

Titus 2 – 7 April 2024

“Practically Setting The Church In Order”

Introduction

*During the writing of this letter, Titus was setting the churches in order on the Island nation of Crete

*Tradition says he dies as Bishop of Crete late in life

*Chap 1 – Paul began w/ instruction on spiritually setting things in order on Crete

*Offer hope of the gospel & work w/ godly people

*Chap 2 – Paul now instructs on practically setting things in order on Crete

Read Vs 1

1. Chap 1 ended w/ an encouragement to stop the mouths of vain talkers
 - a. So Chap 2 begins to tell us how
 - b. We don't fight darkness; we just push forward into the truth & what's helpful
2. The verse says to speak *sound doctrine* & now we see the chapter is all about *practical living*

3. Paul told Timothy (I Tim 5) how to approach different people w/i the church, now Paul instructs Titus on what to instruct different people

*We're not on our own to live out the what

*As Christians we've been given new power from the life of Jesus at the time of conversion & salvation

Today, we'll see 3 practical changes growing within the Christian

#1 – Our new heart & attitude brings sobriety (Vs 2-10)

Read Vs 2

1. This list isn't just for those in leadership, but all men
 - a. Older you get you're tempted to become cynical and untrusting – don't fall for it
 - b. God is looking for all of us men to grow
 - c. These represent deep-rooted groundedness

2. This tells us that these attributes don't happen automatically with age
 - a. I've found that you either get bitter or better
3. Still today we teach the older men to be such

Read Vs 3-4a

1. Are you growing in purity, honesty, in other words, not confusion, or muddying the waters
2. To teach another, you need to 1st be in control of yourself – that you're giving only true things
 - a. All women should be teaching something
3. As you're learning personal holiness, you're in a position to teach others – not b/c you're perfect

Read Vs 4b-5

1. Notice the older women have a large role to play in the shaping of Christian women
2. How to lead the younger women
 - a. “Sober” – stable & grounded (in the Word)
 - b. “Love husband & children” – This isn't the specifics; this is the subjects – get into details

- c. “discreet” – If sober is a sound mind, then discreet is a controlled mind – (emotions)
 - d. “Chaste” – modest or clean
 - e. “Keepers at home” – the guard of the home
 - i. Doesn’t mean this is all they do, but they’re to promote those of the household
 - f. “Obedience” – there’s order in all of God’s Creation (Read I Cor 11:3)
 - i. This order isn’t a custom or disposable
 - ii. Began at creation (Read I Cor 11:8-9)
3. “That the Word...” – When person takes name of God (identity), yet lives contrary to it, that’s taking name of God in vain & that’s blasphemy
- a. Exp of David (Read II Sam 12:14)
 - b. Always hearing stories of people being spiritually hindered b/c of horrible things people within the church have done to them

Read Vs 6

1. ‘Likewise’ shows that it’s not all that different between men and women to behave clear-minded
2. This’s to take life carefully (w/ care) & seriously

Read Vs 7

1. If those closest to you followed your pattern of life, would you be proud of them?
 - a. Those close to you are following your life much more than they're following your words

Read Vs 8

1. Are we giving unbelievers an obvious reason to reject us and therefore reject the Gospel
2. Notice, what we speak should be true & pure
 - a. Luke 6:45 – out of heart, mouth speaks
 - b. Prov 10:19 – multitude words, there's sin
 - c. Prov 12:23 – Wise conceal knowledge, but heart of the fool proclaims his foolishness

Read Vs 9

1. Don't object to directions b/c they've been given that position – don't keep back, be willing
2. Also don't be neutral, but please them well

Read Vs 10

1. “Purloining” – don't keep back your effort

- a. But also don't hide, lack integrity or steal
- b. Is your integrity only worth a \$2 part you want to steal?
2. Your boss should see you as trustworthy
 - a. If you're untrustworthy w/ the carnal, then they won't listen to you about the spiritual
3. Our faithful lifestyle "adorns" our teaching of the doctrine of God
4. God sees & will reward (Read Eph 6:8-9)

#2 – Salvation grace brings godliness (Vs 11-12)

Read Vs 11

1. Notice there is but one salvation shown to ALL
 - a. Read Jude 3 – Stick to it, don't waver
2. Since God has brought His grace or gift to us (in the form of salvation thru Jesus), that should affect how we handle each other
 - a. We're empowered by H.S. to live & love
 - b. Our mind is changed toward others seeing they need the same grace we've received

Read Vs 12

1. Grace doesn't teach us to live ungodly but godly
 - a. Grace isn't sloppy grace, but holy grace
 - b. Paul told Galatians (Read 5:13), our freedom & righteous living is to build others up

#3 – Our bold hope makes us zealous for good works (Vs 13-15)

Read Vs 13-14

1. 'Blessed hope' is one thing and the 'glorious appearing of Jesus' is another (closely related)
 - a. Blessed hope is resurrection (Act 24:15)
2. Read I John 3:2-3 – We live w/ expectation that Jesus could come back at any moment!
 - a. We received grace. Grace leads to discipleship. Discipleship leads to purification
3. Principle of the Greek language here known as the Granville Sharp Rule (controversial)
 - a. 2 non-proper nouns connected by the word 'and' where the 1st has the definite article & the 2nd doesn't then both nouns are referring to same item

- b. But regardless the verse makes it singular!
- 4. Our response to God's grace at the cross should be a heart that wants to serve Him

Read Vs 15

- 1. You must be public, bold and clear on the grace of God!

Conclusion

So, does your relationship with Jesus have this kind of very practical effect on your life?

- 1. **Are you growing in sobriety & seriousness?**
 - a. That should naturally spring out of a life that's been given a new heart
- 2. **Are you bringing forth godliness character?**
 - a. This is a natural response to receiving God's good grace into your life
- 3. **Are you excited to produce good works?**
 - a. This is natural to a life that's living in hope of resurrection & the soon return of Jesus Christ our Lord