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TITUS

The Gospel Lives

Titus 2

I. The How

- a. The church has been under attack since its inception, and its greatest threat comes from within
 - i. Not sensationalism - Attack is on the true gospel - ***Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes***
 - ii. ***2 Timothy 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!***
 - iii. ***Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.***
- b. How do we combat this?
 - i. Chapter 1 Combat the false teaching with Christlike leadership
 - ii. Chapter 2 - combat the false teaching with Christlike living
 - 1. “when false teachers increase, we must multiply the number of true teachers.”
 - 2. Teacher - not just one who stands in front of a crowd - our lives carry a message - we are teaching, we are communicating - our lives tell a story about what is important, what is worthwhile, what has value
 - a. Paul in his letters to Timothy and Titus focuses on the character of the messenger just as much as he focuses on the message
 - iii. The lives of these false teachers did not match their message. An appearance of godliness, but denying His power.
 - 1. Going through the motions without the resurrecting power of Christ.
 - 2. A life that drives people away from the gospel

Tit 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

II. But as for you...

- a. Paul uses this phrase five times in his letters to Timothy and Titus
 - i. Important words when living in a fallen world where sin is normalized, and righteousness is depicted as unusual and unsettling
 - ii.
- b. Speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine
 - i. Two things at play here
 - 1. Sound doctrine - healthy or healing doctrine, whole doctrine
 - a. Same adjective used for the woman who suffered from internal bleeding, the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda, and the lame man outside the temple in Jerusalem, after they had been healed
 - b. Paul has specific teaching in mind, teachings of Jesus

- c. The teachings of Jesus bring healing, bring wholeness, they are ‘wholesome’... but the teachings of the false teachers are ‘sick’
- 2. You have the teachings themselves and then things that accord, or fit in, to that framework of sound teaching. Practical response to sound doctrine.
 - a. Things that fit into the teachings of Jesus. Turn the other cheek, take up your cross and follow me, love one another as I have loved you, love the Lord your God with all your soul, heart, and mind, go and do likewise – that is the what we must do
 - b. Things which accord with sound doctrine, that is how we go about it.
 - c. What Paul is saying is teach people how to live out the gospel
- c. New coach – first time in the locker room with his players
 - i. The room is silent – he walks up to the white board and he writes in large letters three words
 - 1. SCORE MORE POINTS
 - 2. Confidently puts the cap on the marker and tells his players “If we are going to win we need to score more points than the other team. Go out there and get ‘em!”
 - ii. That is not coaching – that is not leading. Anyone in the stands with half a brain could do the same thing
 - 1. Look back at the jobs we had that had poor training programs – “here’s what you are supposed to do –how you accomplish that, well that’s up to you.” Drop and binder in your lap.
 - 2. Teachers that had the most impact on your life – it wasn’t just the “what” it was the “how” and the “why”
 - 3. We know how important the “how” is to leading effectively yet we approach parenting, spiritual training, and discipleship the same way that coach approached his team – were good at telling people what to do – but unwilling to spend the time showing them the how – or maybe we just don’t know how
- d. The gospel in the air and the gospel on the ground
 - i. Don’t get me wrong, the “what” was extremely important to Paul – Paul spent a lot of time on the “what” – He spends the first 11 chapter of Romans on the “what”
 - ii. That’s the gospel in the air (the what) but how do we take that message out to the world? That’s the gospel on the ground. Do we raise money to purchase billboards, do we buy airtime on the local television station, do we print fake dollar bills that have the gospel message on the back? How do we get this message out?
 - iii. Paul tells us – our lives are the billboards, our lives carry the message of the cross – the gospel isn’t simply a message to be regurgitated over and over again, it is a life to be lived
 - 1. It’s not simply dropping a Bible in someone’s lap and saying good luck with that
 - a. It’s taking the time to go through it with them - show and tell
 - b. Jon Courson writes “*The Lord is not interested in us becoming people who have theories of theology. He wants the understanding of the Word to be translated through our lives into daily practicality.*”

Tit 2:2-8 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; (3) the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things.

III. Starts with the Older Men and Women

- a. Central verse in chapter 2 - ***in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works***
 - i. Turns his attention to the older men and women
 - ii. The Greek word Paul uses for older men and older women literally translates to older men and older women – no escaping what he meant

- iii. He starts there – they are to be the examples to the younger ones
 - 1. Young people today really get a bad rap, but the reality is they are products of the previous generation
 - 2. This current generation is the product of the “do what I say, not what I do”
 - 3. I’ll tell you how important it is to read your Bible but you’ll never see me reading it – I’ll tell you how important church is and then I’ll stay home to watch the game – You’ll see me act one way around the people at church and a completely different way at home
 - a. You know what that translates to “They profess to know God, but they deny His power.”
 - 4. Paul writes that it is the responsibility of the older generation to train up the younger generation – and if the younger generation is lost it is time for us to look in the mirror
 - 5. We may say “but they don’t want to be trained up” – have we really even tried?
- b. To the older men – “the greybeards of the flock”
 - i. Sober - clear minded, keep the important things important, minds are not cluttered with secondary things
 - 1. ***Luke 10:38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.” 41 And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”***
 - ii. reverent, temperate - worthy of respect, self-controlled
 - a. We can tell people all day long what is important to us but we show them by how we spend our time and money (where your treasure is, there will your heart be also)
 - b. Tell my son how much he means to me and then spend all my free time with my buddies on the golf course – kids are smarter than we think
 - c. We often have our priorities mixed up – we take the important things in life lightly and give the frivolous things in life far too much importance
 - d. Sober also means - vigilant – fight to protect things of value
 - 2. Sound (be in good health, healthy) in faith, in love, in patience - how do you keep your body healthy? By using it!
 - a. Atrophy – the wasting away of body tissue, the gradual decline in effectiveness or vigor due to underuse or neglect (resistance)
 - 3. exhorting the young men, showing yourself to be a pattern of good works
 - a. Older men be an example – personal trainers – you look at them and think, wow I want to look like that!
 - b. Do we inspire the same response in the young men around us – I want to be that kind of husband, I want to be that kind of father, I want to be that kind of leader in the church
- c. Older Women - the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things
 - i. Reverent in behavior – Green word Paul uses only appears here in the New Testament
 - 1. Priestess, they live in the presence of God - live with an awareness that God is with them
 - ii. They are to avoid gossip and substance abuse both of which can be intoxicating.
 - 1. Instead of tearing other women down, they build into them.
 - 2. Example of women at a wedding

- d. Focuses on older men and women should live before he explains what they should teach.

(4) that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. (6) Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, (7) in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, (8) sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

IV. Show Yourself to Be a Pattern of Good Works

- a. Demonstrate to the younger women what it looks like to love your husband and your children well
 - i. Service and sacrifice - can be learned, which is very encouraging when we haven't had a model growing up
 - ii. Self-control and purity
 - iii. Homemakers - *accepts the vocation of marriage, and has a husband and children, she will love and not neglect them. J. B. Phillips' word 'home lovers' sums up well what Paul has in mind.*
 - 1. They are not looking for an escape (wine)**
 - iv. good - kind, hospitable, inviting
 - v. obedient to their own husbands - subject to their husbands
 - 1. Equal value, differing roles
- b. Take the young women under your wing and tell them how you do it!
 - i. Instead of talking about how they are failing, teach them to succeed
- c. Self controlled - a consistent lifestyle of good works, and good words.
 - i. control of temper and mouth, of ambition and desires, and especially sexual desires
 - ii. A life governed by the Spirit of God
 - iii. Older men show the younger men that self-control or self-mastery is possible!
 - 1. Do it through encouragement and example

(9) Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, (10) not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

V. Paul's primary concern in all of these areas

- a. *5 that the word of God may not be blasphemed, 8 that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you, 10 that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.*
 - i. arranging jewels in order to display their beauty – gospel may be laid out plainly
 - ii. Paul wasn't condoning slavery, he just knew the ultimate solution was found in a heart transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - 1. That is why he was so concerned about the Christian witness in a non-Christian world
 - iii. Do our lives lay out the beauty of the gospel?

(11) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (13) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (14) who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (15) Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

VI. Grace – Our Savior and Teacher

- a. The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men – The epiphany of grace
 - i. The grace of God is our savior and our teacher
 - ii. What does God patiently teach us? – that we should deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age
 - iii. What compels us to live a life that proclaims the gospel is an understanding of the grace that God has shown us by saving us when we were dead in our sins
 - 1. A desire to see others experience that same grace – a willingness to do whatever it takes to reflect the truth of His unconditional love
 - 2. Jesus gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works
- b. ***2Pe 3:17-18 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; (18) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.***
 - i. As Jon Courson has said “Peter closes not by saying, "Grow in devotion," or, "Grow in zeal," or "Grow in holiness." He closes by saying, "Grow in grace" because grace is not the starting point. Grace is the only point.”