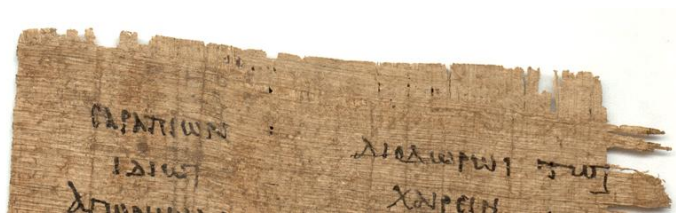


The Epistle to

Titus

New Testament Letters Series



Lesson 2-Guiding and Guided in the Path of Righteousness

Focus: Ch. 2 v.1-15

1. Exhortations and teachings from the Minister for the Older and Younger Generations (v.1-6)

- a. *The false professors of Religion or of faith in God through Jesus Christ are those who “deny Him” in their works, while merely giving praises upon their lips. Their religion or faith is worthless and they are “disqualified for every good work” (1:16). Paul then changes his aim of speech, “But as for you...” (2:1). In other words, “you,” Titus, beloved and faithful one, you must be entirely different from these corrupted men. By extension, the same call comes on down to all of us who would be true Christians indeed. We must be entirely different from that corrupted way! We must be faithful in words and works! Our actions must tell of our true and sincere faith in God through Jesus Christ!*
- b. **Titus was especially instructed here to “speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine” (v.1).** *The teachings of the minister must be clear, righteous, and true! As they must speak and share about the words of God, they **must** make every possible aim and striving to get the message of truth right on. The words of the minister often carry a certain weight among the people that is not always so easily erased. If they venture or happen to speak errors from the actual truth, their words may leave an indelible mark upon the minds of the hearers. Many would be led astray from what the actual truth is, which in turn, would lead to errors in the lives of the believers. And what’s more is that the erroneous teachings will in all likelihood be repeated to many others by the mouths of those who were led astray. O, what a solemn responsibility rests upon the minister to speak carefully, clearly, and truly in all things—to speak the words “which are proper for sound doctrine.”*
- c. **Righteousness among the aged (v.2-5).** *The example set by the older generations upon the younger is often a weighty one. The minister, though he himself be a younger man in years, must speak the words of heavenly wisdom, the truths that God himself has passed down to His prophets and the ancients of many generations past; He must speak and share the Divine wisdom that rests far above his own limited years for understanding and life experience. He must let the Holy Spirit speak through Him. He must let the sure wisdom of God be spoken through him to lovingly and humbly teach the aged or bring remembrance to them of the sacred truths for life. How can a young man gain such wisdom? The answer lies in the word of God, “I have more understanding than all my teachers: for your testimonies are my meditation...” (Psalm 119:99, 100). **The principles of righteousness are timeless. They are always righteous and true. The wisdom and truth of God’s word is pure. It lasts and endures to every generation. The teachings of righteousness are not merely learned by age, but rather, they are learned by direct and indirect revelation from God.** Therefore, we are in need of, and must be willing to receive such truths at any age or stage of life, and especially to be continually reminded of such blessed truths! This leads to the further transformation of our hearts, minds, and souls into the blessed image of God as seen in the face of Jesus Christ.*
- d. **Biblical family roles are here brought to light** and the need to live according to God’s order, having a well ordered family in Christ, as an example to others. **The fathers have roles in the family and even the mothers.** The word of God pointed to the common and truly important work of women/mothers to be “keepers at home” or good “homemakers” that the “word of God would

not be blasphemed" (2:5). **The older should be teachers of the younger, to train them in the righteous ways to go.** As their faith and experience have been built up and made strong, they are to be a help to those who are younger in years. Praise God for His wisdom!

e. (v.6) Young men should also be sober-minded.

2. The call to be a Living Example of our Faith—for Ministers, servants, and all others (v.7-10)

a. (v.7) *The minister himself is called to set a high standard and example of piety. He should watch his words and only speak what is sound and true.*

b. (v.9,10) *Bondservants (or slaves) should be faithful to God and dutiful towards their necessary daily work. They should speak with love and respect. They must watch their words and attitudes and see to it that God's truth is honored. None should ever speak disrespectfully or corruptly to others. **God calls us to a much higher "pattern of good works...and sound speech that cannot be condemned."** (ch.2 vs. 7,8).*

3. The instructive power and purpose of Saving Grace (v.11-15)

a. *The power of grace is that it saves and transforms lives! Grace is even a teacher that leads us to live and seek to develop godly lives. We are to live righteously even within the midst of a world that does not know God and who commits unrighteous deeds all around us. We are to be a people who are "zealous of good works" (v.14).*

b. *God is doing a special work to cleanse and purify His people. He wants us to be pure and holy "in this present age" of earth's history. The Lord forgives and washes away sin by the merciful blood of Jesus. Jesus said to a sinful woman, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and sin no more" (John 8:11). The pure gospel teaching is one that brings purification and sanctification or holiness into the life even here in this "present age." Learning to live a righteous life and to have victories in God for the transformation of our characters is not something that God has ever asked any of us to wait until heaven to receive. No, no. The work of the transformation of our characters into the blessed image of Christ's perfect character is a work that must go on in our lives today! It is an upward work of God in our lives that works by our own choice and cooperation together with God! It is accomplished by a life of devotion and surrender to God, allow He and His words to transform, cleanse, and purify our lives until surely the image of Jesus Christ may be beheld in us. It is to be "more and more" even unto the perfect day! This work is accomplished by beholding Christ. By beholding we become changed (See John 15:4,5; 2 Corinthians 3:18).*

c. *Titus was commanded by Paul to speak the truth to all and to let none despise him (v.25). Surely, not everyone may desire to hear God's pure and holy words, but we must preach and teach the same exact truths of God's word no matter what.*

Questions for the Heart:

Would you like to be guided in the paths of righteousness by God's pure and holy words? _____ Then, in proper turn, to share those pure and holy principles with others? _____ (May it be so!)