



Blackfoot Church of Christ

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"Adorn The Doctrine"

Jim Mickells | Lewisburg, Tennessee, USA

"Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things" (Titus 2:9-10)

In recent weeks I have read several articles about leading the lost to Jesus. The church here at Hickory Heights had a series of lessons devoted to this theme. Even several of the songs we sing in our assemblies direct our thoughts toward the lost and the saving of their souls. One such song which comes to mind is "A Soul Winner For Jesus." The first verse says, "I want to be a soul winner for Jesus every day." I'm sure you're very concerned about the lost, especially those whom you love and care deeply for. How can we be more effective in winning souls for the Lord? One thing I believe which will help is what Paul told Titus to exhort bondservants to do, "adorn the doctrine of God."

The word "adorn" is defined as, "to ornament, adorn; metaphorically, equivalent to "to embellish with honor, gain honor" (Thayer. 356). The New International Version says, "...so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive." W.E. Vine says in his word study, the Greek word "Kosmeo" is where our English word "cosmetic" is derived from. Those bondservants needed to live in a way which would

make the gospel beautiful, appealing even to their masters. Does God require any less of us? Our lives should be a clear reflection of the book we claim to believe in and live by.

The text not only instructs the bondservant to whom Titus was to exhort, but also is a great source of information for us as we try to live in a manner to attract others to God.

It would have been very easy for these slaves, now that they are Christians, to feel no sense of obligation to their masters. After all they enjoyed freedom in Christ. Even if they had not been as obedient to them as they should have, now they were to be submissive to them because of who they were, slaves of God. As servants of the Lord you and I experience liberty. Yet that does not mean we are free from obeying others. We are to obey the laws of the land (Romans 13:1), all of them, if they don't conflict with God's law (Acts 5:2). Children are to be obedient to their parents (Ephesians 6:1). Wives are to be submissive to their husbands (Ephesians 5:22). Members are to submit to the elders (Hebrews 13:17). And certainly, all are to be obedient to God (James 4:7). We can beautify the doctrine of our Lord by being a humble submissive servant.

The bondservant was "to be well pleasing in all things." It takes effort to please others, especially one's master. One thing involved is putting others ahead of self. Paul said, "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself" (Philippians 2:3). One of the great problems faced by many today is that of selfishness. Let those with whom we have contact see that we are genuinely interested in other people, themselves included.

One thing which can certainly turn people off about the gospel of Christ is the speech they hear coming from one's mouth. The instruction to be given to these slaves was "not answering back." The New American Standard Version says, "not argumentative." They had to use caution when speaking to their masters. We need to guard our speech as well.

How do we answer the boss at work? When outside, do our neighbors hear us screaming disparaging remarks at our children? When we have friends over, do we use our tongues to belittle our spouse? What do our children hear us say about the preacher, the elders, deacons, song leader, etc.? Being able to communicate with people is a great blessing from God. We should use our tongues to edify others, to impart grace to the hearers, and to honor and glorify God (Ephesians 4:29-32).

These bondservants were also to be taught “not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity.” A footnote in my Bible says for pilfering “thieving” – for fidelity “honesty.” The Amplified Bible says, “Nor to steal by taking things of small value, but to prove themselves truly loyal and entirely reliable and faithful throughout...” What master would not like to have a slave like Paul has described in these two verses? How could it not beautify or adorn the teachings of God? Many people are attracted to others when they see such virtuous traits manifested in their lives.

May the Lord help us to be obedient servants, concerned about others, carefully watching what we say and how we say it, and being a people of honesty and integrity. Such lives will adorn the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and hopefully it will help lead others to Him.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Brenda continues to recover from ankle surgery
- Laura Matlock received good reports back from the lab after her cancer surgery.
- Tammy Woodward, a cancer survivor, has been diagnosed with several brain tumors.
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class tonight 6:00pm at Chad and Kass' on evangelism
- Joe Price will be bringing lessons for us May 19-24

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<u>Today</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – David Porter Lord's Table – Tom Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – David Porter Invitation – Ross Ward
<u>Next Sunday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Ben Palmer Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Next Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Ben Palmer Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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