

The Lord's Servant; 2 Timothy 2:22-26

I. The Lord's Servant

A. 2 Timothy 2:20–21; ²⁰ Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. ²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

B. Cleansed

1. Romans 6:4–7; ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin.

2. We must be cleansed from what is dishonorable before we can be set apart

C. Set apart

1. Honorable verses dishonorable
2. Once we have been cleansed we are no longer dishonorable
3. Separated from everyone else for a divine purpose

D. Ready for every good work

1. Part of our mission of holiness is good works
2. They come in many forms, some very different than what we would think

II. Kind

A. The Lord's servant must be kind to everyone

B. A gentle or tender nature

C. Being kind is not always the easiest choice to make

1. But it is a hallmark of Christian behavior
2. Titus 3:1–3; ¹ Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.
3. Luke 6:32–36; ³² "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

III. Able to Teach

A. Colossians 3:16; Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

B. We, as Christians, have a task to perform and that is to teach others the Gospel, entrusting those who will also teach others with it

1. There is no excuse, "I cannot teach a bible study"

2. 2 Timothy 2:2; and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
 3. The Deaf Ministry at Sunset (7:00 AM classes)
 4. Romans 10:14–15; ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”
- C. Churches spend hundreds of thousands of dollars sending missionaries to foreign countries to teach the Gospel
 - D. We sometimes have a one dimensional view of teaching
 - E. There is a need right here in Plainview for us
 - F. We must be “able to teach”
- IV. Enduring Evil
- A. Patiently bearing wrongs or trouble
 - B. Romans 12:16–21; ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
 - C. “heap burning coals” - Coffman says, “The original meaning of this figure of speech has been lost, but Paul suggests that the enemy will burn with shame for his abuse of one who loves him.” - Barnes, Lipscomb and Shepherd agree
 - D. There are other interpretations, but the way to endure evil is to be kind all the time
 1. “give thought to do what is honorable”
 2. Cinderella’s mom - “I want to tell you a secret that will see you through all the trials that life can offer. Have courage and be kind.”
 3. Don’t let your emotions dictate your actions... give thought
 4. Engage your brain before putting your mouth into gear
- V. Correcting with Gentleness
- A. Discipline, educate, train, instruct, punish
 - B. Hebrews 12:6–7; ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?
 - C. To correct someone is to move them from unwanted behaviors and understandings to desired ones
 - D. How would you like to be corrected?
 - E. Paul’s point is to, “escape the snare of the devil”
 - F. By treating people harshly we push them towards evil, not away from it
 - G. People judge all of Christianity by one Christian’s actions
 - H. Westboro Baptist church in Topeka, Kansas has done some serious damage to Christianity
 1. Not because of their understanding of homosexuality
 2. But because of their vitriolic hatred
 3. Hatred does not correct behavior, love does

- I. Beating someone about the head and shoulders with the Bible will never create a loving and kind Christian
- VI. Come to Their Senses
 - A. Kindness
 - B. Truth (teaching)
 - C. Steadfastness (enduring evil)
 - D. Gentle correction