

“What EVERY Church NEEDS!”

“The Grace of God to an Undeserving People”

Titus 2:1-14

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Tonight, we will be transported over 1900 years into the past to a little island called Crete.

- Crete is the largest and most populous of the Greek islands, the fifth largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. It bounds the southern border of the Aegean sea. Crete lies approximately 100 miles south of the Greek mainland.

Sound Doctrine

Titus 2:1 “But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:”

- Paul is addressing a problem that existed on the island of Crete, but it’s also a problem the pervades us today.
- *The primary problem –*
 - **Titus 1:10-12** ¹⁰For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain ¹²One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.”
 - Because there were MANY insubordinate (rebellious), idle talkers (meaningless/useless) and deceivers (to lead astray)!
 - Whose mouths HAD to be stopped!
 - “*What germs are to a physical body, false teaching is to a spiritual body, the church.*” Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 264). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
- *The secondary problem –*
 - **Titus 1:16** “They profess to know God, but in works they deny *Him*, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”
- *The solution –*
 - *Sound Doctrine* – to be healthy, but healthy in the mind.
 - **Titus 1:5** “For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.”

- *Set in order* – That phrase is a medical term; it was applied to the setting of a crooked limb.
- Sound doctrine would set things in order.
 - What a cast is to a broken bone, sound doctrine would be to the soul.

▪ **Ephesians 4:14-16** “...we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

- So there is a trickle down effect.
 - The doctrine is taught by the pastor, then the applying of the truth by the body of Christ.

▪ **1 Timothy 3:15** “*I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*”

Godly Older Men

Titus 2:2 “...that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;..”

- *Older* men – adult male advanced in years.
- *Sober* – self-controlled, clear in their thinking.
 - **1 Timothy 3:3** “...not given to wine,..”
 - I think it’s important that we not look to the Bible to give us permission to do something that would harm our relationship with the Lord, our family, the church or the world.
 - Also, we should be careful not to stumble another.
- *Reverent* – worthy of respect
- *Temperate* – attitude of the mind that leads to self-control.
 - These men don’t allow themselves to operate by the sinful desires of the flesh!
- *Sound* – accurate
 - *Sound in faith* – they know what they believe, they have a relationship with Christ.
 - *Sound in love* – what they believe is put into practice in loving others.
 - *Sound in patience* – behavior is an evidence of what they profess.

Godly Older/Young Women

Titus 2:3-5 ^{“3} the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”

- *Likewise* – the things older men are called too, the older women are as well plus a couple of other things.
- *Not slanderers* – false accusers, the Greek word is devil or little devils.
 - They have control of their mouths.
- *Not given to much wine* – they have control of their appetites.
- *Teachers of good things* –
 - **Titus 1:10-11** ^{“10} For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ whose mouths must be stopped, *who subvert whole households*, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.”
 - Since households were being subverted (overturned/destroyed) they need the correct view of what a family should be.
 - *That younger women...*
 - love their husbands –
 - The “Christian” family was a brand-new concept!
 - There’s a saying, “As the family goes, so goes the nation.”
 - The family is the glue of civilization!
 - The family is the MOST important relationship on the face of the planet!!!
 - They had prearranged marriages in the Greco-Roman culture.
 - They didn’t fall in love and get married.
 - They married, then had to fall in love.
 - **Ephesians 5:22-24** ^{“22} Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*”
 - This doesn’t mean that women are subservient to men in any way.
 - Submit simply means to “rank under”
 - God has created order in every sphere of life.
 - In nations, in church, in family and in the work place.

- *Discreet* – “To be discreet” (Titus 2:5) is our familiar word sober-minded again (“temperate” in Titus 2:2). Outlook determines outcome; and if a person is not thinking rightly, he will not act properly. A woman needs a correct and disciplined outlook on her ministry in the home. “Self-controlled” is the idea contained in this word. If parents do not discipline themselves, they can never discipline their children.”¹
 - ¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 2, p. 265). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
- *Chaste* – pure of mind and heart
- *Homemaker* –
 - **1 Timothy 5:14** “Therefore I desire that *the* younger widows marry, bear children, *manage the house*, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”

- Young ladies, what women do you look up to? Are they women who encourage these qualities? Are they women who encourage you to be a worldly woman?

Godly Young Men

Titus 2:6-8 “⁶ Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, ⁷ in all things showing yourself *to be* a pattern of good works; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, ⁸ sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.”

- *Sober minded* – clear thinking that results in right living.
 - Young men listen up!
 - **Romans 8:5-8** “...those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”
 - **Romans 12:3** “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly.”
 - You can take on a mindset about what the world says a man is supposed to be.
 - In case you haven’t noticed, the world can’t make up its mind about what a man is supposed to be. Or a woman for that matter.
- *Pattern of good works* – example to be imitated.
 - **1 Timothy 4:12** “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
 - What they believe is put into action!

- *Doctrine* –
 - **2 Timothy 2:15** “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- *Incorruptibility* – unable to be corrupted through false teaching.
- *Sound speech* – healthy speech, the Greek word is ‘hygiē’ which is where we get our word hygiene.
 - **Proverbs 12:18** “There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise *promotes* health.”
 - All this adds up to what a godly young man should be. Young men, who do you look up to? Is that man someone that directs these qualities in you or something else?

The Motivation

Titus 2:11-14 “¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.”

- The Cretans didn’t deny themselves anything, but as believers, we are never to indulge the flesh!
- We are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.
 - **1 Peter 4:1-14** “...since Christ suffered ¹for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, ^abut for the will of God. ³ For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. ⁴ In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you*.”

James Hudson Taylor (1832-1905), better known as just Hudson Taylor, was one of the greatest missionaries of all time.

Once at age 4, Hudson piped up, "When I am a man, I mean to be a missionary and go to China."

However, as a teen, Hudson was influenced by his friends and became worldly for a period of time. But one afternoon when he was 17 years of age, in June 1849, he went into his father's library in search of a book to read. Finally, he picked up a

gospel tract entitled, "It is Finished," and decided to read the story in it. The Holy Spirit greatly used that tract, which soon led him to receive Christ as his Savior.

Taylor later founded the famous China Inland Mission, through which he established 20 mission stations, brought hundreds of missionaries to the field, trained some 700 Chinese workers, raised four million dollars by faith (which may be worth a billion or more in today's money), and developed a Chinese church of 125,000.

It has been said that at least 35,000 were his own converts and that he baptized some 50,000. He had a great gift for inspiring people to give themselves and their possessions to Christ.

Some years ago, the Communist, atheistic, anti-God government in China commissioned an author to write a biography of Hudson Taylor with the purpose of distorting the facts and presenting him in a bad light. They wanted to discredit the name of this consecrated missionary of the gospel, thus discrediting the gospel and our Lord.

But as the author was doing his research, he was increasingly impressed by Taylor's saintly character and godly life, and he found it extremely difficult to carry out his assigned task with a clear conscience.

Eventually, at the risk of losing his life, he laid aside his pen, renounced his atheism, and received Jesus as his personal Savior.

Whether we realize it or not, our example leaves an impression on others. Let us ask God to help us make it one of love, faith, and purity of life.