

Sunday, August 22, 2010—Titus: The Practice of Grace—Titus 2:1-3: The Things Which Become Sound Doctrine

## Introduction

- This morning we begin studying Titus Two, I thought it would be good to look once again at our working outline for the book of Titus.
- Chapter One: the church is to be an orderly organization (Titus 1:5)
  - Saved by Grace
- Chapter Two: the church is to teach and preach the word of God (Titus 2:1)
  - Live by Grace
- Chapter Three: the church is supposed to produce good works (Titus 3:1)
  - Grace motivates believers to produce good works
- Titus two is a very practical passage of Scripture. Paul is going to specifically address the proper roles and attitudes of four groups of people within the local church.
  - Aged men
  - Aged women
  - Young women
  - Young men
- Regardless of which one of these groups you find yourself in there is ample practical instruction contain in this passage.

## Titus 2:1

- ***“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:”***
- The phrase “but speak **thou**” places Paul’s instructions to Titus here in direct contrast which how he finished chapter one, “**they** profess that **they** know God; but in works **they** deny him (Titus 1:16)”
- Once again the reason the people in Titus 1:16 are reprobate concerning good works is because they have departed the faith and good works find their origin in sound doctrine.
- Titus as one who has maintained his doctrinal integrity is instructed to “speak” or make know things are in line with sound doctrine.
- Become— In general, to suit or be suitable; to be congruous; to befit; to accord with, in character or circumstances; to be worthy of, decent or proper. It is used in the same sense applied to persons or things (*Webster’s 1828*).
- Becoming— Fit; suitable; congruous; proper; graceful; belonging to the character, or adapted to circumstances; as, he speaks with becoming boldness; a dress is very becoming (*Webster’s 1828*).

- There are certain actions, behavior, and life styles that become or fit with sound doctrine. While there are others that are unsuitable. Action must flow from belief and belief of the truth will produce actions that become sound doctrine.
  - Matthew 3:15
  - Ephesians 5:1-4
  - I Timothy 2:9-10

### Titus 2:2

- *“That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.”*
- When explaining the things which become sound doctrine Paul first gives instructions to the “aged men.”
- Luke 1:18—aged men = old man according to the Bible. This word speaks of men, who in an absolute sense are old, whereas, the Greek word translated “elders” refers to older men in a given group, however, this does not necessarily mean that they are old men.
- *Sober--* abstaining from wine, either entirely or at least from its immoderate use (*Strong’s Concordance*).
  - I Timothy 3:2
  - I Timothy 3:11
  - Ephesians 5:18—it is never becoming sound doctrine for any believer regardless of age, sex, or standing in the church to drunk with wine to the excess.
- *Grave--* august, venerable, reverend, i.e. to be venerated for character, honourable (*Strong’s Concordance*).
  - Philippians 4:8—honest
  - I Timothy 3:8
  - I Timothy 3:11
- *Temperate—* 1) of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses 2) curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate (*Strong’s Concordance*). 1) Moderate in the indulgence of the appetites and passions; as temperate in eating and drinking; temperate in pleasures; temperate in speech. 2) Cool; calm; not marked with passion; not violent; as a temperate discourse or address; temperate language (*Webster’s 1828*).
  - Romans 12:3
  - I Corinthians 9:25
  - Galatians 5:23
  - Titus 1:8
- *Sound in Faith*—or that which is believed, i.e. the body of truth found in Paul’s epistles
- *Sound in Charity*—the aged men are to examples of brotherly love

- Galatians 5:22—the first fruit of the Spirit is love
- Ephesians 4:1-2—the aged men are to sound examples of how to forebear with one another in love
- Ephesians 5:2—while there may be physical aspects of church life the aged men are no longer able to participate in they are to be examples of what it means to walk in love.
- *Sound in Patience*—in this case patience deals with steadfastness, constancy, and endurance. “in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings (*Strong’s Concordance*).”
  - Romans 5:3-5
  - II Corinthians 6:4
  - Colossians 1:11—in the midst of waning health, the aged men are to patiently endure thereby manifesting the sufficiency of God’s grace in every circumstance.

### **Titus 2:3**

- ***“The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;”***
- This is the only time the expression “aged women” is used in the New Testament. However, it safe to conclude based upon what we have already seen that it refers to “old women.”
- The expression, “the aged women likewise,” implies that all the instructions in verse two directed at the aged men also apply to the aged women.
- Paul’s concern is that the older women behave in a manner that is becoming and consistent with holiness.
- Women possess great ability to either aid or harm the ministry. Woman set the unspoken tone of the assembly. The older women set the standards of acceptability for the younger women. This why the Bible has so much to say about the conduct of Godly women.
- *Not False Accusers*—the Greek word translated “false accusers” prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely according to *Strong’s Concordance*.
  - I Timothy 3:11—slanderer— A defamer; one who injures another by maliciously reporting something to his prejudice (*Webster’s 1828*).
- According to *Strong’s Concordance* when the expression false accuser is metaphorically applied it means “a man who, by opposing the cause of God, may be said to act the part of the devil or to side with him.”
- When the aged women slander people in the church they are doing the work of the adversary to sow the seeds of animosity and discord amongst the brethren.
  - Galatians 5:13-15

- *Not Given to Much Wine*—again regardless of age, sex, or standing in the church drunkenness is never becoming sound doctrine or holiness.
- *Teachers of Good Things*—we teach more through how we behave than we do through what we say.
- God has ordained the aged women to be teachers within the local church. The role of the aged women is to teach the younger women what it means to be a woman of God. How the doctrines of grace apply to the unique challenges of being a wife and mother.
  - I Timothy 2:12
- A good Godly Christian woman knows and accepts her God ordained place within the local church. She will not be about trying to make sure the men do things right but will be serious about her God ordained teaching ministry to the young women surrounding her.
- Just because women are Biblically not supposed to be elders/bishops does not mean they do not fulfill a vital and needed function within the local church. The aged women through their example as well as through direct instruction fulfill the role of teaching the younger women how the doctrines of grace impact their lives as women.
- Challenge the older women.