

Sermon Notes 11/6/22

# “Teaching God’s Word”

How can we be good teachers of God’s word?

1. We must get to know our \_\_\_\_\_.

Titus 2:1

Hebrews 5:12

2. We must get to know our \_\_\_\_\_.

Older Men: Titus 2:2

Older Women: Titus 2:3

Younger Women: Titus 2:4-5

Younger Men: Titus 2:6

3. We must teach by our \_\_\_\_\_.

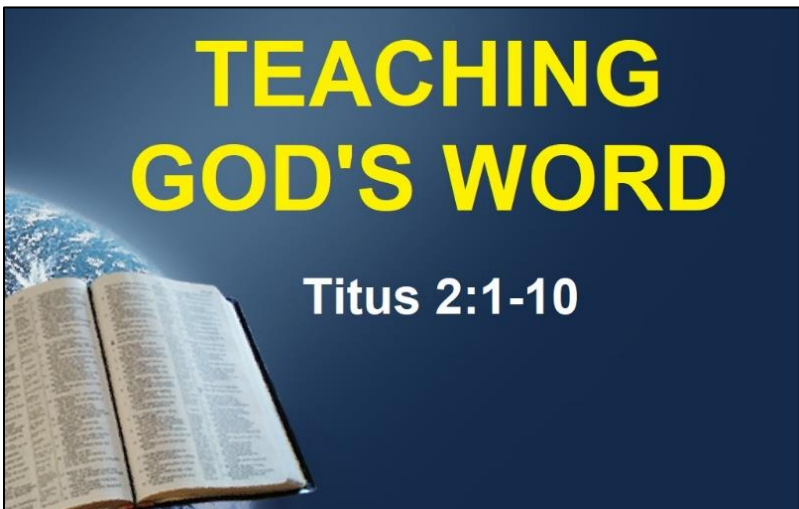
Titus 2:7-8

1 Timothy 4:12

4. We must make the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

Titus 2:9-10

2 Timothy 3:16-17



# Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 3: November 6-13

Titus 2:1-10

Paul left Titus in Crete to help the new congregations grow stronger by appointing elders (Titus 1:5). Titus and the elders were responsible to teach “sound doctrine” (Titus 1:9). However, the teaching of God’s word is not just the lessons and sermons we hear from our church leaders. God wants to work through all Christians to clearly communicate His word in the way that we live. Regardless of your age, gender, or station in life, the way that you live can “make the teaching about God our Savior attractive” (Titus 2:10).

## Read Titus 2:1-10

1. What did Paul remind Titus to teach in verse 1? (See also 1:9; 2:2, 8)

Titus is commanded to teach things that are in accord with “sound doctrine,” literally “healthy teaching.” The teaching Paul describes in verses 2-10 focus on godly character and behavior.

2. What are the different groups of Christians that Paul tells Titus to teach in this passage?

Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell write,

The apostle gives ethical instructions for personal conduct... to all classes of persons in the church. These classes of persons in the church are identified by nearly parallel differentiations of age, gender, and station that typified descriptions of ancient households. The range of persons addressed by Paul's instructions indicate that neither "sound doctrine" nor the ethics that flow from it were for a spiritual elite. All true believers are expected to have their faith reflected in their conduct and to have their conduct affirm their faith.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R. Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell, *1–2 Timothy and Titus* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 356.

3. What did Paul tell Titus to teach the older men in verse 2?

We see all of these virtues repeated in the Pastoral Epistles. C. Michael Moss notes,

Older men are to be “temperate” (*nēphalious*; cf. 1 Tim 3:2), “worthy of respect” (*semnous*; cf. 1 Tim 3:8), and “self-controlled” (*sōphronas*; cf. 1:8; 2:5; 1 Tim 3:2). Older men are to be “sound” (or “healthy”) in a triad of Christian virtues— “in faith, in love and in endurance.” These three virtues are also linked in 1 Tim 6:11-12; 2 Tim 3:10; and 1 Thess 1:3.<sup>2</sup>

4. What must older women be taught? Why? (2:3-5)

5. How should older Christian women help younger women? (2:4)

William Mounce observes,

The older women are to teach what is good to the younger women, whom Paul assumes were married. This is not a formal function of the church but a personal, one-to-one teaching, a task that cannot properly be accomplished by men. They are to teach the younger women what they themselves know, to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands.<sup>3</sup>

6. What should younger women be taught? (2:4-5)

7. What did Paul mention as a reason to follow this teaching? (2:5)

Three times in this passage Paul emphasizes that our conduct as Christians will influence how unbelievers view Christianity (2:5, 8, 10). If we want God to work through us to lead people to Christ, our behavior must be “in accord with sound doctrine.”

8. What advice did Paul give to younger men? (2:6-8)

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<sup>2</sup> C. Michael Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 158.

<sup>3</sup> William Mounce, *Word Biblical Commentary: Pastoral Epistles* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2016), 416-417.

9. How was Titus to be an example to the young men? (2:7)

10. What did Paul want this teaching to prevent? (2:8)

11. How did Paul instruct slaves? Why? (2:9-10)

James Smith comments,

The point is that Christian slaves were found throughout all levels of ancient society. By being the best slaves possible they will bear witness to the power of the gospel to transform lives and circumstances. We can only guess as to how many masters were brought to the Lord by the good conduct of their slaves. Slavery was an evil institution; but Paul's view was that this institution would gradually fade away when both slaves and masters bowed together at the foot of the cross.<sup>4</sup>

12. What can we learn about work from Paul's instructions to slaves?

13. Why is it important for Bible teachers to know some things about their students?

14. How can we make sure that our example is in accordance with sound doctrine?

15. How can we make the gospel attractive in the way we work?

16. How have you been blessed by the teaching of an older Christian?

17. Which principles in this passage are most relevant to you right now?

18. How has someone's example helped you to better understand God's word?

19. What can you do this week to learn from an older Christian?

20. How can you share what you have learned with a younger believer?

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<sup>4</sup> James Smith, *Pastoral Epistles Revisited* (Coppell, TX: lulu.com, 2017), 223.