

## Recap of 8/12/18 (1 Timothy 6:1,2)

1. The key issue of our lives (after salvation) is how well do we represent God. The principle always is to ask: "How will my action, or attitude, or language reflect on God. Do we bring Him honor or do we bring Him dishonor? Whatever situation we find ourselves in life, however challenging it may be, we must remember Whom we represent.

-“Paul was always concerned that the conduct of Christians should be such as to bring glory to God and not reproach, on His name and on the gospel.” (Ralph Earle)

-“If conversion to Christianity makes no improvements in a man’s outward actions—if he continues to be just as snobbish or spiteful or envious or ambitious as he was before—then I think we must suspect tht his conversion was largely imaginary....When we as Christian behave badly or fail to behave well, we are making Christianity unbelievable to the outside world....Our careless lives set the outside world talking; and we give them grounds for talking in a way that throws doubt on the truth of Christianity itself.” (C. S. Lewis)

2. Paul undermined the social order (things such as slavery) not through militant action but by his teaching.

“Slavery was entrenched in the 1<sup>st</sup>-century Roman empire. Often slaves were better off than freedmen, who might enjoy less food and poorer living conditions. But slaves were property, without freedom and without personal rights. The New Testament does not attack the institution, but faith in Christ did undermine it.” (Richards)

3. Paul and slavery:

-Paul believed that the power of the gospel and the effect of the regenerated life would bring change to society from the bottom up.

-He believed in the power of the individual, not political entities.

-Paul recommends that if a slave could gain their freedom they should (1 Corinthians 7:17-24).

-Paul and the other NT writers taught principles which would bring slavery to an end.

-He includes slave traders among the ungodly, sinful, unholy and irreligious in 1 Timothy 1:8-10

-The Book of Philemon showed Paul’s thinking on slavery.

-Paul repeatedly warned Masters about the abuse of their position. (Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22-4:1)