

## Wise Words on Witnessing

2 Timothy 2:24-26

### Introduction:

#### A. Definition

1. Bondservant – refers to a person v\_\_\_\_\_ putting them under the ownership of a master.
2. The Lord’s bondservant – refers to a s\_\_\_\_\_ leader (Rom 1:1; 2 Cor 4:5; Gal 1:10; Phil 1:1; Col 4:12; here; Tit 1:1)

B. Although Paul had the spiritual leader in mind, aside from the characteristic, able to t\_\_\_\_\_, all the other characteristics are to be practiced by all Christians and will make them a strong witness for Jesus Christ.

### The witnessing process – be consistent not insistent (vv. 24, 25a)

#### A. Be a consistent v\_\_\_\_\_ witness

1. In all conversations (religious or not) do not be q\_\_\_\_\_ (refers to looking for a verbal fight or trying to squash another’s viewpoint with words)
2. In all conversations (religious or not) g\_\_\_\_\_ correct those who are in opposition.
3. If you practice this in all conversations, when religious topics come up, it will just be a d\_\_\_\_\_.

#### B. Be a consistent l\_\_\_\_\_ witness

1. Practice being k\_\_\_\_\_ to EVERYONE.
2. Practice being p\_\_\_\_\_ with those who have wronged you. (give them t\_\_\_\_\_ to admit, change, etc).
3. Practicing kindness and patience in every relationship you have will demonstrate Jesus’s p\_\_\_\_\_ in your life.

### The witnessing results – depend upon God (vv. 25b, 26)

A. God is the One who g\_\_\_\_\_ repentance to an unbeliever so that he comes to the knowledge of the truth.

1. Repentance means to c\_\_\_\_\_ one’s mind.
2. Knowledge refers to a p\_\_\_\_\_ knowledge of the truth of the gospel.
  - a. This is not just knowing the f\_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is God in the flesh who paid for the sin of all those who trust Him and proved it by rising from the dead.
  - b. This is experiencing Jesus as \_\_\_\_\_ God and Savior.

B. God is the One who sets us free from the devil’s t\_\_\_\_\_, making us alive forever to do His will.

- C. A technical note on verse 26 – it can be understood four ways.
1. The Lord's servant is to be a verbal and living witness so that perhaps unbelievers come to their senses out from the devil's trap who has been holding them captive to do his will. (Almost all translations read with this sense).
  2. The Lord's servant is to be a verbal and living witness so that perhaps *they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by the Lord's servant unto the will of God.* (The English Revised Version)
  3. The Lord's servant is to be a verbal and living witness so that perhaps unbelievers may be freed from the trap of the devil (who has been holding them captive) for the purpose of doing That One's will (referring to God). – the Greek is literally, *That One's will*, and not simply *his will*.
  4. The Lord's servant is to be a verbal and living witness so that perhaps unbelievers will come to their senses out from the devil's trap, being captured ALIVE to that One's will.
    - a. The word capture is literally, *having been captured alive*. While in the possession of the devil, a person is not alive but dead in their trespasses and sins (Eph 2:1,2).
    - b. The word meaning *to capture alive* is in a tense that means they continue to be in a state of living.
    - c. Only God makes an unbeliever alive and keeps them in that state (Eph 2:5).
    - d. The picture is of an unbeliever coming to his senses and escaping the devil's trap because God has captured him to do His will.
- D. The point is that only God can bring about the salvation of a person. We must commit to the witnessing process and leave the results to God.

*This week:*

- 1) *Watch your conversations - develop the characteristics of not being quarrelsome but gentle in any correction to any opposition. If you fail, review what you should have said. Keep this up and verbal witnessing will become natural and normal.*
- 2) *Watch your conduct – develop a lifestyle of kindness to everyone and patience with those who wrong you. If you fail, repent and learn. Keep this up and people will see Christ's presence in your life.*
- 3) *Depend upon God for all the results.*