

Letters to Live By

TITUS 2

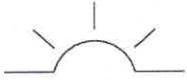
FIRST DAY: Introduction

Oh, what a difference the grace of God makes in our lives! Our lifestyle and behavior, as Christians, should testify to the great grace of God that we have received through Christ Jesus. Grace is not simply our acceptance and forgiveness by God. Grace is God's power given to us through Christ to become more and more like Jesus in all we say, do, and think. Grace teaches us how to live godly lives in this present age!

Having tasked Titus with the ministry of raising up believers to be leaders and examples in the church, Paul instructed him to utilize the grace that is in Christ Jesus. In the second chapter of Titus, Paul demarcated what godly behavior is to look like in the older men, older women, young women, young men, and bondservants. This behavior was markedly different from the comportment of the Cretans. Whereas the Cretans were known for lying, beastly behavior, and laziness, the grace of God teaches us that, *denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.* It was God's grace that would make the transforming difference and set these believers apart from the rest of their culture!

Today, the grace of God is still what sets believers apart from the ungodly culture that surrounds us. The appeal of grace is the person of Christ Himself, living in our hearts and taking authority over every area of our lives. The more we allow the grace of God to teach us how to live godly, the more we will be a witness to others of the power of God's grace.

Ask God to give you a renewed appreciation for His great grace!



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Paul used the Greek word *hygiaino* in describing doctrine.

This is the word from which we get the English word *hygienic*. It means *pure, healthy, free from errors, strong*.

SECOND DAY: Read Titus 2:1–5

1. Recall that in Titus 1:10–16, Paul described those in Crete as *insubordinate, idle talkers, deceivers, liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons*. He said that *they profess to know God but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work*. In contrast to this classic Cretan behavior, what was Titus to *speak*? Titus 2:1
 - a. The word *proper* can be translated as *appropriate* and *befitting*. Link this with Ephesians 4:1 and share your thoughts.
 - (1) Why do you think it is essential that the words and actions of believers are befitting to what they profess?

2. Paul then gave Titus a series of directives for various groups of believers, beginning with *older men*. Use Titus 2:2 to note why the following qualities are essential for godly *older men*:
 - a. *Sober* (abstaining from wine, or at least from immoderate use)
 - (1) According to Ephesians 5:18, what is the superior alternative?

- b. *Reverent* (dignified, honorable)
- c. *Temperate* (self-controlled)
- d. *Sound* (strong) *in faith, in love, in patience*



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Greek word for *slanderer* is *diabolos*, which means *false accuser*. It is the same word used to refer to the devil.

3. Paul *likewise* addressed the *older women*. Use Titus 2:3 to fill in the following chart:

| ESSENTIAL QUALITY | DEFINITION | APPLICATION |
|---|------------|-------------|
| <i>Reverent in behavior (reflecting holiness)</i> | | |
| <i>Not slanderers</i> | | |
| <i>Not given to much wine</i> | | |
| <i>Teachers of good things</i> | | |

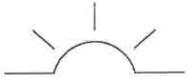
4. In Titus 2:4–5a, Paul cited certain things the *older women* were to *admonish* the *young women* to do. The word used here for *admonish* (*sophronizo*) is only used once in the Bible and means *to restore one to his senses, moderate, control, curb, disciple, hold one to his duty, or exhort earnestly*. Use this list to note and comment on what the *older women* were to *admonish* them in:

- a. Their family relationships



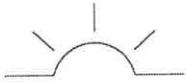
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Obedience to husbands refers to the biblical order of submission, not a show of oppression or superiority (see Ephesians 5:22 and Colossians 3:18).



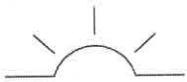
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Greek term for *homemaker* is *oikourgos*, and speaks of caring for or keeping the home. Paul was not saying that women could not work outside the home, but simply that caring for their home and family should be their priority.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Many of these same admonitions that Paul instructed the older women to teach (Titus 2:4–5a) can also be found in Proverbs 31:10–31.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

One of the strongest forces for spiritual ministry in the local church lies with the older believers.¹
 –Warren Wiersbe

b. Their attitudes

(1) Link this with 1 Peter 3:1–6. What do you see?

c. Their responsibilities

5. According to Titus 2:5b, why were the *young women* to heed these exhortations?

a. What does this convey about the ultimate purpose of Paul's directives?

b. What connection do you see between the family and our Christian witness?

6. How do you see the behaviors Paul listed as befitting *sound doctrine*?

7. Take a moment to pray for the *older men* and *older women* in your church.

THIRD DAY: Read Titus 2:6–8

1. As Paul continued his directives to Titus, he addressed the *young men*. They were *likewise* to heed Paul's previous exhortations, but also were to be *sober-minded*. The Greek word used here means *to curb one's passions*. The Living Bible renders this, *behave carefully, taking life seriously*. Why is this instruction particularly important for *young men*?
Titus 2:6

2. Paul then urged Titus, as a young man himself, to be an example to the others. Use Titus 2:7–8a to note and comment on the example Titus was to be in terms of:

a. His *works* (verse 7a)

(1) Link this with 1 Peter 2:12 to remark on the importance of this in Titus's ministry.

b. His *doctrine* (verse 7b)

(1) One of the many essential aspects of *doctrine* is teaching. Comment on the importance of these qualities in the teaching of God's Word.

c. His *speech* (verse 8a)

(1) Link this with the following Scriptures and share your thoughts:

(a) Proverbs 15:4

(b) Ephesians 4:29

(c) Colossians 4:6

3. According to Titus 2:8b, observe the result of such godly behavior and link this with 1 Peter 3:15–16. Share your thoughts.

a. How does this speak to you concerning your Christian witness?

4. Although Paul was specifically addressing Titus and the *young men*, these directives are proper for all believers. Which of these do you find the most challenging?

FOURTH DAY: Read Titus 2:9–10

1. The final group Paul addressed in his directives to Titus was *bondservants*. Use Titus 2:9–10a to record these directives below:

a. *To be* _____

b. *To be* _____

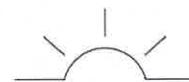
c. *Not* _____

d. *Not* _____ *but showing* _____

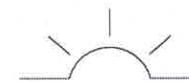
(1) How would heeding Paul's instruction to show *all good fidelity* (trustworthiness and faithfulness) make Christian *bondservants* outstanding?

(2) Link these exhortations with Colossians 3:22–24. What present applications do you see for your life?

2. According to Titus 2:10b (NLT): *Show themselves to be entirely trustworthy and good. Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way.* The word translated *attractive* (*adorn*) is the Greek word *kosmeo*. It was used of arranging jewels in order to show off their beauty. What *teaching* (*doctrine*) is showcased by godly behavior?

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

The Bible does not support slavery, but accepts it as a base reality in a broken world. The slavery of Bible times was not aimed at one ethnicity; any race of people could be slaves. During Paul's time, the majority of the population were slaves. Albeit, slaves in Roman times were more akin to employees today, only with very few human rights.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

The Greek word for *pilfering* implies not only theft, but also embezzling. It is the same word used for the sin of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1–5.

Pilfering was so common in the ancient world that sometimes the words servant and thief were used interchangeably.²

–David Guzik

- a. Paul invoked the phrase *all things* twice in this chapter (Titus 2:7, 10). What does this phrase convey to you about the effect of the gospel in your life?
-
3. From your study today, how has the significance of your personal witness been elevated? See also 2 Corinthians 2:14–15.

FIFTH DAY: Read Titus 2:11–15

1. Paul closed this portion of his letter by reminding Titus of *the grace of God*. Use Titus 2:11–12 to answer the following:
 - a. What does God's *grace* bring to us? (verse 11a)
 - (1) Connect this with the following verses to comment on what God's grace has brought:
 - (a) Romans 5:15, 20–21
 - (b) Ephesians 1:6–7
 - (c) 2 Timothy 1:9–10

b. To whom has God's grace *appeared*? (verse 11b)

(1) Link this with John 1:9–14. What do you see?

c. What does God's grace teach (*train or discipline*) us to deny? (verse 12a)

(1) Link this with Romans 6:13–14. Why is it essential to know this aspect of God's grace?

d. How does God's grace teach us to *live*? (verse 12b)

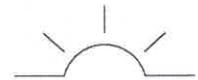
(1) Why do you think such behavior is crucial *in the present age*?

2. The word *looking* in Greek implies an eagerness with great anticipation. What two things are believers to be *looking for*?

Titus 2:13

a.

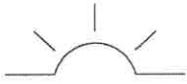
b.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*We are taught by ... the grace of God to live soberly, as regards our personal life; righteously, in relation to others; godly, in our attitude towards God.*³

–F. B. Meyer



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Bible scholars agree that the phrase *our great God and Savior Jesus Christ* is the clearest declaration in the New Testament of the deity of Jesus.

(1) How is this description a catalyst to you for godly living?

3. In Titus 2:14 Paul described what Jesus has done for us as believers. Share what speaks to you from the following statements:

a. *Gave Himself for us*

b. *Redeemed us from every lawless deed*

c. *Purified for Himself His own special people*

(1) Bible scholars have noted that the word *special* used here means *reserved for*, and referred to the part of the spoils in battle that a king would set apart for himself. How does this speak to you?

(2) Why do you think being *zealous for good works* is an appropriate response to these things?

4. From Titus 2:15, define the three ways Titus was instructed to communicate *these things*:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
5. From your study today, what stands out to you most to you concerning God's grace?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. In response to your study this week, share a brief takeaway from Paul's instructions concerning:
 - a. Older men
 - b. Older women
 - c. Young women
 - d. Young men
 - e. Bondservants
 - f. Titus
2. How does Titus 2 offer you counsel to **live by**?



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The last phrase, *let no one despise you*, is rendered as, *let no one disregard you*, in the CSB (Titus 2:15). This verse is speaking about the irrefutable authority of God's Word.