

Titus 2

Read verses 1 – 2

1. When you think of a church and church members, I hope that you think of a safe haven with people that you would want to call friends or family. Paul wanted the church to be a place where people on the outside would look and wonder what they have because it looks like something to be wanted. After all, as Christians, we are called to love others as ourselves.
2. Unfortunately, it doesn't always happen that way. When you put yourself first. We think that our worship experiences should be what we want or we have hidden agendas. In the first verses of Titus 2, Paul tells Titus what kind of behavior should be expected from the church membership.
3. In verse 1, Paul says that Titus should “*promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching.*” When we accepted Christ, we should have undergone a radical life-changing experience. Much of what Paul says should become second nature to us as Christians. The behavior of children reflects on their parents. We have said numerous times that our behavior as Christians reflects on Jesus and God. If we were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict us? Would others see your lifestyle in the world and know that you have had “wholesome teaching”?
4. Continuing with Paul's instruction to Titus on Christian living and teaching, Paul tells Titus to teach older men how to behave. He says that older men should learn to be:
 - a. Temperate or restrained or *sober*
 - b. Worthy of respect
 - c. *Self-controlled*
 - d. *Sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*
5. When I was in high school and college, there were numerous men that come to my mind that I would say had these characteristics: John Hankinson, John Brooks, Elmore Mowrey, Gene Brown, Ed Lehman, and George Price. As a

younger man, I would have learned these characteristics from these men. I could add more to the list. They taught me that it was important for men to be in church.

6. In the early 2000's, a leader of the American Baptist Men gave a talk at one of the Mohican Men's meetings. I have included some statistics that show the impact of fatherless families in our society today.

“Our world is suffering. Our young men are suffering. Men are dealing with a world that now is experiencing a fatherless generation with serious consequences. Note the following warnings all around us:

- 65% of youth suicides today are from fatherless homes.
- 90% of all homeless and runaway youth are from fatherless homes — 32 times higher than average.
- 80% of rapists come from fatherless homes.
- 71 % of high school dropouts come from fatherless homes.
- 85% of youth incarcerations in prison today are from fatherless homes.
- 90% of youth arsonists have no father at home.

Without strong Godly men leading marriages, families, children and church we are in trouble. We need men, fathers, disciples, leaders, models, examples and mentoring. We need men of God in the word of God led by the spirit of God teaching the children of God — many without fathers. We have been warned. The patterns of this world are not working. Be a Godly pattern for the younger generation. Blame no one else, the warnings are for us, for the body of Christ.” (Pastor Ron McClung)

7. Years ago, I had a junior-high aged young man ask me in Sunday School, “How much longer do I have to attend church? My father doesn't go to church, my grandfather doesn't go to church, so I should be getting old enough to stop coming to church.”

8. In verse 3, Paul moves on to “older women”. He tells Titus to teach them to be reverent, not slanderous or heavy drinkers. In the same way that I listed men who influenced my life, I could list women who did the same things. When I think of the characteristics of these women, their attributes were much like those possessed by the older men.
9. Hopefully, there are men and women in our church who will be good examples for the next generations. The list of characteristics that Paul lists in verses 4 and 5 are limited to those of his time. Today the number and types of characteristics would include those of women that work outside the home.
10. In Paul’s day, women took care of the household and raised their children. Some of the characteristics that Paul wants younger women to have are still appropriate for young women today. Today it is just as important for women “*to love their husbands and children.*” In case you missed it, it is important for ALL Christians to be self-controlled. Paul says that a young woman should be “pure” or “chaste” but in his letter to Timothy, Paul said that the deacons, elders and overseers should be the husband of one wife; this is the same idea.
11. Again, Paul says, “busy at home”. At that time in history, women were stay-at-home moms. Men were the bread winners and women took care of the household. Responsibilities in the home have changed to fit the time, but the idea is still the same. Even in the early 1900’s, this was the model for family life. My dad was the head of the household and we were all subject to him.
12. Paul says at the end of this section that it is proper for older men and women to be good examples for the next generations, “*so no one will malign the word of God.*” Guzik says regarding this, “This shows *how important* it is for the older women to teach these things, and for the younger women to learn them. When Christians don’t live in a Biblical, godly manner it means that the word of God may be blasphemed among the ungodly.” “Look the Green’s are Christians, but look how they are living. Doesn’t the Word of God say . . .”

Read verses 6 – 8

13. Paul moves on to young men. He tells Titus to teach young men to be “self-controlled”. Who better to do the teaching, than a self-controlled young man, Titus. Often with young men, you cannot tell them how to live, but you can show them by example. There are things, both good and bad, in my life that my dad taught me without saying a word.
14. How did you know the difference between right and wrong when you were growing up? You learned it by example or through correction by your parents. That is essentially what Paul is saying and has been saying. In verse 4, Paul said that older women will be examples for younger women. In verse 7, Paul says that older men should be good examples for younger men. He says, “*show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech*”. Paul is says make sure your life matches what you are saying. Don’t say one thing and then live another.
15. We covered this previously, but what are the fruits of the spirit? Galatians 5:22-23 says, “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*” Paul is saying the same thing in verse 8, “*so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.*” There is no law against good behavior and nothing bad can be said about good behavior either.

Read verses 9 – 10

16. In these two verses, Paul tells Titus what to teach slaves. He says that the slave should be subject to the master in everything. Unfortunately, in the first century slavery was a fact of life. It wasn’t something new, all through the exile to Babylon the invaders took the defeated people to be slaves. This region was also poor after the defeat and the survivors couldn’t afford to live. They had to go into servitude in order to feed their families.
17. When we studied the Book of Philemon, we got an idea of Paul’s feelings about slavery. He was not a fan and he wanted Philemon to take Onesimus back, not as a slave, but as a Christian brother even though Onesimus was not just a slave, but a slave that stole from Philemon.

18. What occurred between Onesimus and Philemon may have been why Paul specified “*not to steal from them*”. Paul knew what happened to slaves that talked back to their master or slaves that stole from their masters. They were beaten and could even have been put to death. Angering your master would have very bad consequences.
19. As a Christian slave, you should still have the fruit of the Spirit. Remember, Galatians 5:22 says, “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*” It doesn’t say that only the free have these characteristics, all Christians must have these characteristics. Paul says that if you possess the fruit of the Spirit, then you will be trustworthy and they “*will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.*”

Read verses 11 – 14

20. In verse 11, Paul says that salvation is for all people. In Galatians 3:28, Paul says that, “*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*” Regarding salvation, all people have an equal chance. Again, this is an argument against Calvinism. If we are chosen or predestined to be a believer, then how can salvation be for all people?
21. In verse 11, Paul says that it is the grace of God that brings salvation. Paul preached throughout his entire ministry that salvation comes from grace through faith. We put our faith in Jesus as the Christ and God gives us grace. He gives us so much grace that all of our sins are forgiven. We definitely don’t deserve it, but God gives us the righteousness of Jesus through His grace. There is no 10 step process to allow us to earn our way to salvation; it is grace through faith.
22. When we accept Jesus as our savior, then we begin living in the hope that heaven follows this life on earth. By the Rapture or by death, we will see Jesus face to face. Without Jesus’ work on the cross, then we have no hope. Many non-believers believe that this life is all there is, when we die, our soul ceases to exist. The dead body in the grave is all there is. As believers, we know that the

dead body in the grave was just a shell or a vessel that held our soul for a short time. Through Jesus Christ, the soul continues to more glorious things, what a blessed hope. Paul expands on what happens after death in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. This is the “*blessed hope*” that Paul is talking about. The grave is not the end.

23. In verse 14, Paul says that our salvation was bought and paid for by Jesus on the cross. We have been redeemed. Because we are sinners, our salvation was lost. Redemption is defined as buying back something that was lost. Jesus bought and paid for our salvation and all we have to do is claim Him as our savior. We have not and cannot live a perfect sin free life, but Jesus did. God takes Jesus’ perfect life to pay for our own. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*”
24. Paul ends this chapter by telling Titus to teach these things. This letter is much shorter than Paul’s two letters to Timothy. I am sure that by this time Titus would have had access to most of Paul’s letters, especially the letter to Timothy.
25. Armed with most of the New Testament, Titus would have been able to teach and preach the true Gospel. He would have been able to “encourage and rebuke” in the name of Jesus Christ.
26. The final sentence in this chapter, “*Do not let anyone despise you.*” Titus would be despised if he did not live what he was teaching. It was necessary for Titus and all preachers of the Word to not just give lip service to the Word of God, but to apply it and live it.