



2/20/26

In this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished, we talked about how God is involved in our lives even when we don't see it, just as He was involved in the whole story of Esther. The episode is called, "Coincidence? I think Not." If you'd like to listen to the podcast, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Titus 2:1-10

As I look at this passage, I see a call of God on my life that goes far beyond the American Dream... life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I see purpose statements throughout this passage. Without purpose, I will get caught up in the here and now and miss that everything I go through in this life is "preparing for me an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (2 Corinthians 4:17.

What are the purposes given in this passage?

- *Vs. 5 ~ to ensure that the word of God is not reviled. The way I live affects how people view the authenticity of God's word.*
- *Vs. 8 ~ to give no reason for someone who opposes the gospel to speak evil about me because of my faith... so that instead of putting me to shame, enemies of God will themselves be put to shame.*
- *Vs. 10 ~ so that I may adorn the doctrine of God in all things... the Greek word for adorn is cosmos... It's my world. So my purpose is to make God's teaching and instruction the center of my world, the reason I do everything.*

When I am honoring God's word, not giving anyone a reason to mock His word, and making His word the compass of my heart and soul, how will that affect my behavior? And since many types of believers are spoken to, can I say it all applies to me?

The people who are listed are...

- *Titus, the leader of the church. I may not be THE leader of this church, but God has put me in a position where I influence others. Truly, EVERY person is in a position where they influence others. So, like Titus, I need to "influence" the people God has put in my path ONLY according to what is consistent with His word. There is no "my opinion" that may or may not align with God's word. There is no, "Well, I think God would want" as if God is no longer with us and I'm speaking of His dying wish. Everything I say and do needs to align with His word. That's a huge call.*
- *The older men... Well, I AM getting up there in age, but I'm not a man. However, vs. 5, in speaking to older women (of which I am), says "likewise." In the same way that the older men are doing this, you do it. Also, everyone is older than someone. And youth doesn't mean anyone is exempt from aligning with God's word. 1 Timothy 4:12 says, "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." But... for the older men, the example they are to set is to be sober-minded... not getting caught up in deception... sound in faith... trusting God completely... sound in love... not setting an example of arrogance, but sacrificial, selfless love... sound in steadfastness... remaining true to the Lord under difficult circumstances. By the Lord's strength and word, let the years grow us closer to the Lord and not just closer to retirement.*
- *Older women... I'm definitely one of those. The example I need to set as I align myself with God's word is just like the men, and also... to not just speak holy words, but to have holy behavior, honoring the Lord in all I do... to not slander. The Greek word for slander is diabolous. It's the word used to describe the devil. Let us not be accusing others like little devils. Yikes!!! Also, let none of us be enslaved to wine or anything that would control us other than the Holy Spirit and His love... Teach what is good, what aligns with God's word... Train the younger women to love their husbands and children with an affectionate, nurturing love... to be self controlled, which is a fruit of the Spirit... so it's really to be Spirit controlled... to be pure and holy... to submit to their husbands as to the Lord. Let me not forget that I follow Christ's example who submitted to the will of the Father. If I truly want to honor the Lord in everything, I will submit to my husband in a God honoring way... Let me not miss this. My first submission is to the Lord in wholehearted worship. I submit to my husband with respect, but I WORSHIP the Lord. The Lord and His word come first in ALL things.*
- *Younger men also need to be self controlled, which, again, is really Spirit controlled. God has EVERYONE covered. There is no believer who is free to ignore God's authority and word.*
- *EVERYONE needs to model what pleases God in EVERYTHING they do... to show integrity and dignity and impenetrable sound words. It doesn't say speak integrity and dignity. It says SHOW integrity and dignity. Let my pattern of life be a model of integrity and dignity and God honoring words that cannot be condemned, even if some try. Let me remember, God's opinion is the one that matters.*

- *Bondservants... Yes, I am a Bondservant of Jesus first and foremost. A bondservant is a voluntary servant. It's kind of like an employee today. I need to start by remembering that I serve the Lord. Then, I need to model my service to the Lord by submitting to the will of my "master", my employer. I need to serve at the pleasure of my employer as long as he isn't asking me to go against my greater Master, Jesus Christ. I need to not be argumentative, opposing him and his direction, not stealing from him in any way. Why? Because my loyalty is to Jesus Christ.*

As I look at all these people and the direction given, I can see Jesus. He did absolutely nothing that didn't align with His word. He showed integrity and dignity in everything He did. He modeled submission. He modeled holiness. This is all a call for me to model myself after Jesus. This requires humility and gentleness, as He described Himself in Matthew 11:28. God is consistent in His call. He wants me to look more and more like Jesus. The blessings that come with this are better than anything this world has to offer... lasting peace, joy, hope... deeper love.

How many times have I thought that living this way would make me weak and inferior, when the reality is that it takes great courage to follow after God, and He gives me more strength than I could ever have on my own. Living with Jesus, like Jesus, does not make me inferior... It gives me a deeper, more wonderful purpose. Lord, You don't call me to this to withhold good from me. You call me to this so that You can lavish Your goodness on me. Please help me grasp that fully, in every circumstance. Ultimately, it all comes down to aligning myself with You and Your word... Your good, pleasing, and perfect will.