

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: 2 Timothy – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: 2 Timothy 2:23-26 – *Free the captives for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

Today's Message:

"Free the Captives"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned about the Lord's vessel. Our Lord has commanded us to be *a vessel unto honour*. The God who made you also wants to use you for His glory! Today, we will be reminded that we are **SERVANTS** of the Lord. And our marching orders from the Master are clear. The servant of the Lord *must* seek to free the captives. There is one big problem; they do not **KNOW** they are captives! Their thinking is bad, and they are self-destructing. They have been *taken captive* by the devil *at his will*. This is going to be one of your life's most **IMPORTANT** challenges. This is God's message to you today...

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text 2 Timothy 2:23-26

#1. The Servant – as a Christian, you are the **SERVANT** of the Lord.

THE SERVANT OF THE LORD

W1828 "Servant"

A person that attends another to accomplish his purposes. The subjection to a master for a servant is voluntary (a slave is not).

- ✓ You are called the **SERVANT** of the Lord. *Deut 34:5; Josh 1:1-2; Rom 1:1; Rev 1:1*
- ✓ You are not called a **SLAVE** of the Lord. *Jer 2:14* (only 1 time in KJV... NIV 85x, NKJV 31x)
- ✓ Your SUBJECTION to *your* Master is **VOLUNTARY**. *Lk 9:23; Gal 6:7, 8; Heb 12:6, 7*
- ✓ Your SERVICE to *your* Master will be **REWARDED**. *Rom 14:10; 2Cor 5:10*

MUST NOT STRIVE

W1828 "Strife"

Exertion or contention for superiority; contention in anger or enmity.

- ✓ You are to *avoid* **FOOLISH** questions. *Prov 26:4-5; Gen 4:17* (like where Cain got his wife)
 - There are questions truly seeking answers; there are some that do not (evil motive).
- ✓ You are to *avoid* **STRIFE**. *1Tim 1:4;4:7;6:4,5; 2Tim 2:14,16; Titus 3:9* (unprofitable/vain)
 - You must NOT strive. Your flesh likes to strive; the Holy Spirit does not strive.
- ✓ You are to be **GENTLE** unto *all* men. *1Ths 2:7* (as a nurse cherisheth); *Titus 3:2; Jas 3:17*
 - The wisdom that is from above is pure, peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated.
- ✓ You are to be **READY** to TEACH truth from the word of God. *2Tim 2:2, 15; 1Pet 3:15*
 - You must learn the Bible and prepare to teach others truth and things you were taught.
- ✓ You are to be **PATIENT** with UNKIND and EVIL people. *Lk 6:35; Gal 5:22-23*
 - The Holy Spirit brings long suffering; our God is kind to the unthankful and to the evil.

W1828 "Apt"

Fit; suitable; inclined; ready; quick.

NOTE As servants of the Lord, we represent Him; He is humble and ready to save.

2023 VISION: *Hold the Fort!*
Making disciples and caring for souls!

#2. The Service – the Master has commanded you to TEACH all nations.

IN MEEKNESS INSTRUCTING THOSE THAT OPPOSE THEMSELVES

W1828 “Meekness”
Softness of temper;
forbearance under
injuries and
provocations.
Meekness is part of
the Holy Spirit’s fruit.

- ✓ The required character is **MEEKNESS**. *Num 12:3 (Moses); Mt 11:29 (Jesus); Jas 3:13*
 - The associated risks include provocations, injuries, and death. *Mt 5:11*
- ✓ It will sometimes feel like counseling **CRAZY** people! *Mt 4:24; 17:15 (a lunatic)*
- ✓ These people are at ODDS with **THEMSELVES!** *Ps 2:1*
 - Their **THINKING** does not make sense. *Isa 1:18-20*
 - They are **DECEIVED** and do not know it. *2Cor 4:4*
 - Their life **DECISIONS** are leading them astray. *Isa 53:6*
 - They are **DESTROYING** their lives. *Rom 6:23; Jas 1:15*

“Oppose themselves”
To oppose oneself is to be
one’s own worst enemy.
Modern versions translate it
as **outward**, opposing
certain things or people.
The KJV is correct where the
opposition is **inward**
“toward the self.” The
consequence is **destructive**.

IF GOD PERADVENTURE

- ✓ Consider how Abraham pleaded with God to spare Sodom. *Gen 18:24; 2Pet 3:9*
- ✓ They must **ACKNOWLEDGE** the truth and their sin against God. *Ps 51:3-4*
- ✓ They must **HUMBLE** themselves and **REPENT**. *Jn 1:12; Acts 17:30-31; Rom 10:9-13*
 - Our goal is not for them to just pray a prayer.
 - Our goal is for them to surrender all to the Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTE Remember, there are no atheists! A FOOL says in his heart there is no God!

#3. The Snare – they have been taken captive by the DEVIL at his will!

RECOVER THEMSELVES

- ✓ They are in bondage to sin, without Christ, and with no hope in this world! *Eph 2:12*
- ✓ They are in bondage to the fear of death! *Heb 2:14-18*
- ✓ Jesus Christ died and lives to **MAKE** them **FREE** indeed! *John 8:31-36; 1John 3:8*
- ✓ Jesus Christ endured the **CROSS** and **DESPISED** the shame for them! *Heb 12:1-3*

W1828 “Snare”
An instrument
for catching
one’s prey.

THE SNARE OF THE DEVIL

- ✓ Consider these NT stories...
 - **Mk 9:20-27; 5:1-17; Lk 8:29** *Jesus said... Mt 17:21; Mk 9:29 (prayer, fasting)*

TAKEN CAPTIVE BY HIM AT HIS WILL

- ✓ The Devil will stop at **NOTHING** to keep people snared and in bondage. *Psalms 126:5*

NOTE You must weep, pray, and fast to God and TRY to free and save the captives!

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