

**Titus 2:1-10 – March 14, 2021**  
***What's Taught – What's Caught***  
**JD Farag**

Good morning and welcome to our Sunday morning second service. We have two services on Sunday. The first is the Bible Prophecy Update, and the second is our verse-by-verse study through the Bible. Today we find ourselves in Titus, and last week we finished Chapter 1.

We'll begin in Chapter 2, and our text will be verses 1 through 10. For those of you that are here, if you're there already or need to turn there, I'll ask you to do that at this time. If you're able to stand, I will ask you to do that too, and you can follow along as I read. If not, where you're seated is fine.

Beginning in verse 1, the Apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit is writing to Titus and says, "You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance. Likewise, [verse 3] teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live and not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

Then [verse 4] they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the Word of God. Similarly [verse 6], encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything, set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching, show integrity, seriousness, and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

Teach slaves [verse 9] to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive."

Let's pray if you would please join with me, and we'll ask God's blessing on our understanding. Lord, will You as only You can at this time settle our hearts and help us to focus and give You our undivided attention, especially with the text we have before us today? I know that You have a word for us today, and Lord, we want to hear what the Spirit would say to us, Your church. So, Lord, get our attention and then hold our attention, so our minds don't wander because we don't want to miss anything that's here for us in this passage. So we commit it to You in, and we submit ourselves to You and ask You for this in Jesus' name. Amen and amen. You can be seated, thank you.

I want to talk with you today about both how and why we live our Christian lives in such a way that's pleasing to God and very important, attractive to man, both? Doubtless, you have heard the saying, "Your walk needs to match your talk," or "Actions speak louder than words." The one I often hear is, "Practice what you preach." Do you know why we have sayings like this? It's because, in every arena of life, it's not so much what is taught as much as it is what's caught.

Enter today's text where the Apostle Paul, writing to Titus, explains how it is and why it is that he's to teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. Notice he doesn't say, teach sound doctrine. That's a given. No, he doesn't say it like that. He says, "Teach what is appropriate, applicable, conducive to sound doctrine." In other words, let your life be such a matter that the way you live your life is consistent with your doctrine. In other words, Titus, when you teach, teach in a way that matches the way you live, appropriate to sound doctrine, apropos if you prefer.

Now, it should be noted that Paul is very detailed in his explanation as it relates to the older men and the older women, and then the younger men and within the younger women. I'm going to let you decide which category you, especially the women, very touchy topic when you start talking about older, who you're calling old? No, that is just -- hey, there is no age limit here. Again, you know who you're. But then he even addresses what we better understood are the employees in their relationship with their employers.

What follows is Paul's detailed explanation, specifically as it relates to everyone's role and responsibility, whether young or old. Now before we jump into this, I want to say it again. I know we

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talked about this last week, but before us today, we have yet another one of those passages in God's Word where we are prone to just kind of read it and then just move on. I mean, let's be honest with ourselves when it comes to passages like this.

Certainly, the list that Paul writes to Titus resembles the list prior concerning the qualifications of elders, which also, in turn, resembles the list that Paul writes to Timothy, which is why we affectionately refer to Timothy and Titus as the pastoral epistles. Well, if they are pastoral epistles, then we don't need to be here, Pastor. This is for you. Nice try.

Not so fast because here in this Chapter, this is talking about everyone, young or old, man or woman. If you don't fall into one of these categories, can you raise your hand? That's what I thought, okay. I know that's kind of snarky, but oh, well, I think you get the point. Let's jump into this. Are you ready? All right.

In verses 1 and 2, Paul starts with the older men, and he tells Titus how he's to teach again, that is which appropriate to sound doctrine so as to be a good and godly example. Specifically, and here is the list, he says, "Teach them to be temperate, worthy of respect..." In other words, you have to earn it. Respect has to be earned. "... self-controlled and sound in faith, love, and endurance." Okay, no problem. No, there's a problem. That's kind of a tall order a little bit, isn't it?

Can we start with the first one? Temperate. You'll forgive me for the way I illustrate this, but I believe it is something along the lines of older men, act your age. What do you mean? Well, you know how, as we get older, men... .. Well, the world calls it a midlife crisis, where you realize hey, I got more years looking in the rear-view mirror than I do looking through the windshield moving forward. By the way, when I look in that rear-view mirror, not quite as much hair on the top of my old, balding head, either.

In other words, I'm getting older. I'm not as cool as I once was. So, what does the older guy do? I'm not talking about any of us, of course. I'm talking about other older men. So this is just all theoretical, right? So what does the older guy do? Oh, he tries to look younger and look cool.

Here's the question that I think needs to be asked and answered. You've got younger men looking up to you, and you're trying to be like them? Did it ever dawn on you that they want to look to a role model, to be like you? By the way, here is the deal: Try as we may, we will never be cool when we are older. You can try and stuff yourself into those skinny jeans and go buy a new car and do whatever you've got to do. You're still old, man; just deal with it. Or, as my wife likes to tell me, build a bridge and get over it.

I think that dovetails into the second one worthy of respect. Self-control: there is a depth of character in your life as an older man. You're sound. You're solid in your faith, in love. I want to talk about love in just a moment and endurance. The common denominator with all of these is that they speak to this need on the part of older men to be an example to those watching their lives. We'll talk more about this at the end.

Let's take just a moment on this one word: Love. Again, we can just read past it and read over it. Faith, love, and endurance, okay, next verse. Wait, love. I find it interesting the older you get, and again, we are speaking to the men, the older men. Women, you're next so... But we have this, as we get older, this tendency to get mean, right? We're not more loving the older we get—we kind of become cantankerous and short-fused and impatient.

Make no mistake about it, people are watching you, and whether we like it or not, those of us that have been walking with the Lord for a long period of time are being watched by those younger than us who want to look up to us. They really want, and especially in this day in which we live, there is almost like this hunger, this thirst, this vacuum looking for role models, godly men that can be godly examples. Oh, that's what that looks like.

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That's what that looks like. I've been watching this guy, and I see how he treats his wife, children, and family, so that's what that looks like. That's how a husband is to love his wife. That's how a man of God is to treat their children. Oh, that's why their children respect him.

I'm very convicted right now, so we're going to go to the women, okay? In verse 3, Paul moves from the older men to the older women and says that they are to be reverent in the way they live their lives. Interestingly, he would say what they're not to do. Hang onto that for a second because I think that's key in what he's saying they are to do. Sometimes the best way to know what to do is to know first what not to do.

So, what is the "what not to do?" Oh, how about this list, women? Sorry, I don't want to have too much fun with this, but maybe just a little bit -- slanderers. Okay, can we talk? No, literally, in fact, stop talking and slandering and gossiping or addicted to much wine. Now, these are the older women. Again, I'm going to leave that between you and the Holy Spirit.

Interesting, so the children are all grown up, you parented them, you were a good mom, a good wife. It's my time now! Where's that bottle of wine? Oh, I'm going to call sister so-and-so and, did you hear? Kind of like what, you paid your dues now you, kind of get to kick back and take it easy? No.

I find it very interesting that Paul would say instead of doing that because apparently, you have way too much time on your hands, you need to be busy about the things of the Lord - not busybodies. So you need to teach what is good. Okay, how? The answer is sort of by default, "Such that older women who are reverent are not living worldly lives." By default.

It kind of comports with the walking in the Spirit and not fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. When I was a young believer, I always had a hard time with that. I didn't know what does it mean to walk... What does that look like in the Christian life? You're saying if I walk in the Spirit, I won't fulfill the lust of the flesh? How does that work because I would really like to know? This sounds like a game-changer in my Christian life. It is. So how do you walk in the Spirit? Stay busy in the Spirit. You won't have time for the flesh.

It seems like every week I bring up social media, so I'm going to bring it up again today. Just bear with me. When I do go on social media, I am just struck by how much time people have to post. I look at some of the posts, and they're not just a post. It's just a scroll; you just keep scrolling, or if it's on the mouse, you keep going, and it goes, and goes, and then the reply. Oh, we've got a reply! We've got a notification" Got to reply and reply. Have you ever noticed that the longer that goes, the worse it gets? I think of the Proverbs that says, "With many words, transgression is unavoidable."

And besides, how do you have that much time? You have that much time on your hands? Last time I checked, "Idle hands are still the devil's workshop." I'm going to take that further just real quick before we move on. I think idle hands in the life of a Christian are irresistible to the devil. As the Apostle Peter writes, I think it's 1 Peter 5:8, he says, be awake, be alert, be sober, be aware that your enemy, the devil, is like this lion who is stalking you as a lion stocks its prey, seeking to devour you. He's watching, strategically studying, like those military strategists, you see those old war photos, and you see guys hovering over the table strategizing over a map?

Have you ever thought of it like that's what the enemy does with the map of your life? He's studying your life. In some ways, it could be argued that he knows you better than you know yourself. He knows your vulnerabilities, and he knows your weak spots, and he's very patient, by the way. So, he just kind of waits, and oh, look, he's just kind of kicking back, got a little bit of extra time? Get down there, get to work, get busy, they're idle, and that's how it happens.

There is a thing about being so busy about the things of God that you do not have time; you just don't possess the time. This takes time. This is a commitment, by the way, isn't it? It's a time

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commitment, and you're committed to doing what he's saying not to do here. That takes a commitment of time.

Okay, younger women, all right. In verses 4 and 5, Paul goes on to say... Now we're still with the older women, young women: They're to be able to encourage/teach the younger women to love their husbands and children. Then Paul even specifies the way to love them is: young women, to be self-controlled and pure (that's interesting), to be busy at home, kind, and subject to their husbands.

Now, wait, young women, just hang on for a second because the onus is on the older women to model that for you. Wow, Pastor, you're really going to harp on the older women? Yeah... No, I'm not! The Apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit is - in God's Word. Could it be that in some ways, the younger women more so need a godly example of what a godly woman is and how they live their Christian lives?

I mean, think about it. The husband, in a typical scenario, goes off to work, leaves her with the kids. She's with them all day, right? Which is why, by the way, when the dad gets home, kids in hand, hi honey; here, your turn now. Maybe it would be helpful to you, young woman, if you had an older woman that could help you, as an example to you.

Our children were born after my mom and dad had both died, and there were so many times where... Well, first, I wish they could have seen their grandchildren. I know my mom would have just been, oh, my goodness, over the top. But there were so many times where I just wished that I could have asked them. There were so many questions I should have asked them before, but I didn't think about it. Especially when my mom would say to me, you wait till you have children of your own. Yeah, whatever, and then I had children on my own.

By the way, that's a rite of passage for parents to say to their children. But it would have been very helpful to have been able to talk with them and ask them, man, was I like this? I know my mom would have said: "No, you weren't like this. You were so much worse than this!"

Let me ask you this question: If younger women, and we're going to talk about the younger men in a moment, if the young people don't have us to go to, where are they going to go? Where are they going to go? Make no mistake about it. The enemy is going to be right there to fill in the void that's been created by the absence of our godly example, living our lives appropriate to sound doctrine.

One more thing on this because Paul takes it a step further and explains the "why." It's very interesting to me because he says, "Do this so that no one will be able to malign the Word of God." Why do we have that detail, and why did the Holy Spirit inspire the Apostle Paul to write that specific thing on the tail end of this? I have a thought, a suggestion as to why.

I am of the belief that this is what was happening, and the reason I believe that is because of what Paul just said to Titus about Crete. Remember last week? Horrible reputation. These were vile people. They were lazy. They were gluttons. They were liars. They were savage. They were drunkards. I mean, the list goes on and on. In fact, so much so that you could say of somebody, oh, you're such a Cretan. What did you call me?

So, you have to know that this was the spiritual temperature of the day at that time. Well, okay, Pastor, that was then; this is now. Okay, nothing's changed. I would even argue that it's worse in the church of Jesus Christ today. I think now more than ever in this world that we are living in, this is of paramount importance because, you see, what we do is we give the enemy a blank check to fill in the amount of mocking and maligning of Christianity, the church of God, the Word of God.

Can I say it this way? We fully cooperate with the enemy in this regard. It's almost like we're under his employment, doing his job for him, and in so doing, we do so much damage to our witness, to our testimony. You do understand that the world is watching us, especially now. They're watching the

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Christian. Oh, you're a professing Christian? Hmm, I've met a few of you over the years, over my lifetime. You're all a bunch of hypocrites, and they're right.

You know when you say, hey, do you want to come to church? "Ugh, that church is full of hypocrites! Say, hey, cool. Well, it is, but we could always use more. There are more seats here. You can come too. It reminds me of another humorous quip. I am looking for the perfect church. You are? Well, here is the thing: if you find it, don't go to it because you will ruin it. I had to get that in there. You are just a bunch of hypocrites. Yeah. We're forgiven hypocrites. The church has been called not a showroom or a showcase for saints but rather a hospital for sinners.

But the world looking in is asking two questions, and we talk about this often. Do you know what those questions are? They're asking you about your life: Are you the real deal, or are you just like all the rest of the Christians that I've met? Oh, you're a Christian on Sunday mornings, but I've seen what you do on Mondays and Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Thursdays and Fridays and Saturdays. And Sunday morning, put on that Christian smile, drive to church, yell at the kids in the back, pull in, only to find somebody took your parking spot, and I've seen how you react.

Let me ask you this question; it's rhetorical. I ask it of myself: how many times has somebody said to you, well, that's not very Christian. There's one side of me that says, oh, so I have a non-Christian telling me that's not very Christian. I didn't know they were so proficient in what a Christian is to be, as a non-Christian. I mean, there is that side of it, and of course, that's the flesh, so nice try. Don't use that one.

But why would they ask you that question? Because maybe what you did or said or didn't do or didn't say isn't very Christian. Here is the thing. For them to ask you that question means that they're watching your life, and this question has come up. I have been watching you for a while. I watch how you act, react, and I don't think that's what Christians are supposed to do or how Christians are supposed to act or react." And then here comes the maligning; you're all alike.

The second question and this is in some ways more important that they're asking. The first question is: Are you real, and the second question is: Does it work? The thing about both those questions is they want you to be real, and they want it to work because they need it to be real for them, and they need it to work for them. Because if it's not real and it does not work, then they have no hope, no hope.

All right. Let's go to the younger men. Paul, in verses 6-9, tells Titus to encourage them to, here it is again, be self-controlled and to do so by setting this example for them. How? The way Titus is to do this is in his teaching. Now stay with me. He's to show integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, and soundness of speech so that he can't be condemned. Those who oppose, and there are many who oppose, will ultimately be ashamed and silenced because what are they going to say? This guy is the real deal. He is a man of integrity, reverence, incorruptibility.

Again just like with the young women, young men, the onus isn't really on you. It's still on us as the old guys. This is what we need to model for you. This is what integrity looks like. This is what reverence looks like. This is what incorruptibility looks like. This is what being sound and solid in your doctrine looks like. Immovable, nothing fazes you, nothing shakes you.

I think about the Apostle Paul in the book of Acts when he says, nothing moves me, nothing shakes me. That comes with spiritual maturity and integrity, and purity, I might add. You're unfazed, but isn't it true when you're younger, you don't react that way? I mean, everything is so much more magnified when you're younger. Then when you get older, of course, age has something to do with it too.

I mean, let's be honest, you don't have enough energy like you used to when you were young. Man, when you were young, hey, let's do this. You get older, and it's kind of like, it's all good. Young guys

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need to see the older guys model that as an example to them: Oh, that's how you handle situations like that? Oh, that's what you do as a first response instead of a last resort?

What do you mean? Again, I'll just speak from my own conviction, my own experience. How many times would I have rather that my children caught me praying instead of yelling at somebody on the other end of the phone because do you see what I taught them? I can teach them and say to them until I am blue in the face: do as I say, not as I do. Oh, really? No, I am going to do as you do because they mimic you, and it's just not the parent/child.

It's like when my daughter was young, and I was younger -- I remember I was yelling at the TV. I don't do that anymore; I have repented. I'm walking in victory in this area right now, mostly, but I backslide every once in a while, but I come back quick. So here I am; she's just a little toddler, and I am yelling, "Why you TV!" I look over at my precious young daughter, and she starts yelling at the TV too. No! What have I done?! My boys, young men, when they were toddlers, they mimicked me, and they imitated me, and many of the things that they watched me do, caught me doing, they would also do.

Would to God that we would be a good example, men, women to the younger generation in our home life, in our church life, in our work life. At the end of the day, we don't want them to have anything to say. In fact, what we really want is for them to say something like this: I can't really talk stink about him because they're above reproach. There is an integrity about them. They are the real deal. So what am I going to say about them?

All right, let's bring it to verses 9-10, where Paul talks about slaves. Now, this gets everybody's blood pressure up because slaves, oh, no! Understand that in Paul's day, most of the people were slaves, and some were actually trained in some profession. You could actually have a servant, a bondservant that was a physician or an accountant. They would train them in a profession, but they were still considered to be slaves.

So, I say that because it's better understood this way and it's better to apply it this way to our lives as seen this as the employee to their employer. When you replace that word with employee, then it all just makes sense and fits. Here is what he says to them. Christian employees are to work hard, not mouth off, don't talk back, or steal from your employer. Yeah, but they owe it to me. I am so underpaid.

Wait, you don't think the Lord knows that? Don't you think the Lord will make that right? Are you going to take matters into your own hands?" Instead of that, you're to show that you're trustworthy, and here is why, and this is a biggie. It's so that the employer is attracted to and drawn to the Lord. A Christian employee should be the hardest worker of all of the employees in that company, and the Christian employee needs to do that not for man, but as unto the Lord.

This is Colossians 3:22–24. "Bondservants, obey in all things your masters [employers] according to the flesh, not with eye-service..." You do know what that means, right? Come on. When the boss isn't looking, here comes the boss - working. "Not with eye-service as men-pleasers but in sincerity of heart, fearing God and whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."

The Lord is watching you even if your boss isn't. If you think about it, you're not working for him. You are working as unto the Lord for him, as a witness to him. "Do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing [and here it is] that from the Lord, you will receive the reward of the inheritance for you serve the Lord Christ."

1 Peter 2:12, "Live such good lives among the pagans [the non-Christians] that though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us." It's kind of like this: You have this non-Christian employer, and you have this Christian employee. He's looking at this employee, and, you know, for all the things I could say about Christians, this guy isn't half that bad, actually is a good worker.

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Do you know what they're going to do because of that? See, you're a representative of the Lord. You are a professing Christian. You're representing Christ. See, they're looking at you, and through the lens of your work ethic, that's how they see the Lord. Think about that. That is kind of sobering, too, isn't it? Why is the Christian always the laziest worker, shows up late, leaves early, calls in sick, steals supplies? Am I stepping on some toes here? Maybe the toes need to be stepped on.

Before I entered the ministry and God called me into the pastorate, I was in the business world, had my own business. I think I mentioned this on Thursday night. I won't go into detail, but this was back when Christian business directories were the big thing. Within the Christian community, you had this listing, this book of all of these Christian businesses. It had a fish on their ads - I'm a Christian.

Actually, some of them were not Christians at all. In fact, they only put that fish on their yellow page ad to get the gullible Christian to do business with them. You're a Christian? Okay, and they would take them to the cleaners. It was my experience, and sadly, I actually preferred to do business with non-Christians when I was in the business world than doing business with Christians. Sad to say, and this is why. I don't know what it is that Christians think somehow they have this license to act the way they do, conduct their business affairs the way they do, to have the work ethic they have.

Matthew Chapter 5:16, Jesus is speaking and says, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven." Do you know how many people are won to Christ because of this? They see what you do. They see how you act, how you conduct your business affairs with such integrity and honesty.

Your word is your word; your word is your bond. Your yes is yes, and your no is no, and that's new for them. They're not used to that. Then here you come along, and you're actually honest, and you're actually somebody they want to do business with. And then, oh, you did not have to tell them because they ended up asking you. Are you a Christian? Yeah.

This whole "actions speaking louder than words," some have taken it to the extreme of saying, you know, I am just going to let my actions speak for me. You need them both, actions and words, word and deed, like two wings on an airplane to keep that thing flying. I know Arabs should not use airplane illustrations, but there you have it. In other words, your walk matches your talk and vice versa.

I want to close with 2 Corinthians 3:2–3, and I think you will see why here in a moment. Paul is writing, and he says to the Corinthian church, "You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you're a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts."

Did you catch that? Every single one of us as Christians are living letters, living epistles. Do you know what that means? People are reading the letter of our Christian lives. What are they reading? What are they reading when they read the letter of your Christian life? Is it a love story about your love for God and your love for man? Is that not summing up the entire law? You love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and you love your neighbor as you already love yourself.

I said it like that for a reason because some people try to find a loophole. Well, I can't love them because I don't love myself. "Come on, you love you so much." Are you kidding me? Love them as you love yourself. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, strength. Are they reading a love letter? Or, I don't want to end this way, but are they reading a hate letter? Would you agree that the hate today is just off the charts? Just the vile, foul, vitriolic hatred that permeates our society today, that's not Jesus. That's not Jesus, and that should never be in the Christian life.

Why don't you stand, and we'll close in prayer? We'll have the worship team come up before we do. Father in heaven, I again thank You for Your Word. Very searching, but a good thing that it is. It's sort

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of a hard teaching and a good thing that it is. Because this is one of those places in Your Word, Lord, where we would do well to give the Holy Spirit access to our hearts, to search our hearts concerning this, Lord, the letter of our lives, the model, the example of our lives.

Lord, thank You for this much-needed word. Now, as only You can, we need the Holy Spirit to take it from here because unless the Holy Spirit enables us to live this holy life, there is no hope. We labor in vain trying to do it ourselves. It has to be in the power of the Holy Spirit. So, Lord, fill us afresh with Your Holy Spirit we pray. In Jesus' name. Amen.