in the Roman world of Paul's day. Romans made more use of slaves than any previous civilization. Some estimates have the number of slaves at 1/3 of the entire population. People taken as the spoils of war by the Roman Legions were often forced into slavery.
- The existence of the master-slave relationship came about as part of the curse of sin. Therefore the Bible while not condoning the practice recognizes it as a reality of the human experience. Therefore, the Holy Spirit in the New Testament seeks to regulate this relationship for believers.
- Remember that Paul preached the Gospel of the Grace of God to all men regardless of their socioeconomic status.
- Galatians 3:28— Slaves in addition to women were also liberated by the preaching of the Gospel of Grace in the 1st century.
 - Colossians 3:11
- We must keep in mind that the primary thrust of the Gospel of Grace is to deliver all men from slavery to sin unto freedom in Christ. Paul emphasized a God with man relationship.
- Therefore we must remember two things: 1) Paul did not write these things as a man. Rather we wrote them as the spokesman of God by divine inspiration. 2) One should not conclude then that Paul favored slavery, he did not (I Corinthians 7:21-22)
- If Paul had told the slaves who became believers that they no longer needed to obey their masters, think of the opposition this would have unleashed against the Gospel.
- It is important to note that Paul's instructions in all his epistles to those who find themselves in a servile condition is to work as unto the Lord and not unto men.
- While slavery is sad chapter in American history thankfully none of us find ourselves under its oppressive yoke today in 21st century America. So what relevance do these verses have for us today? Quite a bit when applied to our own work life.

Titus 2:9

- *“Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;”*

- *Exhort*— To incite by words or advice; to animate or urge by arguments to a good deed or to any laudable conduct or course of action. (*Webster's 1828*)
- *Servants*—a slave, bondman, man of servile condition (*Strong's Concordance*)
- We see very clearly from the first two words that Paul wanted Titus to give specific instructions to believers who were slaves or found themselves in a servile condition.
- Slaves were instructed to be obedient to their own masters. This the same word used in verse 5 and does not require any further explanation.
- Colossians 3:22—“eyeservice” means service rendered to please the eye, i.e. serving faithfully while the master is watching. Likewise, “manpleasers” defines the servant who works hard while his master is watching. He does not have a genuine interest in what he is doing, but is only interested in making a good impression when the master or overseer is present.
- Instead of trying to put up a good front and please men. Paul exhorts them to be in singleness of heart fearing God. “Singleness,” deals with the basic idea of single attention directed toward one object, or focusing on a given purpose.
- As long as our employers are not asking us to do something that is immoral or unethical believers should do what their employers ask them to do.
- *Please Them Well*—Romans 12:1-2, 14:18, Philippians 4:18, Colossians 3:20
- In how many things are believers instructed to please their masters? All things or everything.
- *Not Answering Again*—to speak against, gainsay, contradict (*Strong's Concordance*) Basically it means without talking back.
 - Acts 13:35, 28:19, 22
- It is not becoming sound doctrine for believers to talk back or speak against their employers

Titus 2:10

- ***“Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.”***
- *Purloining*—means to embezzle, withdraw covertly and appropriate to one's own use (*Strong's Concordance*) Stealing (*Webster's 1828*)
 - Acts 5:2-3
- *Shewing*—to prove whether by arguments or acts

- *Fidelity*—faithfulness; careful and exact observance of duty, or performance of obligations. We expect fidelity in a public minister, in an agent or trustee, in a domestic servant, in a friend. (*Webster's 1828*)
- Believers are to show or demonstrate fidelity and faithfulness through the actions and conduct at work.
- *That*—gives us the purpose and intent
- *Adorn*—to deck or decorate; to make beautiful; to add to beauty by dress; to deck with external ornaments.
 - I Timothy 2:9
 - I Peter 3:5
- What are we to “adorn?” The doctrine of God our Savior in all things. This is another way of saying verse one.
- I Timothy 6:1
- As believers we need to adorn or wear sound doctrine in ways that are becoming who we are in Jesus Christ.

The Believer At Work

- Paul instructs believers to work and do right by their families and secular relationships and responsibilities.
 - II Thessalonians 3:10-12
 - I Timothy 5:8
 - Ephesians 4:28
- Genesis 2:15—From the very beginning God created man to be his workman in the earth and gave his jobs and responsibilities to carry on for him in the earth.
 - Man’s first occupation was that of a “husbandman” or “fruit dresser” of an orchard. Adam was to be God’s gardener of beauty.
 - Second, Adam is instructed to keep the garden. He had to be God’s watchman on duty. Keeping something involves retaining it in your possession; guarding it secure, even protecting in from being seized by another.
 - Genesis 1:28
- Genesis 3:17—Work only became drudgery after the fall. Unfortunately for us we live on this side of the fall.

- God's will for the Body of Christ is that our work would serve as a testimony of his grace. Now that we have been justified and redeemed from sin we have the capacity to restore work to the purpose for which God created it as a means of serving him.
- Ephesians 6:5-7
- Colossians 3:23
- Believers work for two reasons 1) to provide for the needs of their families, 2) to support the local church
- II Corinthians 9:6-8
- Philippians 4:14-17—as believers we need to be more concerned about investing in eternal things.