

Lesson 2

Being Despised

Memory verse – II Tim. 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

I Tim. 4:12

If you answered despise or disdain for the question at the end of lesson one about the negative attitude some may have for youths you are correct. This attitude can be a result of many things. First, what does despise mean?

Look up Matt. 6:24 and Luke 16:13. Here it means _____.

Read Rom. 2:4. What do we see unsaved man despising?

In I Cor. 11:22 we find Paul writing to believers in Corinth who have despised the _____ of God in their abuse of the Lord’s Supper.

In I Tim. 6:2 we have believing saints who are employed despising their fellow saints who are their _____ (employers).

In Ps. 22:6 the Lord Jesus Christ was despised by men as he hung on Calvary’s cross.

In Heb. 12:2 we see the Lord Jesus Christ despising the _____. All the reproaches, mockings, cruelties heaped upon him, he despised. But he rejoiced in knowing that by his suffering, he was satisfying the justice of God, making peace with God, reconciling the world unto God.

This little study about despising brings us to the conclusion that the word means to consider worthless, reject, have little or no regard for, or hold contempt for.

Youths can experience this attitude from others as can anybody. We are focusing on the “youth” now, so what’s the reason for this despising attitude? The Word of God gives us a couple of reasons. Before we look at the reasons in our verse in I Tim. 4:12, let’s look at Paul’s instruction to the Corinthian believers about not despising Timothy when he comes to them.

I Cor. 16:10-11. The believers at Corinth were to make sure Timothy didn’t feel fearful. Timothy’s fear would arise from the Corinthian believers despising him as we read in vs. 11 “Let no man therefore despise him...”

Why would the Corinthian believers be tempted to despise Timothy?

1. Timothy **was a godly young man** – they were not godly
Compare I Cor. 3:1 and 4:17
Carnal believers often despise the godliness in others.
2. Timothy **was to preach the message of grace**.
Timothy’s job was to bring the Corinthian believers back to the doctrine taught by Paul. Preaching the message Christ gave to Paul does not always evoke warm friendly treatment!

Lesson 2 continued

Read II Tim. 1:8. Paul tells Timothy that he should be a partaker of the _____ of the gospel.

II Tim. 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall _____.”

3. Timothy **was a youth**.

I Tim. 4:12 “Let no man despise thy _____”

Timothy was in danger of being despised at Corinth because of:

1. his godliness
2. the message he preached
3. his youth

You remember Goliath’s disdain for David because of his youth. How did David handle this? Read I Sam. 17:42-58. We can safely say David knew where he stood with God. David knew the provision that God had promised his people. A despising giant did not defeat David. Let me ask you a question. Have you ever felt despised because of your godliness and/or for preaching a message you believe, as a youth?

If you have, this is not a bad thing! This is a natural outcome for a believer living a godly life. So the next time your being despised for your godliness, rejoice, thank the Lord, do a cartwheel.

II Cor. 12:9-10 and Phil. 1:29 tell us about a “blessing” that few believers want to participate in. “For unto you it is _____ in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to _____ for his sake;”

Are some despising friends or carnal believers getting you down??

Are they causing you to be a secret service believer??

Are you uncomfortable because of your age to preach the message of grace??

Is the fear of a sneer or a raised eyebrow keeping you quiet??

Do what David did. Know where you stand with God. Know what provisions God has made for you in the age of grace and then run! No, not away from the despisers, but out to them!!

I Sam. 17:48 “And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David _____ and ran _____ the army to meet the Philistine.”

Yes, run to those around you with the love of God made known through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In our next lesson we will look at the despising we can bring on ourselves not by our godliness but lack thereof.

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Comments

I hope you're enjoying and being encouraged by our studies. I know I am. The intake of the Word of God is essential for our walk in a world that is at war with God and a church that is carnal and so removed and resistant to the truth.

The answers to the blanks on Lesson 2 are as follows:

1. hate
2. the riches of God's goodness and forbearance and longsuffering
3. the church
4. masters
5. shame
6. partaker
7. suffer persecution
8. youth
9. given
10. suffer
11. hastened
12. toward

For me, one of the things that was impressed upon me as I studied through these verses was having that mind of II Cor. 12:10. Paul says that he takes "pleasure in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

I know that I also can have wrong despising attitudes toward others, (ESPECIALLY IF THEY DESPISE ME FIRST) which I want to be vigilant at rooting out!

Just a side note: regarding the Passion of the Christ movie. Heb. 12:2 spoke volumes to me. Christ despised the shame of the cross. The movie, I'm told, is all about the shame. The shame was the process by which Christ was made sin for us. Always with the joy that was set before him, that God might reconcile the world unto himself. II Cor. 5:19.

We with Paul "glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..." For me, I don't think I want to focus on the shame that Christ despised but rather on the glory of the joy that was set before him. I am thankful that Christ died for me and that I've been reconciled to God through faith in his blood.

I know some of you have seen the film and others plan to see it. It's been said that it can be used to talk to others about the Lord. I hope this is happening. Don't you love the freedom and liberty in grace? If you want to share your thoughts on this, feel free, we won't despise you!!