

A Tale of Two Captives

II Timothy 2:24-26
Pastor John McIntosh

“The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, being held captive by him to do his will” (NASB).

Paul describes two captives to Timothy in order to help him minister to the obstinate person.

<u>Lord’s Bond-Servant (vs 24)</u>	<u>One in Opposition (vs 25b)</u>
not quarrelsome	ensnared by the devil
kind to all	held captive
able to teach	repentance
patient when wronged	knowledge of the truth
gentle	come to their senses
correct	escape from the snare

... “if perhaps God may grant them repentance” ...

Life Group Discussion Questions – September 13, 2020

2 Timothy 2:24-26 *The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

DISCOVER

1. Who is the “bond-servant” that Paul mentions in the above passage? Who are “those in opposition”?
2. What does it mean to be quarrelsome? What are some of the by-products of a contentious relationship?
3. In his sermon last Sunday, Pastor John identified two types of captives. What are the attributes of each?

EXPLORE

1. Discuss the differences between a bond-servant of a Roman citizen and one in Jewish culture. As bond-servants of Christ, what can we say about our commitment to Him? (see Philippians 2:3-10)
2. Why is it so important for a teacher of the Gospel message to possess the qualities that Paul has identified?
3. What does it mean to “come to their senses”? Must we first come to our senses before God sets us free (before we can escape the snares of the devil)? Explain.

EXPERIENCE

1. What kind of attitude should you have when someone is errant because of an unbiblical worldview? What would you do if saw them post something anti-Christian on social media? What is the goal of correcting these people?
2. Most of us have obstinate people in our lives (family, neighbor, work, church, etc.) What are some new and intentional ways you can demonstrate kindness to them? Identify some ways to adjust your plan if they don’t respond in-kind.

PRAY

1. Pray that as bond-servants of Christ, we would grow in our abilities to teach and in all humility, correct those who are in opposition to our Biblical worldview; that we would not lose heart but stay patient. Pray

for these captives that God would free them from the enemy the moment they come to their senses and stop fighting against God.