

Maintain Good Works

Text: Titus 1:1-5

Introduction:

1. Place & Date of writing: Approx. AD 63, around same time as 1 Timothy (probably shortly after). Written post Acts, after Paul's first imprisonment.
2. Theme & Purpose
 - Strong focus on Church practice. Doctrine also in view but stronger stress laid on the practice that is to accompany sound doctrine. 2:1 *"But speak thou the things which **become** sound doctrine."* 'become' = that which is appropriate, fitting & becoming.
 - "good work(s)" = this phrase appears 5 times in this short Epistle. (1:16, 2:7, 2:14, 3:8, 3:14) Eph. 2:10 *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*
3. Good comparison of the 3 Pastoral Epistles by R. Hester
 - **1 Timothy – Protect It**
 - **2 Timothy – Proclaim it**
 - **Titus – Practice it**

I. The Author (Vs. 1-3)

A. His Titles (1a)

1. A Servant of God
 - a. 'servant' = one born into slavery.
 - b. Paul was a slave to sin by natural birth. He became a slave to Christ by spiritual birth! Refers to one whose will is swallowed up in the will of another. It refers to one who serves another to the disregard of his own interests. (Wuest)
2. An Apostle of Christ
 - a. 'apostle' = a sent one
 - b. Primarily used in a specific sense to refer to the office of an Apostle (the twelve)

B. His Ministry (1b-3)

1. A Ministry of the Truth (1b)
 - a. Faith – "faith of God's elect"
 - i. "according to" = in harmony or agreement with. Paul's ministry was in harmony with the standard of Christian truth.
 - ii. Faith connected to truth. A reference to Christian doctrine.
 - iii. God's elect = term used frequently of believers. 1 Peter 1:2 *"**Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the***

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Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”

- b. Truth – “truth which is after godliness”
 - i. The truth mentioned here is a truth that affects our conduct/behavior. Knowing Christ as Saviour should lead to holy living.
 - ii. Paul mentions this as the false teachers on Crete were saying that grace means you can live as you please (1:16, 2:11-12). The truth Paul preached brought about change in the lives of those to whom he preached. “Our preaching is not what it should be, except and in so far as it aims at the same practical result.” (Fairbairn)
- 2. A Ministry of the Gospel (2)
 - a. A Gospel of Hope (2a)
 - i. “hope of eternal life” = ‘hope’ refers to a confident expectation.
 - ii. The Gospel offers genuine hope of eternal life.
 - b. A Gospel of Certainty (2b)
 - i. Guaranteed by God – God never deceives!
 - ii. Promised before the beginning of the world – Christ is “the lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” (Rev. 13:8). Salvation finds its source in the heart of God, even before the beginning of time.
- 3. A Ministry of Revelation (3)
 - a. “due times” = God’s timing. Gal 4:4 *“But when the **fulness of the time was come**, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,”*
 - b. ‘manifest’ = to make visible, clear
 - c. ‘preaching’ = the means God used to reveal His promised plan of salvation
 - d. ‘committed’ = Paul was called of God to the Gospel ministry and to be a custodian of much of the N.T. Revelation.

II. The Addressee (Vs. 4)

A. His name – Titus (4a)

- 1. Mentioned 12 times in the New Testament (2 Cor. 2:13, 7:6, 13, 14; 8:6, 16, 23; 12:18; 13:14; Gal. 2:1, 3; 2 Tim. 4:10)
- 2. Titus was a full blood Greek (Gal 2:3) unlike Timothy who was half Greek and half Jewish. This is why he was not circumcised. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas in the early days of the church over the law/grace controversy. He was their proof that the Gentiles could be saved without circumcision (Gal. 2:1).

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3. He was a partner and fellow helper of the Apostle Paul. *“he is my partner and fellow helper concerning you.”* (2 Cor. 8:23) 2 Corinthians reveals Titus as a spiritually strong leader who could cope with difficult church situations and ministry (Hester) He was a man who like Paul, cared much for the churches (2 Cor. 8:16)
- B. His relationship to Paul (4b)
 1. “mine own son” – he was a convert of the Apostle (like Timothy)
 2. “after the common faith” = the faith shared by all believers (held in common)
- C. His blessing from Paul (4c)
 1. The blessing: Grace, Mercy & Peace
 2. The source: God the Father & Christ

III. The Aim (Vs. 5)

- A. The Location – Crete
 1. Fifth largest island in the Mediterranean Sea
 2. Located southeast of Greece in the Mediterranean Sea
 3. The reputation of the inhabitants is described in 1:12 *“...The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.”*
- B. The Purpose – Establish Order
 1. “set in order” = word used by medical writers for the setting of broken limbs or the straightening of crooked ones
 2. “things that are wanting” = the things that lacked, things left to do. Paul had established a certain level of order but there was more work to be done.
 3. 1 Cor. 14:40 *“Let all things be done decently and in order.”*
 4. “ordain elders in every city” = leadership for the churches the first item on the list of things to do! “The first and most prominent point concerned the official organization of the churches.” (Fairbairn) “Everything rises and falls with leadership” (Dr. Lee Robertson)

Conclusion: Are you a believer? Then live like it! Maintain good works!

Qualified Church Leadership

Text: Titus 1:6-9

Introduction:

1. The Apostle Paul has just outlined the purpose for which he left Titus in Crete, to set things in order.
2. The first item on Paul's to do list is that Titus sees to it that the churches have godly leaders to oversee them.
3. The importance of having qualified, local church leadership: Everything rises and falls on leadership. Hosea 4:9 "like people like priest" Strong leadership = strong church. Weak leadership = weak church
4. Note: The terms 'elder' and 'bishop' are used interchangeably to refer to the same office in the N.T. Compare Vs. 5 & 7

I. General Qualification (Vs. 6a & 7a)

A. Blameless Life (6a)

1. A general description of one's life.
2. No just cause for accusation; above reproach
3. Note: This is why the Scriptures put strict guidelines in place for dealing with a man of God in leadership lest His credibility be unfairly undermined and the ministry harmed.
 - a. 1 Tim. 5:19 "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.
 - b. B.H. Carrol (An Interpretation of the English Bible):

The next thing is: "Receive not an accusation against an elder, except at the mouth of two or three witnesses." If that rule were followed strictly, many needless scandals and troubles in churches would be avoided. It is such an easy thing to call a man off and whisper, "Don't say anything about this, but I want to tell you something about our pastor." We should stop the whisperer at once: "Are you about to tell me something against the pastor? If so, do you know it to be true, or are you proposing to circulate a hearsay? If you know it to be true, can you furnish the corroborative testimony of other witnesses? And will you and the other witnesses go with me now and tell what you know to the pastor himself, face to face, giving him an opportunity to meet the accusation?" The whisperer will be apt to reply: "Oh, no! I don't know anything myself. I have heard so and so." **Thus we not only silence the whisperer, but we save ourselves from becoming a partaker of his sin.** The necessity for this rule, in all cases, is more emphasized in the case of a preacher, whose reputation is a large part of his capital. It is shameful the way good, God-fearing men are slandered by irresponsible reports against them. Bring the accuser to task and make him come out in the open and give his corroborative evidence, and allow the accused a chance to answer.

B. Steward of God (7a)

1. 'steward' = word made up of house (oikos) and law (nomos). Refers to a manager of a household.
2. "Into such a person's hands is entrusted the responsibility to properly administer the affairs of the household. The bishop is given

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the responsibility of properly administering the affairs of the local church.” (Wuest)

II. Family Qualifications (Vs. 6)

A. His Marriage (6a)

1. “husband of one wife” = Lit. “a one woman man”
2. No divorce or polygamy
3. Question: Does a man have to be married to pastor? Answer: Not stated as a qualification but is assumed (also Vs. 4-5). B.H. Carrol stated, “I will say this for the unmarried pastor: If he is not wiser than Solomon, more prudent than Augustus and more patient than Job, he certainly has rocks ahead for him.” (Interpretation of the English Bible)

B. His Children (6b)

1. Faithful children – saved and committed to the things of God
2. Upright children
 - a. ‘riot’ = Refers to one who lives an abandoned life, one who squanders his means and wastes his money on pleasures, one unable to save
 - b. ‘unruly’ = disorderly, not in submission, insubordinate

III. Character Qualifications (Vs. 7-8)

A. What is to be absent (Vs. 7)

1. Not self-willed = made up of self (autos) + enjoy oneself (hedomai). Refers to one who is self-pleasing and self-centred, not open to the thoughts and feelings of others.
2. Not soon angry = reference to a quick temper (boiling hot easily)
3. Not given to wine = abstaining from intoxicating beverages
4. No striker = not a giver of blows, not a fighter
5. Not given to filthy lucre = not covetous. “Not adopting one’s teaching to the hearers in hope of getting more from them.” (Linguistic Key)

B. What is to be present (Vs. 8)

1. Lover of hospitality = lit. a lover of strangers. A man with an open home.
2. Lover of good men = in pursuit of godly associations (Prov.13:20)
3. Sober = of a sound mind
4. Just = upright, man of integrity
5. Holy = unpolluted, a man who is serious about separation and purity
6. Temperate = self-mastery (control), under the control of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:23)

IV. Doctrinal Qualifications (Vs. 9)

A. Standing for Doctrine (9a)

1. “holding fast” = to cling to, to hold firmly to (in the face of opposition)
2. 1 Tim. 1:3 *“As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they **teach no other doctrine,**”*
3. “faithful word” = trustworthy, reliable
4. “as he hath been taught” = reference to Apostolic doctrine. Paul instructed Timothy, *“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;”* (2 Tim. 3:14) The N.T. requires strict adherence to an authoritative system of doctrine
5. *“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine...”* Acts 2:42

B. Correcting the wayward (9b)

1. ‘that’ = the goal of “holding fast”
2. “sound doctrine” = healthy teaching (essential for a healthy church!)
3. ‘exhort’ = urge, encourage, plead
4. ‘convince’ = rebuke, reprove
5. ‘gainsayers’ = the “talkers back”. Those who resist and contradict sound doctrine

Conclusion:

1. Pray for your pastor. Turn these qualifications into a prayer list.
2. Do we have a biblical view of the ministry?

Profile of a False Teacher

Text: Titus 1:10-16

Introduction:

1. Paul has outlined the priority to Titus of electing godly men to oversee the Cretan churches.
2. One of the key reasons for this was the threat of false teachers. A large part of the shepherd's work is to protect the flock from predators. Paul instructed Timothy in 1 Timothy 4 that he would be a "good minister of Jesus Christ" if he regularly warned the believers about apostasy. Illustration: David's experience with the lion and bear (1 Samuel 17:34-36)
3. There are many, many warnings of false doctrine in the N.T. as it is one of the main super weapons in the devil's arsenal to use against the church. False prophets are seen in both the Old and New Testaments
4. This lesson: Paul exposes the Cretan false teachers

I. The Character of a False Teacher (Vs. 10-11)

A. Disobedient

1. 'unruly' = disobedient, un-subjected, rebellious
2. Same word used in Vs. 6 of unruly children

B. Empty

1. 'vain' = empty and worthless
2. Their words were impressive but there was no substance or content to them. Their words were like hot air!

C. Deceptive

1. 'deceivers' = they mislead people
2. "specially they of the circumcision" = constant problem in the early church

D. Subversive

1. 'subvert' = to turn upside down, overthrow
2. "whole houses" = entire families/groups of people affected at one time. Heresy is like a cancer that spreads through whole families.

E. Covetous

1. "filthy lucre's sake" = exposes underlying motive. They used their false teachings to gain a following so that they might benefit financially!
2. 2 Peter 2:3 *"And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."*

3. Illustration - Joel Osteen

Pastor of the Lakewood Church in Houston Texas that boasts a weekly attendance of 47,000. Osteen lives in a mansion in Houston Texas valued at 10.5 million. He makes multiple millions from his book

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sales. He was reportedly paid a \$13 million dollar advance by the Publishing House, Free Press for one of his latest books. Due to the lucrative returns on his book sales, he stopped taking the \$200K salary from his church in 2005. Osteen's popularity is undoubtedly due to his positive only, non-judgmental, prosperity preaching. Osteen describes his calling as this: to give hope. "Most people are beaten down by life already," he says in a soothing southern accent. "They don't come to hear me say, 'You know what? You're all sinners.' They already know that. I'd rather say, 'You know what? God's on your side.'"¹

II. The Correction of a False Teacher (Vs. 12-14)

A. Silence Them (Vs. 11a)

B. Rebuke Them (Vs. 12-13)

1. The quotation (12)
 - a. Paul quotes one of the Grecian philosophers, Epimenides of the sixth century B.C. He was considered a prophet and one of the seven wisest men of greater Greece.
 - b. Paul endorses this testimony in the words, "This witness is true"
 - c. 'liars' = the Greek verb 'kretizein' meaning "to act as a Cretan" became synonymous with the concept of "playing the liar," just as "to act as a Corinthian" was tantamount to "indulging in sexual immorality." (Hester)
 - d. "evil beasts" = wild and ferocious
 - e. "slow bellies" = describes their greed & gluttony
2. The command (Vs. 13)
 - a. Sharply censure – 'sharply' = abruptly, severely, curtly
 - b. The goal – to bring them to soundness in faith. Note: The desire behind such a rebuke is to see the individual recovered to truth.
 - c. Psalm 141:5 ***"Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also shall be in their calamities."***
 - d. Prov. 27:5-6 ***"Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."***

C. Refuse Them (Vs. 14)

1. Jewish Fables (14a)
 - a. "give heed" = to give assent to, to adhere to, to attach oneself to, to commit oneself to
 - b. 'fables' = myths, fictional ideas. Popular with the Cretans (S. Vs. 12)
 - c. Examples of myths in the writings of the Jewish Rabbis: Adam and Eve were of gigantic stature. God gave Adam a jewel which could cure all diseases. The soul of Adam passed into the body of Noah and David and would eventually pass into the Messiah!

¹ Joel Osteen Counts His Blessings, People Magazine Article Dec 17th 2007, <http://people.com/archive/joel-osteen-counts-his-blessings-vol-68-no-25/>

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- d. Modern illustration: The Roman Catholic church with its unbiblical myths such as Peter being the first pope; Mary as the immaculate, perpetual virgin and Queen of Heaven; purgatory; the mass the literal body and blood of Christ etc...
2. Commandments of men (14b)
 - a. False doctrine is invented by man.
 - b. These ideas turn people away from the truth

III. The Conduct of a False Teacher (Vs. 15-16)

A. Perverted Perspective (Vs. 15)

1. Contrast between true believers and false teachers.
2. Jewish dietary laws likely in view (note “Jewish fables” Vs. 14a)
3. “mind and conscience” = their inner life is corrupted through false teaching. The result is a perverted perspective of life.

B. Perverted Practice (Vs. 16)

1. The talk of their lips (16a)
 - a. ‘profess’ = to confess
 - b. “but in works” = there is no substance to their words
2. The fruit of their lives (16b)
 - a. Their mouths say one thing but their actions say the opposite!
 - b. ‘abominable’ = detestable
 - c. ‘disobedient’ = un-submissive to God and His Word
“...*obedience of faith.*” Rom. 16:26
 - d. ‘reprobate’ = rejected after being tested. Same word translated ‘disqualified’ in 1 Cor. 9:27 (athletic context)
 - e. 1 John 2:3-4 “*And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. **He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.***” (See also 1 John 3:6-10)
 - f. Mat 7:15-20 “*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.***”
 - g. You are not saved by works, but if you are truly saved, you’ll work!

Conclusion: What is our attitude to error? Do our lives shew forth evidence of the salvation we profess?

Sound Christian Living Part 1

Text: Titus 2:1-3

Introduction:

1. This chapter: The Apostle emphasizes the things that “become sound doctrine”, that is, the life and practice that is to accompany sound doctrine.
2. The Apostle brings a challenge to each group within the church concerning their Christian duties.
3. Godly Christian living as commanded in this passage is all made possible through the grace of God (Vs. 11-14)
4. This lesson: We will examine the first three of the six groups addressed

I. The Preacher Exhorted (Vs. 1)

- A. He is responsible to preach **both** sound doctrine and sound Christian living.
- B. ‘speak’ = both formal and informal settings. In public preaching and private counseling.
- C. ‘become’ = that which is fitting
- D. Titus more strongly emphasizes the practical dimension. Remember, the key thought is “maintain good works” (3:8)
- E. Sound doctrine and sound living go hand in hand. Both must be addressed by the preacher.
- F. Matthew Henry: “Minister must not stay in generals, but must divide to everyone his portion, what belongs to his age, or place, or condition of life; they must be particular as well as practical in their preaching; they must teach men their duty, and must teach all and each his duty.”
- G. Titus is again exhorted in Vs. 15 “*These things **speak**, and **exhort**, and **rebuke** with all authority. **Let no man despise thee.**”*
- H. Paul exhorted Timothy, “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)

II. The Senior Men Exhorted (Vs. 2)

Paul begins with the older men due to the importance of their position. Older believers set the standard for morality in the churches (Cloud) Senior men in the church are to be exemplary in 6 key areas. They are to be:

- A. **Sober** = circumspect. Also translated ‘vigilant’ in 1 Tim. 3:2. It refers to sober mindedness and spiritual and moral vigilance in all areas of one’s life. It is the opposite of spiritual carelessness and half-

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heartedness. It is the opposite of the “spiritual retirement” mode of life that so many old men fall into. (Cloud)

- B. Grave** = honorable. A godly, dignified manner of life.
- C. Temperate** = self-control. They have learned to draw on the Spirit’s power to keep their emotions and appetites under control.
- D. Sound** = doctrinal purity (note “in faith”). They are committed in heart and action to the doctrines of the faith
 - 1. Proverbs 16:31 *“The hoary head is a crown of glory, **if** it be found in the way of righteousness.”*
 - 2. Ephesians 4:14 *“**That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive:**”*
 - 3. Hebrews 13:9 *“**Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.**”*
- E. Loving** = Christian love. They have learned through years of experience to be channels of God’s love to others. This love is primarily an action (Refer 1 Cor. 13)
- F. Patient** = means to “stay under.” Something often lacking in older men! “Aged persons are apt to be peevish, fretful, and passionate; and therefore need to be on their guard against such infirmities and temptations.” (Matthew Henry)

III. The Senior Ladies Exhorted (Vs. 3)

- A. Behaviour as becometh holiness** = a life that is consistent with their Christian profession. They are a good testimony to others in the way they conduct themselves.
 - 1. 1 Tim 2:9-10 “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”
 - 2. This is a broad principle that encompasses a woman’s whole manner of life. It includes things like modesty, submission to the husband’s headship in the home etc...
- B. Not false accusers** = not slanderers. Literally, not devils! Greek word is ‘diabolos’ (δίαβολος). A common problem on the Island of Crete! They are careful not to fall into the common trap of older ladies in becoming gossips and busybodies.
- C. Not Given to much wine** = abstaining from intoxicating beverages (principle would extend to other ungodly substances)

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D. Teachers of good things = they have a ministry to the younger ladies. They are not to teach men (1 Timothy 2:12; 1 Cor. 14:34-35) but can teach children (2 Tim. 1:5 & 3:15) and other ladies.

1. Every senior lady is teaching and influencing the younger generation in the church in some way by their life and words. The question to ask is, “What am I passing on to the next generation?”
2. She is to teach ‘good’ things. These things are outlined Vs. 4-5. To properly qualify to teach these things, she must first exemplify them herself.
3. Note: Context is the local church. This teaching ministry is vital in the local church. Ladies meetings are important!
4. This ministry is so vital in a day when Christian womanhood is under siege.

Conclusion: Do our lives match our lips? Does our Christian faith affect our daily lives? Are we different and distinct from the world in our practice?

Sound Christian Living Part 2

Text: Titus 2:4-5

Introduction:

1. This chapter: The Apostle emphasizes the things that “become sound doctrine”, that is, the life and practice that is to accompany sound doctrine. “Christianity is primarily indeed, a doctrine, but only that it may be in the true sense a life; and the two can never be kept apart from each other in the public teaching of the church without imminent peril to both.” (Fairbairn)
2. The Apostle brings a challenge to each group within the church concerning their Christian duties.
3. This lesson: Exhortations to the younger women

I. Her Mindset (Vs. 4a)

- A. ‘sober’ = circumspect. Also translated ‘vigilant’ in 1 Tim. 3:2.
- B. It refers to sober mindedness and spiritual and moral vigilance in all areas of one’s life. (Cloud)
- C. Note: A prominent theme in this chapter – S. Vs. 2, 4, 6, & 12
- D. “It refers to a woman who is not caught up, for example, in worshipping Hollywood and pop stars. It refers to a woman who is not giddy after the sensual products of the fashion industry.” (Cloud)

II. Her Family (4b)

A. Husband

1. She loves Him (4)
 - a. She loves him unconditionally (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)
 - b. She loves him physically (1 Corinthians 7:1-5)
 - i. “love their husbands” = Greek word is φιλανδρος
 - ii. Husbands are commanded to αγαπαω their wives (Eph. 5:25)
 - iii. The word ‘love’ in Ephesians 5:25 express an intellectual attachment of choice and selection. It carries the idea of esteem, respect and reverence. It is the love of choice and commitment. (Trench)
 - iv. The word ‘love’ in this passage (Titus 2:4) refers to a relation that is more emotional and that implies more passionate warmth of affection. (Trench)
2. She obeys Him (5)
 - a. Ephesians 5:22-24 *“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the*

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saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.”

- b. 1 Cor. 11:3 *“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and **the head of the woman is the man**; and the head of Christ is God.”*
- c. Application to singles: Develop a biblical mindset on these matters before entering into marriage.

B. Children

1. She loves them
2. The last days are marked by an absence of “natural affection” (2 Tim. 3:3)
3. She views her children as blessings from God - Psalm 127:3-5 *“Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.”*
4. She loves them enough to discipline and train them (refer Proverbs)

III. Her Character (Vs. 5a)

A. Discreet

1. ‘discreet’ = comes from same root word as ‘sober’ in Vs. 4. “The Holy Spirit is thus emphasizing to the women the importance of sober mindedness, of spiritual and moral vigilance. The woman must be discreet by what she allows herself to think about; by what she reads; by what she watches; by the conversations she has.” (Cloud)
2. ‘discreet’ = The literal sense is, separate, reserved, wary, hence discerning. It means prudent; wise in avoiding errors or evil, and in selecting the best means to accomplish a purpose; circumspect; cautious, wary; not rash. Gen. 41:33 “Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man **discreet** and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.” (Websters 1828)

B. Chaste

1. ‘chaste’ = clean, innocent, modest (Strong’s). It comes from the same root word as ‘holy’. The word is translated elsewhere as ‘pure’ (Phil. 4:8; 1 Tim. 5:22)
2. The word refers to moral purity, a purity that is possessed inwardly and expressed outwardly in one’s actions and adornment.
3. 1 Tim. 2:9-10 *“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in **modest apparel**, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; **But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”***

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4. 1 Peter 3:3-4 *“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be **the hidden man of the heart**, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”*
5. Note: Ladies have a profound influence on the moral atmosphere around them either for good or evil by virtue of their natural beauty. Natural beauty without godliness is of no value. Prov. 11:22 *“As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.”*

C. Good: describes the woman's life overall. Contains the idea of kindness.

IV. Her Role (5b)

A. Home maker

1. “keepers at home” = working at home, caring for the house, domestically inclined (Strongs).
2. Comes from two Greek words, ‘oikos’ (house) and ‘ouros’ (to guard)
3. Implies **both** domestic and spiritual care of the home
4. 1 Timothy 5:14 *“I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, **guide the house**, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”*
5. Note: “guide the house” = literally means “a house despot or lord”. She manages the home.

B. The danger of feminism, the working woman and the reversal of roles in the 21st century

V. Her Motivation (5c)

A. The honour of God and His Word - “that the word of God be not blasphemed”

B. Her godly life is a good witness and testimony of the truth of the Gospel

Conclusion:

1. Do you have a Biblical mindset as a Christian woman or have you imbibed the 21st century, feministic philosophy of womanhood?
2. Challenge: Christian ladies need to view their role of being wives, mothers and home keepers as a **high calling**.
3. Older ladies: What sort of example are you setting for the next generation? Have you embraced the ministry of mentoring the younger ladies?

Sound Christian Living Part 3

Text: Titus 2:6-10

Introduction:

1. This chapter: The Apostle emphasizes the things that “become sound doctrine”. Our lives are to be an adornment to the truth (note 10b)
2. The Apostle brings a challenge to each group within the church concerning their Christian duties.
3. This lesson: Exhortations to the young men and servants

I. The Principle for Young Men (Vs. 6)

- A. ‘sober minded’ = self-controlled, serious & circumspect. Also translated ‘vigilant’ in 1 Tim. 3:2.

It refers to sober mindedness and spiritual and moral vigilance in all areas of one’s life. (Cloud)

- B. Websters: “Regular, calm; not under the influence of passion, serious, solemn and grave

- C. Soberness is a prominent theme in this chapter – S. Vs. 2, 4, 6, & 12

- D. Note: This mindset is the complete opposite to the philosophy promoted by the world where young men tend to be flippant, loose, unthinking, unwise and unrestrained in their passions.

II. The Pattern for Young Men (Vs. 7-8)

A. The Preachers Life (7a)

1. ‘shewing’ = to hold before
2. ‘pattern’ = a type, model. The word originally meant, “an impression made by a die.” Titus was so to live that his life would be like a “spiritual die” that would impress itself on others. (Wiersbe)
3. “good works” = Christian service and conduct
4. 1 Corinthians 11:1 ***“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”***
5. 1 Corinthians 4:15-16 ***“For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.”***
1. 1 Timothy 4:12 ***“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”***

B. The Preachers Doctrine (7b)

In relation to doctrine/teaching, Titus was to model the following three principles:

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1. Uncorruptness = not corrupt, pure. Doctrine that is faithful to the Scriptures and not intermingled with error.
 - a. Especially important for younger men who are more naturally prone to being lifted up in fleshly pride
 - b. Heresy is a work of the flesh: Gal 5:19-20 *“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, **emulations**, wrath, **strife**, **seditions**, **heresies**,”*
 - c. Vital that the preacher and the older men (S. Vs 2) are pure in their doctrine
2. Gravity = dignity, venerableness, that which is worthy of respect, that which is honorable.
 - a. Same word used in Vs. 2 concerning the aged men.
 - b. Same word used for those holding the office of deacon (1 Timothy 3:8).
 - c. This refers to the manner of the preacher’s teaching. It should be delivered with solemnity and soberness. The pulpit should not be used as a place for excessive humor (e.g. endless joke telling), questionable statements (e.g. suggestive concepts, blue jokes, toilet talk) or empty waffle (e.g. Ford Vs. Holden, Crowes Vs. Port, Samsung Vs. Iphone)
3. Sincerity = incorrupt, genuine, honest. There is an absence of hypocrisy.

C. The Preachers Speech (8)

1. ‘sound’ = healthy and wholesome
2. “cannot be condemned” = above reproach, no just cause for accusation

III. The Precepts for Servants (Vs. 9-10)

A. Obedience (9a)

1. ‘servant’ = applies to any situation in life where a believer is under service to another. In our day, it would apply directly to the workplace.
2. ‘obedient...please them well in all things’ = all lawful things. If we are asked to do something contrary to God’s Word, we must obey the higher law (Acts 5:29)

B. Respect (9b)

1. “not answering again” = means to dispute, to refuse. Translated ‘contradict’ in Acts 13:45 and “speak against” in John 19:12
2. Refers to one with an argumentative, disrespectful attitude
3. Note: An authority can be appealed to, but it must be in a respectful tone, with a willingness to submit when the final decision is made.

C. Honesty (10a)

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1. “not purloining” = to embezzle. ‘purloin’ literally means to take or carry away for one’s self; hence to steal; to take by theft (Webster).
2. “To purloin or embezzle means “to appropriate fraudulently to one’s own use what is entrusted to one’s care and management. It differs from stealing and robbery in this, that the latter imply a wrongful taking of another’s goods, but embezzlement denotes the wrongful appropriation and use of what came into possession by right. It is not uncommon for men entrusted with public money to embezzle it.” (Webster 1828)
3. E.G. misuse of company funds & resources (i.e. a company credit card). Illustration from my previous workplace.

D. Faithfulness (10b)

1. ‘fidelity’ = faithfulness, careful and exact observance of duty, or performance of obligations. (Webster)
2. Comes from the Greek word πιστις (faith)
3. Refers to one who is faithful and dependable. One who has a good work ethic.

E. Purpose (10c)

1. “adorn the doctrine” = lives that are a good testimony for the truth
2. “As a beautiful picture may be enhanced by an appropriate frame, so we make Christian teaching attractive if we exhibit its power and truth in our lives.” (Kent, Jr.)

Conclusion: Do our lives match our lips? Are we living out our Christian profession practically?

In Grace's Classroom

Text: Titus 2:11-15

Introduction:

1. This chapter: The Apostle emphasizes the things that “become sound doctrine”. Our lives are to be an adornment to the truth (note 10b)
2. This lesson: The Apostle anchors the exhortations of the passage in the grace of God.
3. ‘teaching’ = to instruct, educate or discipline (e.g. train a child). Also translated ‘chasten’, ‘chastise’, ‘instruct’, ‘learn’ and ‘teach’.
4. The Grace of God working in our lives will teach us three things...

I. What to Leave (12a)

A. Ungodliness

1. The opposite of a ‘godly’ life
2. ‘ungodliness’ = irreverence towards God, disrespect
3. Illustration: Ungodliness is the breaking of the first table of the 10 commandments which all have to do with our relationship to God.

B. Worldly Lusts

1. ‘lust’ = strong desire/craving
2. How can we love the things that nailed Jesus Christ to the cross?
3. Note: This exposes the false teaching of ‘grace’ amongst some believers that advocates the idea that God’s grace gives me license to live in a loose, worldly fashion.
4. Many will say, “we’re not under the law but under grace!” (Rom. 6:14) Let’s read the whole verse in context
5. Romans 6:14-15 ***“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.”***
6. 1 John 2:15-17 *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”*
7. James 4:4 *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore shall be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*
8. Illustrations: My wife’s grandparents left the dance floor after they were converted

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II. How to Live (12b)

A. Soberly

1. Key theme of this chapter
2. Definition: To be of a sound mind, to be alert and vigilant. “That self-restraint that governs all passions and desires, enabling the believer to be conformed to the mind of Christ.”

B. Righteously

1. To live justly and uprightly!
2. To live right!

C. Godly

1. This means “to live piously and godly in our manner of life. It denotes that piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him (Vines).
2. 1 Peter 1:15-16 *“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy.”*

D. Immediately – “in this present world”

III. Where to Look (Vs. 13-14)

A. The Event (Vs. 13)

1. The blessed hope
 - a. ‘hope’ = a confident expectation
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 “For the Lord himself **shall** descend...”
2. The Glorious appearing
 - a. How glorious it will be to see the King in His glorified beauty
 - b. Rev. 1:12-17 “And I turned to see the voice that spake with me...”

B. The Person (Vs. 14)

1. His Name
 - a. The Great God = clear reference to the deity of Christ. He is God!
 - b. The Saviour
2. His Work
 - a. He gave Himself = our substitute
 - b. Two-fold purpose
 - i. To Redeem us from all iniquity (save us)
 - ii. To purify us unto himself (sanctify us)
 - iii. ‘peculiar’ = one’s special possession
 - iv. Jim Elliot: “God I pray Thee, light these idle stick of my life that I may burn for thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is thine. I seek not a long life, but a full one, like You, Lord Jesus.”

Conclusion: Are you submitting to the instruction of grace in your life?

Live like You're Saved!

Text: Titus 3:1-7

Introduction:

1. This chapter: Concluding exhortations
2. This lesson: The Apostle now exhorts us concerning our relationship with the unbelieving world, and particularly, our relationship to earthly authorities.

I. The Duties of Believers (Vs. 1-2)

A. Our attitude to authority (1a)

1. “be subject” = to put oneself under the authority of
2. “principalities, powers, magistrates” = government authority
3. Cretans had a reputation for being insubordinate (Fairbairn)
4. Note: Limitations to earthly authorities: “Obedience to external authority can be due only in so far as that authority has a right to command; when it oversteps this, and issues injunctions which reach beyond its proper line of things, the higher principles of obligation come in: “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29) (Fairbairn)

B. Our approach to life (1b)

1. ‘ready’ = a willing mindset, not having to be coerced and coaxed
2. “every good work” = outflow of genuine salvation. In context, could refer to things required by those in authority

C. Our agreeableness to others (2)

1. Truthful – “speak evil of no man”
 - a. Refers to speaking against a person in order to injure them (slander)
 - b. Note: To reprove sin and error in a godly manner is not “speaking evil”
2. Peaceful – “be no brawlers but gentle”
 - a. “no brawlers” = lit. not fighters, not contentious (in word or action)
 - b. ‘gentle’ = “sweet reasonableness, being satisfied with less than is due you”
3. Humble – “shewing all meekness unto all men”
 - a. Word closely related to humility
 - b. Webster: “mild of temper; not easily provoked or irritated; yielding; given to forbearance under injuries; humble; submissive to the divine will”
 - c. Vine: “Meekness is the opposite to self-assertiveness and self-interest. It stems from trust in God’s goodness and control over the situation.”

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d. Illustration: Moses (Compare Num. 12:3; Ex. 32:19-20)

II. The Depravity of our Past (Vs. 3)

There are 7 things that characterized our past lives before conversion:

A. We were Ignorant

1. 'foolish' = unwise
2. I. Cor. 2:14 – Natural man doesn't understand the truth

B. We were Rebellious

1. 'disobedient' = to God's laws
2. Rebellious in nature and practice

C. We were Deceived

1. 'deceived' = led astray
2. Deceived by Satan, the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)
3. Deceived by our own sinful hearts (Jeremiah 17:9)

D. We were Enslaved

1. Slaves to lusts
2. Slaves to pleasures
3. 'divers' = many coloured, of various sorts. E.g. "divers diseases" (Mark 1:34); "divers temptations" (James 1:2)

E. We were Revengeful

1. 'malice' = malice desires hurt to another and rejoices in it (Matthew Henry)
2. Example: Absalom

F. We were Envious

G. We were Hateful

1. Absence of true love
2. Test is not if one can love someone who is close to them. Test is how we respond to those who injure us.

III. The Deliverance of God (Vs. 4-7)

A. The Compassion of God (4)

Note the words used in these verses to describe the heart of God:

1. 'kindness' = love of man. Our word 'philanthropy' comes from this word
2. 'love' = Divine love (John 3:16; 1 John 4:10)
3. 'mercy' = not giving us the justice we deserve (5)
4. 'grace' = giving us what we don't deserve (a gift) (6)

B. The Helplessness of Man (5a)

1. Salvation is 100% of Christ and 0% of man!
2. Isaiah 64:6
3. Ephesians 2:8-9

C. The Operation of the Spirit (5b)

1. "washing of regeneration"

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- a. 'washing' = the laver or bath (reference to spiritual cleansing)
- b. 'regeneration' = new birth. Compound word – 'again' + "to become"
2. "renewing of the Holy Ghost"
 - a. 'renewing' = to be made new
 - b. "Holy Ghost" = the Agent of the new birth (not baptism or some other sign gift)
 - c. John 3 – Jesus' teaching on the new birth

D. The Abundance of salvation (6)

1. 'shed' = pour out
2. 'abundantly' = richly
3. Here is Love (Hymn)

Here is love, vast as the ocean, Loving kindness as the flood, When the Prince of Life, our Ransom, Shed for us his precious blood. Who His love will not remember? Who can cease to sing His praise? He can never be forgotten, Throughout Heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion, Fountains opened deep and wide; Through the floodgates of God's mercy flowed a vast and gracious tide, Grace and love like mighty rivers, Poured incessant from above, And Heav'n's peace and perfect justice, kissed a guilty world in love.

Of thy fullness thou art pouring, Thy great power and love on me, Without measure, full and boundless, drawing out my heart to thee.

4. The Love of God (Hymn)

E. The Results of salvation (7)

1. Justification = declared righteous
2. Inheritance (Rom. 8:15-17)

Conclusion:

1. Are you saved?
2. If so, are you living like it?

Keep it Up

Text: Titus 3:8-15

Introduction:

1. This chapter: Concluding exhortations
2. This lesson: Exhortation to consistently affirm these truths so that God's people might continue in their observance and obedience of them.

I. Affirm (Vs. 8 & 14)

- A. What he is to affirm – “these things”
- B. How he is to affirm – “constantly”
 1. The preacher is duty bound to bring these themes regularly before the people of God
 2. We have a tendency to forget unless we are reminded
- C. Why he is to affirm – “maintain good works”
 1. “be careful” = denotes the application of earnest and continued thought, a careful striving of the soul in this direction
 2. ‘maintain’ = to stand before, rule, preside, superintend. Speaks of a vigilant mindset and outlook. See also Vs. 14 where lending aid to traveling believers is in view.
 3. “good works” = fruit of salvation described in Vs. 3-7. Eph. 2:10 – saved **unto** good works.
 4. “good and profitable” = the value of Christian living.
 - a. We enjoy the blessings of a holy life in this life (e.g. peace, joy, fellowship, family) and in the next (e.g. rewards for faithful service)
 - b. 1 Timothy 4:8 *“For bodily exercise profiteth little: but **godliness is profitable unto all things**, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”*

II. Avoid (Vs. 9)

- A. Foolish Questions
 1. ‘foolish’ = English word ‘moron’ comes from this word
 2. ‘questions’ = not the sincere questions of one seeking the Lord or desiring to know the truth. The questions of one who has an agenda to confuse and lead into error. Some questions are calculated to have an effect.
 3. Cloud: “A foolish question is a question that is asked insincerely by a heretic with the goal of confusing people and leading them astray from sound doctrine. It is good to ask questions, but it is evil to entertain questions which deny Bible truth.”

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4. Wiersbe: “I have learned that professed Christians who like to argue about the Bible are usually covering up some sin in their lives, are very insecure, and are usually unhappy at work or at home.”
- B. Genealogies = Jewish fables based on the genealogical tables of the Pentateuch (S. 1:14). Modern example: Trying to find a secret code in the Hebrew text of the O.T.
- C. Contentions & Strivings
 1. A byproduct of agitations over foolish questions
 2. “the law” = common point of contention amongst the Jews. Adding works to the Gospel
 3. “unprofitable and vain” = note contrast with Vs. 8. Godly living brings true benefit. Time spent on wrangling over heretical ideas represents waste.

III. Admonish (Vs. 10-11)

- A. Reject (Vs. 10)
 1. ‘heretick’
 - a. comes from root word “to make a choice”. Refers to one who makes a choice to be aligned with error. Factions and schisms are the natural result of these choices
 - b. “Heresy is much more than ignorance. It is more than simply holding to an error. It is taking sides with error against truth.” (Robert Sargent)
 - c. 1 Corinthians 11:19 *“For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.”*
 2. ‘reject’
 - a. An attempt is to be made to recover the individual from their error.
 - b. This is to be done up to two times. If there is no positive response, they are to be disciplined
 - c. Cloud: “We are not told to become involved in endless efforts to restore them or to win them to the truth. When it is obvious that a person is set in his false ways, he must be rejected and put out of the assembly.”
- B. Recognize (Vs. 11)
 1. The underlying heart issue (condition) of the heretic is unveiled
 2. ‘subverted’ = twisted or turned inside out
 3. ‘sinneth’ = against the knowledge of the truth he has
 4. “condemned of himself” = his conduct reveals this

IV. Assist (Vs. 12-14)

- A. Assist Paul (Vs. 12)

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1. Paul intended to send someone to care for the work in Crete in order to free Titus to come to him.
 2. Important principle: The work of God needs oversight and it is dangerous to leave it without leadership
 3. 'Nicopolis' = a number of options as several cities called by this name in the ancient world. Could be in Thrace on the border of Macedonia.
- B. Assist Zenas & Apollos (Vs. 13-14)
1. Traveling preachers.
 2. 'diligently' = with excellence
 3. "nothing be wanting" = provision of needs. One of the distinguishing features of the Christian faith is its hospitable spirit.
 4. "necessary uses" = duty of God's people
 5. 3 John 1:5-8 *"Beloved (Gaius), thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou **bring forward on their journey** after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be **fellowhelpers to the truth.**"*

V. Acknowledge (Vs. 15)

- A. Greetings to Titus from Paul's companions
- B. Greetings to the brethren in Crete
- C. Note: An important part of the Christian life!

Conclusion:

1. How important is godliness to you?
2. What priority do we place on the maintenance of our Christian walk?