

New Normal: A Transformed Church Before a Watching World

The Gospel Transforms our Response to Suffering

Wyatt Martin // July 5, 2020

Titus 2:9-10

Big Idea: The gospel transforms our perspective when we are treated unjustly.

How we read the Bible:

1. In its _____ context.

2. In its _____ context.

Sermon questions

1. In a conversation, what is your responsibility when you hear something you disagree with?
2. When you read your Bible, how do you distinguish between commands or instructions from which you can draw principles today, and commands or instructions just for the original readers?
3. Read **Titus 2:9-10**. What did Paul instruct the 1st century “slaves” to do?

How would their obedience to Paul’s instruction “make the teaching about God our Savior attractive”?

Do you think the instructions in **Titus 2:9-10** are applicable to your relationship with your employer? If so, give some examples. If not, why not?

4. Read **Ephesians 6:5-9**. What does this add to your understanding of **Titus 2:9-10**?
5. Critics use **Titus 2:9-10** to say the Bible endorses slavery. Read **Ephesians 6:9**, **Colossians 3:11** and **4:1**, **Mark 10:43-45**, and **Galatians 3:28**. How can you use these verses in a discussion with one of these critics?

For deeper study:

Read **2 Peter 1:19-20**. What do you think Peter is warning his readers about?

The link below identifies eight principles for interpreting the Bible. An abbreviated list is included below. How will Pastor Wyatt's sermon and these principles help you know that what you're understanding God's meaning and not your own meaning?

<http://www.apologeticsindex.org/5846-biblical-interpretation-rules>

1. The rule of DEFINITION: What does the word mean? Any study of Scripture must begin with a study of words. Define your terms and then keep to the terms defined.
2. The rule of USAGE: Remember that the Bible, both Old Testament and New Testament, was written to specific people in a specific time. Be careful our interpretations are not shaded by pre-conceived notions and cultural biases.
3. The rule of CONTEXT: The meaning must be gathered from the context. Every word you read must be understood in the light of the words that come before and after it.

4. The rule of **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**: The interpreter must have some awareness of the life and society of the times in which the Scripture was written. The spiritual principle will be timeless but often can't be properly appreciated without some knowledge of the background.

5. The rule of **LOGIC**: Interpretation is merely logical reasoning. When interpreting Scripture, the use of reason is everywhere to be assumed. Does the interpretation make sense?

6. The rule of **PRECEDENT**: We must not violate the known usage of a word and invent another for which there is no precedent.

7. The rule of **UNITY**: The parts of Scripture being interpreted must be understood with reference to the significance of the whole. An interpretation must be consistent with the rest of Scripture.

8. The rule of **INFERENCE**: An inference is a fact reasonably implied from another fact. It is a logical consequence. It derives a conclusion from a given fact or premise. It is the deduction of one proposition from another proposition.

Read the Bible this year

Pastor Brad encouraged us to read the Bible in 2020. Here's some help getting started. Each day this week read from the Old and New Testament. Or, if you prefer, read just from one testament. Enjoy!

- **Job 5-7; Acts 8**
- **Job 8-10**
- **Job 11-13; Acts 9**
- **Job 14-16**
- **Job 17-19**
- **Job 20-21; Acts 10**
- **Job 22-24; Acts 11**