

# Heart to Heart

## Look for Spiritual Excellence

Lesson Passage: Titus 2:1-15

May 19, 2013

### Lesson Passages:

1. Aging Gracefully (Titus 2:1-5)
2. Demonstrating Integrity (Titus 2:6-8)
3. Working Faithfully (Titus 2:9-10)
4. Living Righteously (Titus 2:11-15)

**Focus** on This Goal: To help adults strive toward excellence in their Christian lives

---

### Scripture 1-Aging Gracefully (Titus 2:1-5)

1 But you must say the things that are consistent with sound teaching. 2 Older men are to be level headed, worthy of respect, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and endurance. 3 In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not addicted to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 so they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and to love their children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, homemakers, kind, and submissive to their husbands, so that God's message will not be slandered.

Verse 1- The phrase, but you, shows the difference between Titus and the false teachers. Instead of teaching based on empty talk and trickery, Titus was to make sure that his instructions were clear with sound (good teaching.) The theme of



**Burnt Hickory**

Baptist Church  
5145 Due West Rd.  
Powder Springs, GA 30127

*sound teaching* is an ongoing phrase throughout Paul's letters to Titus and Timothy. Such teaching will not only build up the faith of believers, it will protect them from the untrue parts of false teaching.

Verse 2- Because the older men were those most likely to be looked up to as mature and influential in the body of believers, Paul began with them. His list is similar to the qualifications for overseers from Titus 1. Level headed literally means "sober" (as opposed to drunken). Maturity means an ongoing use of good sense and judgment. To be worthy of respect suggests being dignified, as compared to being silly or juvenile. Being sensible, means showing good sense or sound judgment. Sound in faith, love, and endurance means demonstrating a healthy expression of these great Christian virtues. Instead of the more familiar, "faith, hope, and love," Paul referred to *endurance* in older men who might be tempted to give up when the going might get rough.

Verse 3- Paul next turned his attention to older women. Notice that Paul didn't point out a particular age at which being "older" begins for either men or women. Some Bible students suggest that "older" indicates that these adults had reared children who had left the nest and established their own homes. The apostle directed older women to be reverent in behavior, an unusual phrase that is found only here in the New Testament.

It focuses on the sacred responsibility Christian women have as representatives of a holy God. Not being slanderers is a form of the word also translated "devil," for the Devil is the chief slanderer. The indication is that older women are to have mastery over their tongues. Not addicted to too much wine indicates having mastery over their appetites. The willingness to teach what is good applies to older women's responsibility to younger women.

Verses 4-5- In thinking of what the older women were to teach, Paul described the qualities desirable in the young women. His focus was on married women with children at home. Single adult women were much rarer in Paul's day than in ours. Older women could teach these young married women to love their husbands and to love their children. While this might seem obvious, we need to remember that one of the ways Christianity is judged is by the kind of families it produces. The wife plays a critical role in the success of every family.

Self-controlled is the same word as "sensible." The word, homemakers, literally means "busy at home,"—that is, being good managers of household responsibilities. Being pure, means women should be sexually faithful to their



**Burnt Hickory**

Baptist Church  
5145 Due West Rd.  
Powder Springs, GA 30127

husbands. Kind is a word that often means “good.” The phrase, submissive to their husbands, carries out a commonly found New Testament theme about the relationship of wives to their husbands. Submission does not mean that wives are inferior, but that they have a clear, God-given role in the home.

When Christian homes are operating in good order, God’s message will not be slandered. The ungodly world watches to see what kind of families Christianity really produces. As we have seen, older Christian men are to live respectably, and older Christian women are to take the lead in teaching younger women. If you are an older Christian, commit to excellence by living a godly life that younger Christians can look up to as a good example.

### **Scripture 2- Demonstrating Integrity (Titus 2:6-8)**

6 In the same way, encourage the young men to be self-controlled 7 in everything. Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity in your teaching. 8 Your message is to be sound beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be ashamed, having nothing bad to say about us.

Verse 6- The young men in that society for the most part were married with children at home. Yet the word of advice Paul offered was appropriate whether or not they were married. They were to be self-controlled. This is a form of the word “sensible.” Lack of self-control, especially in the area of sex, has long been recognized as a challenge for young men. The phrase, in everything, meant that the young men should have their life under control in every way and in all areas of life.

Verse 7- Titus—probably a young man himself —was to be an example or model to the other young men, and indeed to all the believers. Paul first spoke about Titus’s behavior. He was to be known for good works. Others were to see the pattern and follow it, just as Titus and Timothy had followed Paul’s example. Paul next spoke about Timothy’s ministry of teaching the Christian message. He was not just to “mouth” the words. Rather, his listeners were to recognize that the teaching came from a person with integrity and dignity. Titus was always to teach truthfully in a way that inspired respect.

Verse 8- Paul moved from the *manner* of Titus’s teaching to the *content*: it was to be sound (good) in all ways. He was to stick to the plain, simple, life-giving gospel message, as we have seen Paul point out over and over again in his letters. Also as a *result* of Titus’s teaching truthfully and well, would be that anyone against him would be ashamed and have nothing bad to say.



**Burnt Hickory**

Baptist Church  
5145 Due West Rd.  
Powder Springs, GA 30127

The apostle made clear that it is the combination of outstanding behavior and outstanding teaching that best silences those against the good news of Jesus. Paul's advice to the younger men focused on self-control; his advice to Titus was to act with integrity (live with Christian values.) Younger Christians should gain excellence by living a godly life of self-control and integrity.

### **Scripture 3-Working Faithfully (Titus 2:9-10)**

9 Slaves are to be submissive to their masters in everything, and to be well-pleasing, not talking back 10 or stealing, but demonstrating utter faithfulness, so that they may adorn the teaching of God our Savior in everything.

Verse 9- Being “submissive” as Paul used the word here, was regarding the relationship of wives to their husbands. As was true of wives, so it was true of slaves; submission did not mean inferiority as a person. Instead, it was an understanding of the difference in the work that wives, slaves and masters carried out. The term, well pleasing, as found in other New Testament passages, refers to believers attempting to please God. Just as all believers want their behavior to be acceptable to God, so slaves were to desire for their masters to find their service acceptable. The opposite behavior would be talking back, which was perhaps a

common event among slaves. Christian slaves were to act better than ungodly slaves.

Verse 10- Another negative behavior common to slaves was stealing—picking up little things they could get away with. Instead of this, Christian slaves were to show total faithfulness in the way they handled their master's possessions. When they did so, they would make beautiful the teaching of God, making it attractive to outsiders. Paul was often pointing out that the way Christians behave has a big impact on the way others respond to the truth of the gospel message. As we have seen, Christian slaves were to be submissive to their owners and to do good work as those who reflected they knew God. Today, employees also can complete their work with excellence and integrity, reflecting they know God.

### **Scripture 4- Living Righteously (Titus 2:11-15)**

11 For the grace of God has appeared with salvation for all people, 12 instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14 He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for



**Burnt Hickory**

Baptist Church  
5145 Due West Rd.  
Powder Springs, GA 30127

Himself a people for His own possession, eager to do good works. 15 Say these things, and encourage and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Verse 11- Sometimes this verse has been misunderstood as teaching that all persons will eventually be saved. However, the phrase, all people, does not point out that all will be saved, but rather the universal offer of the gospel to all kinds of people (young, old, male, female, slave, master). Furthermore, salvation is a broad term that includes God's grace so that we can live a godly life, no matter our life situation. The word, appeared, points to the incarnation (Christ taking on a human body), and the historical appearing of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Verse 12- How does salvation show itself in the lives of God's people day to day? We deny godlessness and worldly lusts; *Godlessness* is the exact opposite of godliness. *Worldly lusts* are desires that reflect the value of this age, which at its heart opposes God. The positive opposite is to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way. *Sensible* has been a common thread throughout this lesson. Some Bible students have suggested that sensible refers to a proper relationship with self, *righteous* refers to a proper relationship with others, and *godly* means a proper relationship with God.

Verse 13- How will salvation show itself in the lives of God's people in the future?

We will experience the blessed hope. Paul further explained this as the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. When Christ returns, His glory will be fully revealed. Paul had referred to the Father as "God our Savior." Here, he used the same language to refer to Jesus as our Savior. In other words, Paul was directly applying the description *God* to Jesus. There is no doubt Paul and the early Christians regarded Jesus as fully God. At the present moment, God's people wait with expectation, knowing that Jesus' glorious future return is as certain as the salvation He brought about in the past.

Verse 14- This verse brings together the historical work of Christ on the cross. Jesus gave Himself as a sacrificial offering for us. The purpose of His death is described with two wonderful verbs. Redeem implies buying out of slavery. Here, the slavery is that of lawlessness. Before salvation came to us, we were enslaved in sin, unable and unwilling to follow God's ways. All this has been changed. Cleanse implies washing away dirt. Here, the reference is to the dirt of sin. What was God's purpose in doing this? He gains a people for His own possession; and we gain new hearts so



**Burnt Hickory**  
Baptist Church  
5145 Due West Rd.  
Powder Springs, GA 30127

that we are not only enabled but ready to do good works.

Verse 15- Paul came full circle. Our faith is not a theory or a mental game, it is about real life. Thus the apostle reminded Titus of his duty. The words: *say* and *encourage* and *rebuke*, cling to each other. Not only Titus but also other Christian leaders needed to remember they had the authority to speak God's message. Some might be tempted to disregard Titus, but if he lived according to the guidelines in the scriptures, he would find a ready hearing for his message.

Paul understood that one important reason God has saved people is so that we will live godly lives as we look for Christ's return. We are to strive for excellence because we have received God's grace in salvation. [Believers in today's world have the responsibility of leading others to Christ. Dr. J Vernon McGee said, "it is the greatest responsibility in the world." It is a life saving honor to lead someone to Christ.]

Wayne Clemons, Teacher

Format duplicated and used by permission  
© 2013 The Southern Baptist Convention



**Burnt Hickory**  
Baptist Church  
5145 Due West Rd.  
Powder Springs, GA 30127