

Adorn the Gospel in All Things!

Anthony Kim

Church family. It's good to be here and to be able to preach God's word to you this morning. If you have your Bibles, go ahead and turn with me to the book of Titus. And we're going to be in chapter 2 this morning. Titus chapter 2, beginning with verse 6. And we're going to go through verse 10 this morning. We're going to look at what Paul, Apostle Paul challenged pastor Titus practical instructions for young men as well as servants i.e employee employer relationship.

See, prior to this, the apostle Paul has already given detailed advice on how the older men and the older women, the young women in Crete can honor God primarily to the instructions of God's word through their daily actions. Now, the Holy Spirit turns the spotlight specifically onto the young men and to the servants. Beneath all of these practical instructions lies a profound truth. I want us to grasp this this morning that our daily conduct is meant to act as a visual presentation that makes the truth of Jesus Christ beautiful, compelling, and undeniable to a watching world.

I want to guess the full grasp of what we have in Christ, brothers and sisters. So, please stand out of respect for God's word as I read from it and follow along silently from Titus chapter 2 beginning in verse six.

God's word says this, "Young men, likewise, exhort to be soberminded in all things, showing thyself a pattern of good works, in doctrine, showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned, that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil to say of you. Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things, not answering again, not purloining, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our savior in all things." This is God's word. You may be seated.

In verse six, we're going to see the call to the young men, the church of Crete. God's word says, "Young men, likewise, exhort to be sober minded." Apostle Paul. The Apostle Paul begins this section with the word likewise, which points directly back to his previous statements about how older men and older women and young women should act Christlike. And then earlier in the chapter, Paul wrote that older men must be sober and that the older woman must teach younger women to be likewise to be sober. You're going to see this theme here for the young men of Crete that they also desperately needed to

develop sobermindedness. Exact same trait, consistency over all age groups. It seems that the new believers then you would think were severely lacking in this area and the Holy Spirit said this must be among you. No age group is isolated to this. You must all have this trait which is why everyone across the congregation is urged to possess. And what is sobermindedness, you may ask? It's thinking not highly of yourself, but thinking highly of the one who saved you. The Lord Jesus Christ.

In our estimation when it comes to the Lord Jesus Christ, we are nothing. Amen. We are nothing. And that's why we have to always think about our vertical relationship that we have with the Lord before our relationship horizontally with the people around us. This always fixes this. Amen.

And then the next thing is not only to think less of yourself and more of Christ, but also to curb your own passion. We're going to struggle with this throughout life. Our own passions, our own desires, namely fleshly desires. And we got to curb those passions that we have instead have Christ's passion, his passion flowing in and through us. This is what sobermindedness means. To sober you up. Who am I in the eyes of God? Who am I in the eyes of everyone else? And what is my passions like? Is it driven by my selfish desires or is it selfless desires? Makes all the difference, doesn't it?

So, notice the urgency in Paul's language. He's going to tell Titus to simply remind the young men. No, he uses a stronger word than that. Exhort. What does that mean? Urge. Urge them. Take serious note of this. And I have to speak loudly because I can't speak urgently in a smaller tone voice. So just notice urge. Just notice that the thrust of this language here denotes immediate urgency. Not something you do later when you're older. No, no, no. When you're young, this is what you got to focus in on, dial in on. It needs to happen now. Oh, he needs to be deeply impressed among you young men because living soberly is absolutely vital for when you become old, when you become the older man.

More on sober. Being sober minded means to take actions that are done in wisdom and self-control rather than being impulsive, hasty, and ultimately foolish. Young people especially run a very high risk of acting uncontrollably. Namely, I was one of them. Were you if you were young? I've done a lot of crazy things. I thought I was Superman. And boy, I got humbled by the Lord. You see, because we're inexperienced. We don't have experience under our belt, as it were. And so, we think we can just do this and do that without actually listening to wisdom before I do this or that. Maybe I can talk with an older person more experienced.

So thank God if you are a Christian you have the capability to live accordingly with wisdom with patience praying before you take action. Right? These are all qualities of a mature believer. See the community was struggling with living for short-term

gratification. They had plenty as it were things to gratify themselves namely in alcohol and sex and all sorts of lusts. It was all around them. It was not no different than our society today where young people are pulled and attracted, right? It hasn't changed. And so the focus from short-term gratifications, the apostle Paul is saying, look, don't just focus on the short term. There is eternity before you. And what you do right now in your body is going to determine how you are going to be in the future. He's constantly saying, "Be sober. Be sober. Be sober." It's a daily thing to keep us focused on the eternal and the benefits that come from that.

See, Paul knew that walking with God and loving our neighbors and experiencing true harmony that only Christ can give to his local church is completely unattainable if everyone is living without self-control. It starts there in this area. It's very easy if you dismiss self-control and just let all the worldly values just consume you to the uttermost end and rather focus on the spiritual truth that's before you God's instruction to you and it's not many we're going to find out but let me explain let me explain how this plays out in our day okay in today's day I read a report this past week and I'm it's it was shocking to me and I hope it brings the same shock level to you. Here's what the report said. The average churchgoer is being disciplined 49 hours a week by their screens. And their screens are really being determined by algorithms, not by you, not by scripture, but by algorithms.

What is an algorithm? You may ask. It has three core elements. Number one, there is an input. You feed the algorithm. You provide it with information. Second, the algorithm processes the information you have given step by step logically. That's what logic is. Step by step giving you instructions. But here's the thing. The computer determines how to manipulate your data and evaluate the input. Okay, I want to get that manipulate your data and then third the output the final result that and the action is generated to you. So this act is then repeated over several hours, 49 hours for the average person a week. The algorithm wants us to think about what we should be seeing either on our streaming services or podcast feeds or YouTube and on your social media. The algorithm's goal is this to hook us on content that is more extreme because more extreme gets more engagement. You ever notice the pictures of AI, the words, the language that AI uses? They use extreme content to engage your engagement. But often, here's the thing, the engagement is actively working against what is taught in scripture.

It is actively working against what is taught in scripture. The primary discipleship is no longer happening in discipleship groups and churches. It should, but it doesn't. You are being formed by algorithms. Discipleship is basically formation by definition. So for 49 hours a week, the average churchgoer is being disciplined by an algorithm, spending all their time on your device, your phone, no longer with the real person who has the Holy Spirit, but right, a believer in Christ has the Holy Spirit being formed in us. Rather, you're

dismissing the Holy Spirit and taking an alley with them. 49 hours a week. What does that do to you? What do you think that will do to you? For those that are in a discipleship group, praise the Lord. I thank you for joining a discipleship group or you're being disciplined by real people worked by the Holy Spirit. See, that's not the norm nowadays.

Here is the question for you to assess. Can your algorithm do the one another we see in the New Testament such as love one another, show hospitality to one another, serve one another, pray for one another, and so much more. All showing how the church loves Christ and loves others. Can your device do that? That's a question to ask yourself. 49 hours a week on a device or 49 hours with people. Which one is it for you? Are you somewhere in the middle there? Because right now in this room, right now in this room, we have dozens of different congregations. You might think this is Calvary Road's congregation. Actually, it's not. If the statistics actually and the report is speaking what is going on that means that this church is divided by fragments even of this church of our size we got different algorithms forming working on different people's devices in this room and each is disciplined formed by a different algorithms fragmentation.

So, as a pastor who literally has to compete with voices coming from multiple devices from your phones, all competing for your attention. You wonder why we live in such fragmented times that we live, such confusing times that we live. See, my prayer is God help us. Help Calvary Road to sober up to this reality and see how much time you are using your devices and being controlled by an algorithm. You see once I saw this report I couldn't unsee this reality. It's now lodged in my heart and in my mind. It is a burden that I see because just in this room I can tell you we are polarized.

What does that mean? The culture has invaded your mind and your heart for 49 hours a week for the average churchgoer. So question is why is it so then difficult to be disciplined by your brother and sister in Christ? Because the algorithms are one of the reasons why why is it that people are not joining discipleship groups. This has been the model that has been used since Christ's time and yet fewer and fewer people are joining discipleship groups the way Christ has made it possible. We're right now being part of a major disruption, a major experiment that is driving people to no longer have empathy for each other. No longer the kind of things that the spirit of God can bring to a person, but rather an algorithm controls your views, your opinions, your thoughts, your concerns. Look at what happened with Charlie Kirk. How many different opinions were talked about Charlie Kirk? Oh, you were too strong. Oh, you didn't speak enough about Charlie Kirk. Oh, you're leftwing. Oh, you're rightwing or you're in the middle.

Before it was like two sides. Now it's like how many sides do we have? Think of the recent suicides due to the recommendations given by a AI companion of young people.

Multiple cases of suicides and it's getting more and more increasing by the day. Yes, you heard me right. By the day, this is what we're dealing with. This is what we're facing.

And I want to show you how to change what you see. How to unfollow. How to truly outreach. How to disengage from rage bait. You heard me correct. I said rage bait. We are now beyond the clickbait. Rage is now just fed to you. You don't even have to click it. It's fed to you every day, 24 hours a week.

You see, you have to consent to allow AI to take over your devices. Have you consented? Have you allowed you to be experimented by big tech companies whose goal is to make you not think about God, not to think about scripture, not to think about our beautiful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

So, I'm not here to tell you to stop using your devices completely. That would be absolutely wrong. You see, you still need to communicate for work and with your family. But I want to help you recognize, here's the key. I want to help you to recognize what's happening and be watchful for what you are allowing into your mind and heart. For those that can recall before AI, before social media like myself, I am that of the age. I can look back 10 years ago from this perspective and I can remember I can just be reading my Bible without a phone. Do you remember those days? Do you remember those days where I don't have constant notifications popping up and I can just sit hours and hours under this word and then in prayer I can just be praying without a device keep vibrating on my pocket in my pocket.

Here's another way of looking at it. Do you have more peace today than 10 years ago or are you more angry as a person? Rage. That's another thing that the AI wants you to do. Be enraged. Give your opinion. You are in control. Right? Are you now or do you remember a time when you were formed by primarily the scriptures and by a church family instead of your feed on your device? This is what I'm having to deal with as a pastor.

I want to help you see through the chaos that the enemy is doing to you and choose Christ and his church. Amen. Choose Christ and his church the way Christ has set up his church to be formed. Don't let something come into that. Let this be the primary formation. Christ and his church because Christ is the only one that can reconcile you to the father. And he is the only one if that has happened in your life to reconcile you with brothers and sisters. The culture will only leave you divided, confused and never united. Certainly not with God and certainly not amongst Christians.

I am bringing all this up because it connects with the passage we are going to look at this morning. You see the latest statistics is 72% of young people use AI companions right now and 31% of those say they preferred their AI companion to human beings and that

number is only increasing. This is happening right now. It is not in the future. It is not in the future. This is happening right now as we're sitting. This is sobering news. The crisis caused by AI is going to make the crisis caused by social media look like child's play.

Recall the men of Issachar 1 Chronicles 12:32. Who were these men? Who were these young men? They were men that understood the times and knew exactly what needed to be done. Do you know now what I just shared with you? Is this new information or is this all new to you? Now you know. Now I want you to know what to do about it. It's not enough to know the problem. You got to know. You got to take it a step further like the men of Issachar. What am I going to do about this information? Am I just going to be passive? Let it go. Or are you going to be a different kind of people, the followers of Christ who doesn't let the world just come in to their lives and certainly to the rest of the church family. But always observes and lets the enemy stay in the outside and the Holy Spirit to stay within.

So now back to the verse. Hopefully I got your attention. Hopefully, you're more sober than when you came in this morning. Because, interestingly enough, being sober minded is the only, look at it, is the only instruction Paul lists for young men in this entire passage. We looked at the things for the older men, the older women, the younger women. Only one only one for the young men. Interesting. No other detailed instruction is given to them until they master this single trait. Don't even think about the other traits. This is the only one. By God's help, you can. Amen. You can. Otherwise, why would he give this instruction to young men? Because you can in Christ. Because you can in Christ. By following his instructions and depending on history, right? I can do all things through who? Amen.

Young men cannot truly begin to grow spiritually until they take this foundational first step of mastering self-control, sobermindedness in each territory and aspect of their lives. You see, young men, we love battles. We like competition, but how often do we don't put that into the spiritual realm and we just leave it to the physical? I know the World Cup is going on. You're competition right now. Where are you going to focus your attention? Because there's going to be another situation. There always is. The world knows how to put attention before you. So after this passes, something else will come up. So you're going to be always faced with. So be determined now, young man, to be sober minded in all things. He says in all things in all things to understand the power of sobermindedness in youth there was one great reformer by the name of John Beza and he wrote a note of thanksgiving to God in his last will in testament. This is if you don't know something you write right before you pass away right before you die. He thanked the Lord in this letter that he was brought to know and and he was brought to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ at a tender age of 16.

Beza noted that by having the fear of God before him during his youth, he escaped the terrible pollutions, moral scars, and destructive habits of the world that ruin so many lives. So, if you're saved this morning and you're young, thank God for it. Like John Beza. In our modern society, we often speak about a young person truly beginning life at the age of 21. A right of passage here in America. But the reality is that in nine cases out of 10, the vital questions of eternity are decided long before that age of 21. The first 21 years of a man's life as a world will mold you and form what you are going to be for eternity.

I started off with this thought or eternity. This is John Beza. I remember I was 15 years old and I wasn't saved when I was 15. But God alerted my attention to the reality of eternity before me. I remember distinctly. I can feel I could remember where I was. It was those pivotal moments. I will never forget happened when I was 15 years old. And then at 17, I remember I knew exactly where I was. I remember what happened and God awakened me. So the reality was eternity. Then God awakened me to him, a fear of him. And then at 20 years old, I finally trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as my savior and lord. I thank God for that. I thank God for that. I'm constantly remembering of God humbling me at a young age. It was pride that had to be knocked down out of me by the Holy Spirit.

And if you're dealing with pride right now, because many young people are so full of pride and the algorithms are feeding that pride and you're just going by passion, you're going by how you feel and how you think and it's all about me and boasting about yourself instead of remembering boast in the Lord because there'll be one day when you won't be given the option to boast of yourself. You will bow before the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Amen. So let this sit heavy on your hearts.

The world tells you that your youth is a time to fill yourself with pleasure, with recklessness, without consequence. This is the key, young men. You live without consequence. You are in danger because the Holy Spirit convicts you of sin. You know what that conviction is? Consequence. Consequence. He will reveal consequence of your sin. The devil will never give you the consequence. He will never do it. He'll just make you focus on yourself instead of God watching you. Do you see that? Have you seen that in your life?

You see, youthful time that is spent merely in worldly pleasure and foolishness lays a dark foundation for premature and suffering old age. Yes, I have friends from high school that are my age that are in suffering because of the things that they did to their bodies with drugs and lust of sex. It has made them suffer in their old age. It has made them premature. They just can't ever grow up. It's a sad reality. That's why God put in the Bible wisdom books such as the book of Job, such as Proverbs, such as Ecclesiastes, and Song

of Songs and Psalms. We're going to the book of Psalms in our evening service. I hope you join us. If you're not young man here at Calvary Road, live with understanding of consequence. Let yield to the Holy Spirit when he shows you the consequence. Don't dismiss it. That's grace. That's mercy. That's God's love.

God's word says listen and obey. Are you making choices right now based on immediate, short-term gratification? Or are you living with the focus on eternity? Are your actions biblically sound with wisdom, filled with wisdom, or are they impulsive and foolish? Do not delay salvation if you're not saved. Now, if God is calling you, yield to him. Take that call seriously. Don't wait. You don't know if you have another opportunity. Don't let that foolish thought ever come to mind. You know, whenever I had that thought, oh, I I can get saved later, I never got. It was until that thought I said, I reject it. I need to be saved. Now, I remember that moment. God brought it to my attention. I was reading a book by Charles Spurgeon, All of Grace. Because you know what? I was dealing with work salvation. I didn't even have to go to Catholic church. I just knew I got to do something to receive favor from God instead of favor from God. Big difference. Big difference. It's all of grace. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Set your mind. Exercise self-restraint that God gives you instructions on how to do. Reject the impulses of this culture, reject the fear of man, but instead fear God because it is the beginning of wisdom. And by the way, it carries on. It's the beginning and it carries on. That's the whole point. Let him instruct you. Let him guide you. Let him show you the right choice in life so that you can build upon primarily anchored in Christ and his word.

That's just one verse. Let's move on to verses 7 to 8. Here we're going to see the transition from young men to now Titus, Pastor Titus. And he gives these instructions in verses 7 to 8. He says, "In all things, showing thyself a pattern of good works, in doctrine, showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned, that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you." I want you to see the consistency in the word showing. Showing thyself, showing uncorruptness. You see that twice in the text. So that if you do this, you cannot be condemned and you will not be put ashamed. See, Titus was a young minister, but he was also very mature for his age. Who had served faithfully alongside Paul in preaching the gospel for at least 15 years across multiple missionary journeys. Paul knew Titus intimately and commends him to show the believers what faithful obedience looks like. Side note here, I deeply desire to be like Titus who faithful obedience looks like to his arrogance.

I just was facing a massive crisis just like the massive disruption that's happening here right now in our society. There were competing spiritual authorities fighting for influence

on the island of Crete. We saw that in chapter one. Paul described them as rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families teaching things they should not teach for the sake of dishonest gain. You know the way I can do this is tell you the truth. That's how we can shut the empty talkers. Expose the enemy's lies, expose the tactics of the enemy and how to withstand him.

These false teachers claim to know God, but their deeds completely denied him. There was inconsistency in their lives. You see, to stand apart from these corrupt frauds, Titus couldn't just argue or shout louder. That was not enough. That would just be an argument. Your words against mine. You know what makes all the difference to model it out. To model it out. They were acting like this. You're to act like this. That's the answer for today. Just like it was back in Titus time. You be the example and continue to be the examples by the grace of God and the mercy of God.

He had to be a pattern. You see that? What is a pattern? Oh, I see this consistently in his life. And embracing this creates a mold in one's life to be observed. So this is my call. It's not just a Sunday morning. I'm here, you watch me. No, this is at my house. This is when I'm with you at other events. Do you see this in my life? Because that's what Titus was instructed with. And here's the thing. I'm not doing it just for myself. And that that was not for Titus's sake. It was to show it to the young men. So, I'm thinking of you young men. I'm constantly finding out what is the things that are pulling your your mind and your heart and I want to expose what it is and then going turn away from that because I'm not I don't I I don't want to live I don't want to live like that. I don't want you to live like that.

So he says first here's how you pattern your life in doctrine. He starts with doctrine. He has to show uncorruptness meaning complete uncompromised faith in the word of God. Why do I keep going back to the word of God? That's how that's how the doctrine is found in scripture. Not my opinions. Doctrine is never an opinion. A doctrine is something that's stated clearly in scripture and I am to share it with you. That's how it can be uncompromised and uncorrupted. Never explain the scriptures in a way that merely suits your own desires. I can manipulate this word of God and make it like an itching ear to you that pleases you. I can make you think, oh yeah, go and follow your lusts, but I will be corrupting the word of God. Instead, I say, this is what God clearly instructs. Now, live it in the power of the Holy Spirit. You can.

So, how does he do this? He goes on, the Apostle Paul, throw it in gravity. I love that word, gravity. Young men, gravity is so important in our day and age. What is the opposite of gravity? You just keep joking around with your friends. You just love joking around. You love making fun of people. You love the dirty comedy out there in the world. Your language has no weight behind it because it's just foolishness spewing out. You

want to, you know, you want to know how to have gravity, immerse yourself in the word of God. This has gravity. This word has gravity, not mine. That's how you have more gravity. And that's how I want to model it out for you. Spending hours meditating and praying over the scriptures so I have something to give to you every time I hear. And then he says with sincerity, I mean, be genuine. Just be genuine. Like if there's any hypocrisy, share it. God help me that I will hide the things that are happening in my own life. I will share everything with sincerity like I need help in this area just as much as you do. I'm not pointing a finger at you directly. It's a the common expression, right? I point a finger. Three fingers are pointing back at me. Okay? It really is. The Holy Spirit convinced me. If I say something out of hypocrisy, man, I get convicted by the Holy Spirit. And and God tells me, "Nope, you can't live like that. Nope, you can't do that." So, I am just as affected as I'm preaching to you.

You see, with all these things, uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, in doctrine, what does that do? Well, I hope you see that you respect me and that you in return are respected by me. That you see the importance of character primarily the character of God and then your character being formed by God's word. They refuse to cheapen or make the word of God shallow because of what popularity says. And then he goes on and says, "Then then if you're living this out, your words in speech, notice, notice in the text, your speech, this is both in private as well as in public conversations has to be sound. It sounds right. It sounds biblical." Yes. What you're saying, pastor, and I go to the word. Yes, that sounds right. And I'm beyond reproach. Meaning people can accuse me for not speaking forth the truth.

You see, ambiguity is a dangerous thing. The word of God is straightforward, isn't it? Thank God the word of God is straightforward. Commands are to be straightforward. It would be terrible if you were out in a battle and there was ambiguity in the command because it's life or death. This is life or death. I have to constantly think before myself. This is life or death. You could be spiritually alive or spiritually dead. There is no in between in a battle. So, I want you to sense the urgency in all of this that I'm sharing with you from God's word because the opportunities are that important. Though must be in doctrine, must be in speech because if this is done well, the enemy and his accusation is diminished. He cannot come in and just put his thoughts into your mind because you are so in. You're all in. I'm all in, brothers and sisters in Christ. I am all in by the power of Christ. This is how we put our opponent to shame and then shatter their credibility. We just got to stay in the truth. Just stay in. Don't try to accuse. Don't try to fight them. Just stay in your word, in your doctrine, in your character. You'll be fine.

Because this is how it works out. False teachers profess God then in their deeds or in their works they deny him and then they receive dishonest gain. The gain is to themselves. Rather the gospel pattern is pure doctrine, good works and then sound speech which is

beyond reproach. So why did Paul place such an intense emphasis on Titus living it out in pattern? Because a phrase action speaks louder than words is true statement. We learn by observing effective action starting with children with their parents and with pastors with their flock. We learn by observing the actions far more than what we learn by being told what to do. Think about young children. A child is rarely taught to deeply love others simply by a parent handing him a textbook. That would be just crazy, right? Without modeling it out for them, it is useless. It would be useless as giving a textbook to a three-year-old boy. Rather, they learn by sitting in the living room like we see in Deuteronomy 6. When you sit, when you stand, when you're out, you're always teaching the word of God in your life, in all situations. They watch you. They watch me. They see how I love one another. They see how I pray for one another. They see how I respect each other with my words and my deeds. And they want to see Christ. Oh, I want people to see Christ. I want people to see Christ. It's not me. It is not me. It is Christ that reveals himself through me.

See, the new believers were like young children. They had to unlearn a lifetime of sinful behavior and selfish desires. And they desperately needed someone to observe and imitate. Titus his life was to be that visible living template for them. Going back to our devices, imagine a device. Maybe one day there might be a device in the pulpit that an AI pastor is literally speaking to you instead of a real person. That may actually happen. But that's not how God instructed us. It is to be a living person speaking and preaching forth the word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. And then you in turn are to receive it by yielding to the Holy Spirit yourself. And when there are passages that convict you by the work of the Holy Spirit that you're convinced, Lord, I need you. I need you in this hour. No amount of algorithm is going to help me with this problem because you're the only one that can solve this problem. And who is the answer? The Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. It always goes back to the Lord Jesus Christ. For me and for you.

And so this principle applies directly to also every Sunday school teacher, every deacon, every ministry leader, every pastoral staff member here at Calvary Road. We cannot expect things that our congregation models if we're not vividly displaying this in our own private and public lives. If we talk about the Bible but engage in gossip, cutting corners used of compromised words, we give the enemy an open access to condemn our church. It becomes now our church instead of his church. Our deeds must align with our doctrine so that our witness is fortified. The enemy can't come in. The gates of hell shall not prevail against whose church? Christ's Church. Let us live in such a dignified, honest, and serious manner that those who oppose the message of the gospel are left utterly speechless and put to shame. Let the word of God do it, not you.

Let's end with verses 9 and 10. Finally, we see the manifestation in the workplace. And this was when I studied this part, I was like, "Oh, this is how it happened." So keep that

in mind. Oh, this is how it happened. Finally, Paul turns his attention to a heavily utilized group in the first century Roman world. Servants or bonds slaves. Here's what it says. Exhort servants to be obedient unto their masters, and to please them well in all things, not answering again not purloining, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our savior in all things. Adorning the gospel, adorning the gospel in all things. You see to understand this part of the text you must realize that slavery was a widespread brutal institution in ancient Roman Empire. It was estimated that one third of the Roman Empire's population was full of slaves. Okay, one third. So slavery was a consequence of the fall of man. It was not God's original plan from the beginning. While Christianity did not launch a political revolt or revolution to overthrow this slavery, it was done over time. It was done over time by the gospel. It was like a spiritual dynamite that literally blew things from the inside out. Inside the Roman Empire, the Christians dismantled the Roman Empire. This is how it happens. This is how it happens. Here's it. Here it is in the workplace. It taught masters and servants alike that they share a common divine privilege which is we are absolutely equal if we're a master and slave in who? In Christ.

Paul explains that even within a tough environment such as the Roman Empire, a Christian servant can honor God by doing their work with Christlike attitude and peaceful obedience. So he says, be obedient and well pleasing in the text, do your work. Again, another way of saying it, be ready, be active. Give yourself a cheerful heart in the in the Lord and render the best possible service that you can to sometimes, many of the times, an inconsistent master who is difficult to please. Some of us had bosses like that. Colossians 3:23-24, "And whatsoever you do, do it heartily." Cheerful heart as to the Lord and not unto men. Verse 24, knowing that of the Lord, ye shall promise receive the reward of the inheritance for you serve the Lord Christ.

And then so if you are obedient in this way, working as unto the Lord, then you will know, well, they're going to have to deal with the Lord themselves. So then it goes naturally to not answering again. You see that in the text. Do not talk back. Another way of saying don't argue with them or undermine the authority of those placed over you. Ensuring your workplace, your work as a worker is done in pure motives. God, you will deal with this situation in your timing.

And then he goes on and says, "Not purloining literally means don't pilfer, don't steal, don't embezzle things in your workplace." Because slaves are constantly tempted. Why? Because they were poor. They could have easily skim off the top. Because they were mistreated, underpaid? No. Paul says, "Absolutely not. Don't pilfer. The wrong done to us never justifies us doing wrong to others. Don't turn evil for evil but turn evil for good as the Lord Jesus says. So instead they are to show all good fidelity literally means absolute this is the tense absolute total trustworthiness and honesty in every single act. Every

single act the smallest to the greatest whether anyone is looking or not. Whether anyone is looking or no recognition. No recognition. Why? Look at the text. That they may adorn the doctrine of God our savior in all things. Adorn the gospel in all things. The word adorn comes from the word cosmeo which gets our modern English word cosmetics. It means to embellish or decorate and make something extraordinarily beautiful. I don't know if all cosmetics do that, but that's what it says. The gospel is beautiful. Another way of putting it, the gospel adorned the gospel. The gospel is beautiful. Why? Because of Christ. Because of Christ. He is the extraordinary part of this. That one that is appealing. It is Christ formed in you in all things. This is what Christ has saved you from. From the ugliness of sin to the beauty in Christ.

Scripture gives us a beautiful model of this. We see this in the life of Joseph who as a faithful slave was well pleasing in all things under a miserable right circumstance that he was in potter's house. Go and read the situation that Joseph was under. Think of the little also captive maid and Naaman's wife who did not just do her bare duty but deeply sought the well-being of her master of her master. Who does that? Someone who's in the Lord. See above them all stands the Lord Jesus Christ the perfect slave. And what is that word slave? It's obedient to the master. And that's God the father with Christ. Perfectly obedient. We'll never reach that, but in Christ, we're perfected. We're being made complete in him. Amen. Amen.

I have so much more, but I want to just make some applications for us before we head out this morning. While we are blessed that slavery has been abolished, it was through Christian initiatives. These workplace principles directly transfers to our relationship in our workforce. You know that this is the area where many of us neglect. But think about it. How many hours are we in the workplace? On average, eight hours. Some of us 10, 12 hours. I used to work that many hours. How are we using that time like these slaves that disrupted the Roman Empire through this means? Think about it.

Our text ends by pointing us directly to God our savior. We could only do this by our God our savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. The good news that we don't do this alone. We do this in the strength and power of Christ. He has saved us from an empty self-serving cycle of life to bring us to a beautiful kingdom. God's kingdom that has absolute harmony and is full of grace. He is just giving lavishly right now in heaven. You see, selfish living always punishes and isolates those who practice it. That's why the world can get you more and more because you're never satisfied. You're never satisfied. You're never satisfied.

So this week, as I've given you much to think about, much to think as with a sober mind, don't just talk about your faith. Decorate it with your life. Cosmetics. Make the gospel look beautiful. Make Christ look beautiful. Don't be ashamed of the gospel. Display it from the housetops, as it were. Don't hide it under a bushel. Let the light shine forth

before men. You'll be strengthened. You'll be given strength. Trust the Lord in his instructions. If he has instructed you, he will give you the strength to fulfill it. It takes faith to go from instruction to application. Do you believe that when you live like this that you can actually do so in the strength of Christ?

Our daily lifestyle is a way that can be modeled in our neighbors, in our families, our co-workers. The very place where we can create disruption in a good way. Amen. We can cause the kind of disruption that actually is a benefit that is lifegiving to the people that we are interacting with because the gospel of Lord Jesus Christ is lifegiving. Will they be drawn to you or would they be turned away by you this week? Lay aside every selfish desires, every impulsive passion. Let's step into the respective community that you lived in. God placed you there for a reason and the people around you put on the divine cosmetics of holiness, the kindness kind of character that we see in Christ that in every respect we might adorn the doctrine of God our savior. Let us be a people that is well pleasing to our God and Savior. Amen. Let us pray.

Father, I ask for dependence right now in this room. God, if we just leave these instructions and allow our flesh to absorb it, it will leave to nothing. We need intervention of your Holy Spirit to apply what was preached this morning from your word to bring power to your word to bring urgency to your word to bring the consequences if we don't follow your instructions. Father, eternity is before us. I pray, Father, that that would consume more of our minds and our hearts than the short-term gratification of this world. If there are some here this morning who do not know Christ, who is outside of Christ and cannot find the strength to do what is instructed, help them to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, to save them from their sin, to clean them by his precious blood, and to create in them a new creature which is found in him that they can now live according to his instructions. I pray that you would do that in this room right now. And I pray for my brothers and sisters in Christ who are in Christ. Lord God, there's so much more that you have for us in Christ. Help us to also have that conviction because we have the Holy Spirit. Create that urgency within us. Help us to yield to him more so that we would obey more of your word. And we know that you will give us the strength to follow through. I've seen it, Lord, in my life. Many of my brothers and sisters in Christ have. But I know all of us, we can desire more. We can desire more that is God-honoring and respecting your word. Help us to follow through, Father, by your strength, by your grace and your mercy. We'll thank you for all the blessings that you give to this local body in Jesus name. Amen.