

Titus - How Lives Are Shaped Through The Gospel

by Ted Gatz

Key Thoughts

1. Purpose of Paul's letter to Titus
2. Sound Doctrine – The Foundation of Faith ([Titus 1:1–4; 2:1](#))
3. Godly Living – Adorning the Gospel ([Titus 2:1–10](#))
4. Leadership – Guarding doctrine and modeling life ([Titus 1:5–9](#))
5. Practical Good Works – Faith in action ([Titus 2:14; 3:1–8](#))
6. The connection of how sound doctrine leads to good works.
7. Conclusion

Introduction

1. We learned a few of weeks ago about being imitators of Christ.
2. Paul's letter to Titus teaches us how God's grace through the gospel accomplishes that.
3. Learning God's word does not always come easy.
 - A. The Kings of the Old Testament were commanded to write a copy of the Law for themselves and keep it by their side and read it all the days of his life. ([Deut. 17:18–20](#))
 - B. We have no evidence that the kings did this
 - C. However there was an illusion to king Josiah was given “the testimony.” (2 [Chronicles 23:11](#))
 - D. The Testimony referred to could just be the Ten Commandments ([Ex. 31:18](#))
4. I have found it rewarding to update the KJV and ASV translations by removing the archaic wording and setting it to flow in modern English. It helps me with learning the text.
5. I recently did this with Titus. And Paul's teaching found in this letter is very important as we transform our lives from that of the world and become imitators of Christ.

Discussion

1. Purpose of Paul's letter to Titus

- A. Paul instructs Titus to ensure that the churches in Crete were complete, lacking nothing.
 1. Paul established churches and moved on.
 - a. He often sent preachers back to firmly ground them in the teaching that was lacking.
 2. His letter to Titus emphasizes the inseparable link between sound doctrine, godly living, leadership, and good works.
- B. Central Verse:
 1. [Titus 2:11-14](#) – God's grace teaches us to live godly lives while anticipating Christ's return.
- C. Much is said about how all Christians are to conduct themselves.
 1. How they are taught and who teaches them.

2. The purpose of our conduct is to adorn ourselves with the doctrine of Christ and to persuade the world by our conduct.
- D. The main idea that Paul is teaching:
 1. Doctrine of Christ forms character, and character dictates our actions.
 2. True faith is transformative in the lives of believers and can be seen by all around.
- 2. Sound Doctrine – The Foundation of Faith (Titus 1:1-4; 2:1)**
 - A. Defined:
 1. Doctrine is God’s revealed truth that guides our thoughts, beliefs, and actions.
 - B. Purpose:
 1. To correct false teaching (Titus 1:10–16)
 2. To shape moral and spiritual growth
 - C. Application of Sound Doctrine
 1. Elders and teachers must hold firmly to Scripture
 2. Believers are called imbed the truth so it transforms their life.
 - D. Key verse to remember
 1. Elders (Bishops) must “hold fast the faithful word as he has been taught” (Titus 1:9)
 - a. This is not only applicable to the eldership, but to all believers.
- 3. Elders Guard the Doctrine of Christ and Exemplify His Life (Titus 1:5–9)**
 - A. Qualifications given for elders requires one of sound mind and ability.
 1. Above reproach, faithful, temperate, self-controlled, upright, holy, disciplined.
 - B. Responsibilities:
 1. Able to teach and exhort those who are lost. (Tit. 1:9)
 2. Protect the church from false teaching (Tit. 1:9)
 3. Model godly living for others to follow (Tit. 1:6-9)
 - C. As a steward of God, the elders exemplify what they teach.
 1. This links doctrine and life.
 - D. Key Verse to remember
 1. Titus 1:9 – Elders “must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as taught.”
- 4. Godly Living – Adorned with the Gospel (Titus 2:1–10)**
 - A. The Principle that Paul teaches
 1. Godly living is the visible evidence of the love of and for God.
 - a. Every believer who exemplifies this love from God, reflects Christ through their conduct, regardless of age, gender, or social role.
 - B. Responsibility of all believers with Age-Specific Instructions
 1. Older Men (Titus 2:2)
 - a. They are to be:
 - i. Sober-minded
 - a.) Rational, sensible, and calm, not influenced by excess, intoxication, or extreme emotions.
 - ii. Grave (Serious, dignified)

- a.) Showing a composed or serious manner that is worthy of respect.
 - iii. Self-controlled
 - a.) Able to control one's emotions and desires, especially in difficult situations.
 - iv. Faithful
 - v. Loving
 - vi. Steadfast (patient.)
 - b. How this responsibility is to be used.
 - i. Mentors to young men
 - ii. Providing stability at home and the church.
 - iii. Modeling integrity.
 - iv. Have self respect.
2. Older Women ([Titus 2:3–5](#))
- a. They are to be:
 - i. Reverent in their behavior
 - a.) Showing deep respect, awe, and admiration for a person or thing
 - ii. Not slanderers (Making a false spoken statement damaging to a person's reputation.)
 - iii. Not drunkards
 - b. How this responsibility is to be use.
 - i. Mentors to younger women.
 - ii. Teach them to to love husbands and families.
 - iii. To have self respect.
3. Younger Women ([Titus 2:4–5](#))
- a. They are to be:
 - i. Sobrt-minded
 - ii. To love their husbands and children.
 - iii. To be discreet (Someone who is cautious, prudent, and careful in their speech and actions to avoid drawing unnecessary attention or causing embarrassment.)
 - iv. Chaste – Morally pure and respecting marriage.
 - v. Keepers of the home. – Managing and guarding the household.
 - vi. Good – Embracing God's moral standards.
 - vii. Being in subjection to their own husbands.
 - a.) Meaning a wife respects her husband's leadership, similar to how the Church submits to Christ.
 - i.) This does not mean a wife is subservient, but rather that she shows respect and conformity within the marriage.
 - b.) Husbands are called to love and sacrifice for their wives.
 - i.) It is described as an attitude of respect, love, and cooperation, not a forced or begrudging compliance.
 - b. The reason for this:

- i. Building strong households
 - ii. Build integrity in relationships.
 - iii. Have self respect.
 - 4. Younger Men ([Titus 2:6–8](#))
 - a. They are to:
 - i. To be sober minded
 - a.) Able to control one's emotions and desires, especially in difficult situations.
 - ii. Show integrity
 - iii. Show dignity & sincerity
 - iv. Be incorruptible by society's immoral standards.
 - v. Be sound in speech.
 - b. Titus was to set the example for the young men.
 - i. As an example of good works, in sound teaching, reverence, integrity, and dignity that cannot be condemned
 - c. The reason for this:
 - i. Respectability and moral aptitude that can not be condemned by those within or without the church, modeling diligence and humility.
 - 5. Bondservants ([Titus 2:9–10](#))
 - a. Obedient
 - b. Respectful
 - c. Trustworthy
 - d. Reliable
 - C. When applied in real life.
 - 1. They are to:
 - a. Respect the authority of those over them.
 - b. Giving excellence in work – Give an honest days work striving to excel in what you do.
 - c. Integrity under authority – Have the character of respect by not being argumentative with them or stealing from them.
 - 2. The reason for this:
 - a. Reflects the life of a Christ-like character.
 - D. Result of a Godly life
 - 1. Adornment of the Gospel
 - a. Our behavior validates the truth of God's Word ([Titus 2:10](#)).
 - 2. It is good and profitable to all men ([Titus 3:8](#))
 - a. Godly living is a testimony that draws others to the faith.
- 5. Practical Good Works: Faith in Action ([Titus 2:14; 3:1–8](#))**
- A. Definition: Substantial expressions of faith through obedience, kindness, and service.
 - B. Characteristics:
 - 1. Doing good to all people
 - 2. Acting in society with integrity and humility

C. Purpose:

1. Glorifies God
2. Builds credibility of the gospel

D. Key Verses to remember

1. [Titus 2:14](#) – Christ redeemed us “to be eager to do what is good.”
2. [Titus 3:1–8](#) – Remind believers to be ready for good works, motivated by God’s mercy

6. The connection of how sound doctrine leads to good works.

A. Sound Doctrine → informs us to → Godly Living

B. Godly Living → exemplifies in us → Leadership

C. Leadership → encourages us → Practical Good Works

D. Good Works → confirms within us → God’s Love and Sound Doctrine

E. Illustration

1. Sound doctrine without practice is empty.
 - a. Paul said that if he had all the gifts of the Spirit and have all faith, but not love he is nothing ([1 Corinthians 13:1-2](#))
2. Living without the gospel of Christ is an empty life.
 - a. Jesus asks, "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?" ([Mark 8:36-37](#))
 - b. This emphasizes that worldly gain is meaningless compared to eternal salvation.
3. Leadership without godliness fails the church.
 - a. A godless leader will be self-serving.
4. Good works without the gospel is only self-serving.
 - a. These good works will be for personal pride.

7. Conclusion

A. God’s call for us to act:

1. Obey and embrace the gospel of Christ
2. Live a transformed life that adorns the gospel before the world to see.
3. Support and uphold godly leaders who serve the congregation.
4. Be active in all good works – both outside the church and within.

B. Ultimate Goal – Believers marked by faith, integrity, love, with a visible impact on the world. ([Titus 2:11–14](#); [3:8, 14](#))

The Invitation

1. In order to adorn yourself with the doctrine of Christ, you must first obey him and become a Christian.

A. Hear the Gospel

- i. Rom 1:16. - [For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the](#)

Greek

- B. Believe the Gospel
 - i. John. 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.
- C. Repent of your Sins
 - i. 2 Cor. 7:10 - For godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation, 'a repentance' which bringeth no regret: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.
- D. Confess Christ before man
 - i. Rom 10:10 - for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- E. Be Baptized for the remission of your sins
 - i. 1 Pet. 3:21 - which also after a true likeness doth now save you, 'even' baptism, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the interrogation of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ;
- F. Salvation will be given
 - i. Mk. 16:16 - He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned.
- G. To continue therein
 - i. 1 Tim. 4:16. - Take heed to thyself, and to thy teaching. Continue in these things; for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee.
- 2. Then to the best of your ability, :
 - A. live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world as we look for the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. (Tit. 2:13)