

Titus 2

Verse by Verse

Sound Doctrine

Introduction

How?
2:1-10

Why?
2:11-15

Conclusions



St. Paul, imprisoned, ends the letter to the Ephesians, and hands it over to Tychicus. Wood engraving, 1886, Gustave Dore (Wikimedia Commons)

Introduction

Previously in Titus

- Paul began this letter with a long, doctrinally rich greeting to his younger friend.
- He then got down to business expecting Titus to try to find qualified elders "in every town."
- He laid out what those qualifications would be - mainly good character, but also the ability to teach.
- Crete was a difficult spiritual environment, so there would certainly be opposition to Titus's work.

Ministry in
Crete

What's in
Titus 2?

Key Verses

Ministry in Crete



Cretans in History

<https://endorfeen.com/the-highest-mountain-in-crete/>

- Crete shows evidence of being inhabited dating back thousands of years B.C.
- They were possibly the oldest European civilization.
- They later gave birth to the Philistines.
- By Paul's time, the people of Crete already had a long reputation for being rude and obnoxious.
- According to Paul, this reputation was well-deserved.



<https://www.cntraveler.com/story/the-lesser-known-side-of-crete-greece>

Cretans in History

- **Cicero** (100 - 43BC) wrote in *De Republica* that Cretans "consider piracy and brigandage honourable."
- **Polybius** (200 - 118BC) said, "So much in fact do sordid love of gain and lust for wealth prevail among them, that the Cretans are the only people in the world in whose eyes no gain is disgraceful."
- **Paul**, quoting **Epimenides of Cnossus** (~600BC), "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

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What's in Titus 2?

Good Works

- In this chapter Paul clarifies some of what Titus is supposed to teach.
- In doing so he will answer **two basic questions** for us.

- **How Should We Christians Live? 2:1-10**
- **Why We Should Live That Way? 2:11-15**

Good Works



- The Phrase "**good work(s)**" appears **six times** in the three chapters of **Titus**.
- This is more than in any other book in the Bible.
- **Two** of those times will be here in **Titus 2**.

What's in Titus 2?

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Titus 2:11-12

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How Should We Christians Live? 2:1-10

- Paul divides this section up with somewhat different instructions for different people.
- Some things he speaks directly to **Titus** himself.
- He also speaks to **older men**, then **older/younger women**. Finally, he speaks to **younger men** and to **bondservants**.

To Titus
Personally

To Older Men

To Older/
Younger
Women

To Younger
Men

To
Bondservants

To Titus Personally 2:1, 7-8

- **2:1** The way of life Paul advocates is consistent with **“healthy doctrine.”**
- In other words, our behavior should match our beliefs – because that is the kind of lifestyle God will empower us to live.
- **2:7-8** Paul assumes that people will want to find fault with Titus and his teaching about Christ.
- Titus needs to beware of that and set the kind of example that will cause any serious criticism to simply bounce off.



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To Older Men 2:2

- The overall sense is that they should be dignified, balanced and **worthy of respect** – all with a healthy faith, love and steadfastness.
- The **NKJV** translates these words as "**sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience.**"
- Older Christian men, perhaps more than anyone, should absolutely radiate **stability, direction and good sense** for all the world to see.



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To Older/Younger Women 2:3-5

- **2:3 Slanderers** = This word is in the feminine plural, but in the masculine singular it is translated "**devil.**"
- **2:4 Train** here means to "**pass on a sound or reasonable perspective.**"
- It is related to the word "**temperate**" or "**self-controlled,**" when talking about the older men.
- Older Christian women should, by word and example, pass on the concepts of stability, direction and good sense to younger women in the church.

From John
Stott



John Stott (1921 - 2011)

It would not be legitimate to base on this word either a stay-at-home stereotype for all women, or a prohibition of wives being also professional women. What is rather affirmed is that if a woman accepts the vocation of marriage, and has a husband and children, she will love and not neglect them ... What he is opposing is not a wife's pursuit of a profession, but 'the habit of being idle and going about from house to house'. [1 Tim. 5:13]

- John Stott , in *The Message of 1 Timothy and Titus: The Life of the Local Church*

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To Younger Men 2:6

- Here Paul has literally only one word in the original: **self-controlled**.
- He uses the same or related words repeatedly - in **v.2**, **v.4** and **v.5**. **NASB = sensible**.
- If Titus could get the young men, especially on Crete, to be self-controlled or sensible, he would genuinely be accomplishing a lot.



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To Bondservants 2:9-10

- Paul directs this to **bondservants** or slaves.
- Today, this can apply to all of us who work for someone else - either a boss or a customer.
- As Christians we should make it our goal to be model employees.
- For example, submissive, not arguing, not stealing
- 2:10 **adorn** is related to "cosmos" or "cosmetology."
- Your life has the ability to make the gospel look good - or not so good.

From Warren
Wiersbe

Work as
Vocation



Warren Wiersbe
(1929 - 2019),
pastor and Bible
teacher.

When we serve faithfully, we “beautify the Bible” and make the Christian message attractive to unbelievers. When Paul addressed the slaves in Timothy’s church (1 Tim. 6:1), he used a negative motive: “that the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed.” But the positive motive, to make God’s message attractive, and the negative motive, to keep God’s teaching from being slandered, ought to control our lives.

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Work as Vocation

- For the Christian, there are no insignificant jobs or types of work.
- If we live for the benefit of others, we can always find meaning in our service - a **calling** or **vocation**.
- Plus, wherever you are you have contact with a unique circle of people.
- These people become part of your ministry or your mission field.
- When we set an example of stability, direction and and good sense in any situation, we make our Lord and his gospel look good.

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Why Should We Live That Way? 2:11-15

- **2:11 For** This word shows that all that follows is connected to what came before.
- Paul now gives theological background for the behavior that he recommended earlier.
- **2:12-14** Some distort the gospel of grace by imagining we believe good works are not important.
- Grace teaches the opposite. We are not only saved by grace, but by grace we are transformed.
- **Christ came to make both salvation and sanctification possible for the believer.**

Key Verses

From Chuck
Smith

One More
Word to
Titus

Key Verses

Training
Rather Than
Teaching

Titus 2:11-12

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 **training us** to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

Training Rather Than Teaching

2:12 Training us Many translations translate this word as "teaching,"

- Usual word for "teach" is *didáskō* - 97x in NT
- This word is a form of *paideuó* - 13x in NT. Think of our word *pedagogy*.
- This word is frequently connected with the sort of education, guidance and even discipline associated with parental oversight.
 - Acts 7:22 related to Moses's education in Egypt.
 - Acts 22:3 related to Paul's education in Jerusalem.

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Chuck Smith (1927-2013),
founding pastor of the
Calvary Chapel
Movement

Believing that Jesus is coming back soon gives us a sense of urgency to get the gospel out, it gives us a proper perspective on material things, and it has a purifying effect on our lives. We know our God and Savior Jesus Christ could come at any time, and that anticipation makes all the difference in our lives.



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One More Word to Titus

2:15 This verse is directed specifically at Titus.

- By extension Paul is speaking to any pastor or other person who is responsible for teaching God's word.
- We can restate it as follows.
- Don't ever shrink back from your responsibility to declare the truth.
- Neither personal conflict nor popular opinion should stand in the way of the one who needs to speak these things with authority.



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- Paul emphasizes **good works** and **good behavior** for the church in Crete and for us.
- Our lives bear witness to the gospel that we believe.
 - **2:5** "... that the word of God may not be reviled.
 - **2:8** "so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us."
 - **2:10** "so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior."
 - **Christ came to make both salvation and sanctification possible for the believer.**

From Tony
Evans

Key Verses

A Final
Prayer

Good character leads to good conduct. For Paul, this is how kingdom disciple-making is done and is the primary task of the church. We need a *transformed* and *transferred* faith, and this occurs as we all shape and sanctify each other in the church under healthy teaching from God's Word (i.e., sound doctrine).



Tony Evans, Bible Teacher
and Commentator

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A Final Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,

- Thank you for the ability you give us to live transformed and holy lives - by the power of your Spirit and in the grace we find in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Whatever stage of life or set of circumstances we find ourselves in, you have given us a task.
- Help us to represent you well, living lives of strength, stability and good sense.
- Help us to adorn the gospel of grace and make you and the Bible's teaching look good to a world that knows neither you nor your holy word.
- In Christ, Amen

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