

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Titus 2.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Titus 2.

Topics.

- Teach what accords with sound doctrine.
- Older men are called to self-control.
- Older women are called to teach what is good.
- Teach younger woman to work at home.
- Teach wives to be submissive to their husbands.
- Young men are called to be self-controlled.
- Slaves are called to be submissive.
- The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.
- Waiting for our blessed hope, our great God and saviour Jesus Christ.

The Previous Chapter: in the previous chapter Paul spoke of the knowledge of the truth being in agreement with godliness, of God manifesting his word through preaching and told Titus to appoint elders in every town in Crete. He gave Titus a list of qualities for elders (overseers) and said elders in God's service should be the husband of one wife and warned him that Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons in contrast to all things being pure to the pure of mind and heart.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

Teach what Accords with Sound Doctrine.

Titus 2:1 -----¹But as for you (Titus) teach what accords with sound doctrine.

What does Paul mean by sound doctrine? Does this mean that we have to divide from all those who do not believe every detail of the Bible in the same manner as we do? Does it mean we have to be walking Bible encyclopaedia's before we can teach sound doctrine? And should we cast out of our midst those whose statements of faith are not in line with ours?

Paul's letter to the brothers and sisters in Rome helps us find the answers to these questions, he wrote: -

- Watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them (Rom. 16:17).

The three major doctrines Paul had in mind and taught throughout the book of Romans for brothers and sisters in Christ to avoid were: -

1. Doctrines that led people away from the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Doctrines that taught that Israel and Gentiles in Christ are two separate nations.
3. Doctrines that led to ungodly behaviour.

These are the three major doctrines throughout Paul's letter to the Romans that he warned the brothers and sisters in the city of Rome to avoid. Based on what Paul considered in his letter to the Romans the three major doctrines that are contrary to sound doctrine is any doctrine that leads people away from Christ, doctrines that do not teach that Jews and Gentiles are saved in the same manner (i.e., through

faith in Christ and God's grace) and become one nation in Christ and any doctrine that leads people to ungodly behaviour. Certainly we must all believe the message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and of course all other doctrines are important, but outside of the message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ it was only those who were teaching these three doctrines that Paul told the Roman brothers and sisters to depart from. In regards to all other teachings that brothers and sisters differed on Paul's ideal was that they would remain together in the faith and the love of Christ and reason them out in a spirit of peace and grace with each other.

Consider for a moment: during the early church Jews who had been steeped in Moses Law and Jewish customs and traditions for about four-thousand years were coming together in Christ with Gentiles who had been steeped in pagan faith and other gods from the time they had been born. The difference would have been astounding, had they divided over every difference there would be no hope of Jews and Gentiles ever growing together in Christ.

It is most certain that the early church in their new found faith had much excitement discovering together the glorious truths of the Bible. When brothers and sisters with various levels of understanding come together and pride, egos, dogma and legalism are left outside the door meetings of spiritual discovery can be enormously exciting and rewarding.

Paul's concept of the early church was to reason together in love, understanding and grace (i.e., in the fruits of the Spirit) (perhaps over a coffee) and discover the wonder and beauty of Bible prophecies promises and doctrine together, but should any brother or sister be teaching any doctrine that leads away from the Lord Jesus Christ or teaches contrary to the truth that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ and saved in the same manner or teaches doctrines that lead a brother or sister toward ungodly and corrupt behaviour they should be avoided.

SUMMARY: sound doctrine is any doctrine that leads a person to the Lord Jesus Christ and doctrines that teach Jews and Gentiles are one nation in Christ and saved in the same manner and teachings that lead to good-character, self-controlled, love, compassion, a pure heart, a good conscience, a sincere faith and living a life that honours God and brings a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

Other than doctrines that led people to God and the Lord Jesus Christ the next doctrine that is given the highest priority throughout the New Testament (the entire Bible really) is teachings on behaviour that instruct brothers and sisters in Christ on how to treat others and do what is good and right. This should not surprise us since Jesus summed all the Commandments in the entire Bible up in the following two Commandments: -

- You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (Matt. 22:37-38).
- You shall love your neighbour as yourself (Matt. 22:39).

James calls Jesus command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," the Royal law (James 2:8). It means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. The thing God hates the most is when we do harm to another person, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, mentally, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land.

These two commandments and the truth that everyone (Jews and Gentiles) are now save by faith in Christ and God's grace are what God and the Lord Jesus Christ considers the most important of all doctrines and what Paul calls sound doctrine.

Consider: if a brother or sister (especially those in leadership) live a life contrary to the law of love and contrary to not only the nature of God, but also contrary to the nature of Christ how can they possibly instruct and correct others in the ways of the Lord. But this is not the worst of it since whoever confesses to believe in Christ and lives a life of hypocrisy pretence, greed and selfish-ambition is going to turn those outside of God's Kingdom away from the Lord not toward him and since God desires that all should be saved this is grossly offensive to Him.

PAUL NOW TEACHES WHAT ACCORDS WITH SOUND DOCTRINE.

Older Men are called to Self-Control.

Titus 2:2 ----- ²Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.

Sober-minded: literally means to abstain from drinking an excess of alcohol, figuratively it carries the idea of being clear minded, cautious, careful, discreet, watchful and mindful. If a brother or sister lives a life with Christ's love, his words and God's grace dwelling in their hearts it will be manifested outwardly (especially in old age) in self-control, solid faith, love, compassion, kindness, steadfast loyalty faithfulness, trustworthiness and devotion toward to the Lord.

In these verses sound doctrine refers to older men being: -

- Clear minded, dignified and self-controlled.
- Strong in faith, in love and in determination and persistence.

Older women are called to teach what is Good.

Titus 2:3-5 ----- ³Older women likewise are to be reverent in behaviour, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

In these verses sound doctrine refers to older women teaching younger women to be: -

- Reverent in behaviour, not slanderers or addicted to excessive wine.
- Able to teach what is good and love their husbands and children.
- Self-controlled, pure and how to look after their home and their children.
- Kind and submissive to their own husbands.

The reason for this is so that no-one can speak against the word of God (v5).

Teach Younger Women to Work at Home.

The words, "Train younger women to work at home" (v5), has in some circles of religion been used to condemn married woman who go to work outside the home, but Paul is not saying mothers should never take a job (many are forced to simply to provide food and shelter for their children) rather this advice is advice of help, it is about older women teaching young newly married teenage girls how to run a home, care for a new born baby, raise and discipline children, cook and budget etc. I am sure even today there are newly married young girls who would be enormously thankful for this kind of help from older women who have had first-hand experience of raising a family.

In the book of Proverbs the mother of King Lemuel when giving him advice about finding a good wife told him: -

- An excellent wife is far more precious than jewels she provides food for her household and considers a field and buys it, with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard and perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night she makes linen garments and sells them and delivers sashes to the merchant (Proverbs 31:10-24).

This sounds like a very industrial wife who has even got a business established and the Kings mother tells him this is the kind of wife he should seek after. The Bible does not teach that a married woman must stay at home, or can never pursue a career, but God's priority for her life regardless of what she does must be the love and care of her children. There are many married working women who have pursued a career and at the same time very successfully raised healthy, mature self-confident children.

Teach Wives to be Submissive to their Husbands.

The words, "Teach wives to be submissive to their own husbands" is another verse that has been badly abused in regards to wives submitting to their husbands. Paul in the book of Ephesians wrote: -

- Wives are to submit to their husband, while the husband is called to love his wife.

And that: -

- Husbands are to love their wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (Ephes. 5:25).

And in his letter to the Colossians he wrote: -

- Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them (Col. 3:19).

Clearly when Paul told Titus to "Teach wives to be submissive to their own husbands" he did not have in mind a wife submitting to a domineering controlling abusive man, but to one that is prepared to sacrifice his life for his wife. For this type of husband his wives well-being and happiness is more important than his own so in this sense the picture is of a wife submitting to her husband's love and not one of a woman submitting to an overbearing, oppressing, dominant controlling and intimidating man.

NOTE: this does not mean that a wife should never have authority in areas she is better qualified in. If a husband is wise he will give the authority of those duties his wife is far better skilled in over to her, but this does not advocate him from his responsibility to protect her and his family. It is very much like the C.E.O. of a company who though he delegates out certain tasks, he still remains the one carrying the responsibility for the success and well-being of the company and remains its overall protector.

A practical example: a wife maybe highly skilled in finance, numbers and mathematics while the husband is not, obviously common sense would say that it would be far better for the wife to handle the family budget than the husband. Being the head is not about taking the control of all duties even Christ who is the head of the church has given his authority to apostles, prophets, evangelist, shepherds and teachers to build the church up in love and unity thus the husbands role as the head of the family is to do likewise.

Another important point that should at this time have a floodlight shinned upon it is the humbling truth that though the Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the church he does not rule it by dominating those who belong to his Kingdom, rather he guides, nourishes and protects it for eternal life by love. The church submits to Christ because of Christ's love for the church it is in this manner wives are called to submit to their husbands.

Unrealistic expectations; no-matter how much a husband or wife may love their spouse or even the Lord Jesus Christ they should never expect that there will not be times when that love is tested not only by the trials and troubles of this life, but also because of our own selfishness, ego and pride, but if they can humble

themselves and be submissive to each other and before Christ and acknowledge their faults before the Lord and to each other allowing forgiveness to always reign as a king in their hearts love will blossom into a flower that surpasses all the beauty of those growing alongside it.

Young Men are called to be Self-Controlled.

Titus 2:6-8 ----- ⁶Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. ⁷Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

In these verses sound doctrine refers to younger men being: -

- Self-controlled and in all respects a model of good works.
- Full of integrity, dignity and self-respect when they teach.
- Pure in their speech so that they cannot be condemned

The reason for this is so that no-one will have anything bad to say about them (v8).

Slaves are called to be Submissive.

Titus 2:9-10 ----- ⁹Slaves are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour.

In these verses sound doctrine refers to slaves being: -

- Submissive and pleasing to their own masters in everything.
- Well-pleasing, not argumentative not stealing, but honest showing all good faith

The reason for this is so that in all they do they may bring a good report to the doctrine of God and the Lord Jesus Christ (v10).

Masters in this context are not the kind we might think of as in Hollywood Blockbuster movies with whips and their slaves in chains being tortured and brutally beaten, but even if they were the principal remains the same since a slave has no-rights and therefore no power and as such should they try to stand against their master or shirk their work they will bring the wrath of such brutal and cruel masters upon them.

The spirit behind what Paul is saying is one of protection since if slave obey their master whether they are watching or not watching and do the work that is expected of them as though they were doing the will of God and work with a good attitude as to the Lord they will be kept safe since the master will have no cause to unleash his fury. But the masters Paul has in mind are mostly far more civil than these types of cruel brute beasts. Paul no-doubt understands that no-one enjoys working as a slave and therefore tells those who are slaves and belong to God to work as unto the Lord knowing that those who are honest, faithful and do what is right and good as unto God are storing up for themselves eternal rewards in heaven.

NOTE: this same principal also applies today to those who work for employers.

Paul balances this by telling masters to: -

- Stop threatening their slaves, knowing that he who is both the slaves Master and theirs is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him (Eph. 6:9).

This means masters are not to abuse or maltreat their slaves. The words, "God who is both the slaves Master and theirs" means that the same God who is over the slave is the same God who is over the master, and the words, "There is no partiality with God" means that whether a person is a master or slave, noble or

lowly, rich or poor, God shows no favouritism, but rather does what is right and just no matter what a person's status is in life or lack of it. This means that even if a master is a brother in Christ if he abuses his slaves (even if they are unbelievers) God will judge him accordingly.

When one meditates on the overall teaching of Paul in these verse in contrast to focusing on one aspect it becomes obvious that in all human relationships everyone should treat each other justly and fairly regardless of the position of authority or lack of it especially when one considers that the Lord Jesus Christ is our master and as such laid his life down for us clearly showing that we are all called to treat others with fairness and with respect whether they belong to the family of Christ or not.

Paul sums this all up by saying, "No matter who you are or what position in life you hold or don't hold, no matter whether single, or married, noble or lowly, rich or poor, a boss or a worker whatever your state in life or whoever you are do everything as if you were doing it for the Lord because, In God there is no partiality," meaning in regards to justice God has no favourites and will judge all of us according to how we treat other humans.

The Grace of God has Appeared, Bringing Salvation for all People.

Titus 2:11-12 ----- ¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

The words, "The Grace of God has appeared" (v11) refer to the Lord Jesus Christ himself (teachings do not appear) since it is by our faith in Christ and God's grace in Christ that we are saved to eternal life. No-one, no matter how good they maybe or how rigidly they keep holy days, religious rites, ceremonies, customs and religious traditions can be saved by these things.

Everyone who will inherit eternal life will inherit it not because of their self-effort to be righteous, but because of their faith in Christ and God's Grace. Jesus appeared and brought salvation by faith and through grace to all mankind and it is Christ who not only by his words, but also by his life teaches those who belong to his family the way to live a life that honours God his heavenly Father and brings a good testimony to Jesus himself and to the Christian faith

There is an important principle we can learn from these words of Paul and that is that it is not by dogmatically and legalistically demanding brothers and sisters keep laws and rules that will motivate them to live a life that honours God, but by bringing them into greater levels and higher understandings of God's grace and love that is in Christ Jesus.

Waiting for our Great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:13 ----- ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Since every Christian knows the Lord Jesus Christ is their Saviour some religious teachers use the following verse "The glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ" (v13) to support the mistaken theory that that Jesus is God. Sadly this stems from ancient religious teaching, tradition and a lack of understanding Bible language and the relationship of love between the heavenly Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

God is the Saviour of us all since he is the source of all life. Before time began God in His eternal mind planned and purposed that salvation to eternal life would be in his Son, so Jesus is the fulfilment of God's foreordained plan of salvation for all mankind, without Christ no-one can be saved, thus both God and Christ are the Saviour but in a different manner. God is the Saviour in that He is the source of all life and planned and purposed the eternal way of salvation, but Christ is our Saviour in that he is the fulfilment of God's eternal plan. Without God there would be no salvation, but God's eternal plan without Christ would be left bankrupt thus the reason the Bible in various contexts can refer to God the Father or the Lord

Jesus Christ as the Saviour. Added to this all one has to do is punctuate the verse with a coma i.e., "Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God, and Saviour Jesus Christ" (v13) which clearly separates the Great God and the Saviour Jesus Christ.

Words of comfort and encouragement: since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states: -

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God the Son will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim: -

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God 'and' Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

For further information see the title: -

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Waiting for our blessed hope: refer to the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ" (v13) refers to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

NOTE: when salvation to eternal life is spoken of as the hope of the faithful in Christ, it is not called hope because it might or might not happen, but because it is unseen and yet future. The hope itself is guaranteed because it is based on God's promise and he cannot lie.

The apostle Paul wrote; "In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began (Titus 1:2).

Christ Gave Himself to Redeem us from all Lawlessness.

Titus 2:13-15 ----- ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people (peculiar people in KJV) for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
¹⁵Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Here is the glory the beauty and wonder of the Christian faith, it is not about being united with an overload of intellectual head knowledge, but being united in LOVE with the Lord Jesus Christ himself who laid down his life to save us from all wrongdoing.

Jesus himself said: -

- Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. (John 15:13).

It is from this great love that Christ has for his brothers and sisters (his friends) that their zealousness and desire to live a life that honours his heavenly Father stems from and flows out to others and not from the demand of the Law to obey.

The greatest motivating power on earth is love people will willingly lay down their lives for someone they love there is no other greater power that influences the human heart to do good than love. This of course is why God in his eternal mind and eternal wisdom purposed before the world began that salvation would be in his Son the Lord Jesus Christ and not in dogmatic and legalistic head knowledge or strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions.

End