

# The Gospel and YOU

Titus 2:1-14, how we pastor one another in God's family

## 1. INTRO

- a. The greatest gift is not XYZ but Jesus Christ and the gospel
    - i. What Titus is all about (c.f. Blessed hope) → advent video: shalom
    - ii. "Gift that keeps on giving..." || Best gifts are shared w/ others
  - b. So far in Titus, Paul, the author, has reminded Titus (the recipient) that if he is to successfully accomplish what Paul left him in Crete to do - form healthy house churches, then he has some work to do. He needs to keep this "gift of Christ, this hope and peace, central to the community, the individual and their mission"
    - i. Chapter 1 = healthy churches need healthy leaders (three C's) who speak gospel shalom, peace, truth to the church and protect it
      1. This is one of the main jobs of a pastor/elder, but it goes beyond elders, doesn't it → we speak "shalom" / peace to one another
  - c. In the West consumerism in church chokes out this concept
    - i. "I give you money, you deliver the goods - you do the work"
    - ii. "Only the pros can do it"
  - d. Problem with consumerism: Unbiblical, rooted in culture rather than the Bible
    - i. Movement when every disciple makes disciples.
    - ii. Titus shows 'Everyman' needs to be discipling and reveals some of the pitfalls which hold us back from a focused and energetic life for our King
  - e. We must keep the gospel gift right before our eyes
    - i. Leaders assist in this; You must do it for one another; The world is desperate for it;
2. *Titus 2:1–14 [1] But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. [2] Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. [3] Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, [4] and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, [5] to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. [6] Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. [7] Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, [8] and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. [9] Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, [10] not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.*

*[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, [13] waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, [14] who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)*

**a. Big Picture: What does this teach about God and the Gospel?**

- i. **God has given us, in the gospel of Jesus Christ, everything that we need for godliness, for hope in trials, and for action in love.**
- ii. To put it another way, the gospel shapes behavior, not by external religious control, but by internal transformation.

**b. Big Picture: What does this teach about people?**

- i. We need the gospel!
- ii. **We need self control, salvation, hopeful lives, to be zealous for good works and the gospel teaches/transforms us so this is a reality.**
- iii. Unbelief in the gospel leads to a spectrum of problems.
- iv. We must grow in faith, hope and love.
  1. E.g. maturity, perseverance, action

**c. Big Picture: What do we do about this?**

- i. **Cling to the gospel (abide).**
- ii. **Remind one another daily of gospel truth**
- iii. **Surrender to the gospel daily**

3. Specifically, though, in this passage, Paul identifies the enemies of this reality. It is easy to say, difficult to live out. Why? Here are some temptations specific to us as members of the God's family.

**a. Older men - the danger of losing energy**

**b. Older women - the danger of losing focus**

**c. Younger women - the danger of misguided focus**

**d. Younger men - the danger of misguided energy**

**e. Employees - the danger of both**

- f. All of the above are rooted in forgetting the good news of Jesus (what it compels) or not truly believing it in the first place.

**4. What is the solution? A lifestyle of gospel-reminding discipleship where we disciple one another.**

- i. You can't just wait for the elders to "go and fix these problems"
- ii. This is your responsibility - to disciple one another so that you can be effective and mobilized to bring the gospel to all
- iii. This is "disciples who make disciples" and **the enemy of gospel (in you, CMC, world) expansion is a lack of focus and perseverance**

b. Solutions:

**i. You need to abide, surrender, and be transformed.**

1. In godliness (Faith); In perseverance (Hope); To ACTION! (Love/Obey) → C.f. Titus "Zealous for good works!"

**ii. We need to speak and model this life to one another.**

5. Conclusion

- a. You know that your family and friends are important, right?
    - i. Why is it, then, that we get so sidetracked in lesser things
    - ii. Why do we lay on our deathbeds feeling as though we should have held our spouse's hand more often, stolen more kisses, and the like?
    - iii. Why do we regret all those times that we could have snuggled our kids instead of pushing them away
    - iv. Why do we work 90 hours a week when our family waits at home?
    - v. Why? Because we are forgetful of what is important in these simple gifts
  - b. Grace is the greatest of gifts - what the word means
  - c. It is a great gift, but we need to remember this and we need to remind one another of it
  - d. Examples of those who have been focused and energetic:
    - i. Joan Harrison
    - ii. Arny Humble
  - e. We need to remember and remind one another or we will inevitably either lose focus or fortitude as our love for God and the world grows cold.
  - f. Let's not let that happen. Spur one another on today!
6. Moment of silence: **What concrete step are you going to take in the next few days in light of this truth?**