

# The Book of Titus

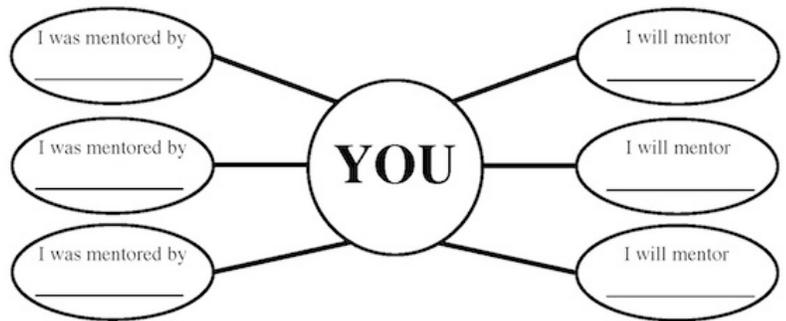
The Life of Christians in a  
Congregation:

“The Knowledge of the Truth  
Which Accords With Godliness”

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## A. THE TEXT

### (Titus 2)

(1) But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.

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

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

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

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

(11) For **the grace of God** has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, (12) training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, (13) waiting for our blessed hope, **the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**, (14) who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

(15) Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

## **B. THE STUDY NOTES**

1. This section is all about our Christian callings and vocations. We do not need to look for some other calling, for God has already placed us in specific roles - we have faith in God and serve our neighbor in good works.

2. Teach what accords with sound doctrine (**1 Tim 1:10; 6:3; 2 Tim 1:13**)

3. Older men should be moral, dignified, reverent, spiritual, responsible and sensible (**1 Tim 3:2; 5:1**)

Note: In the first century, if you lived to age 80, that was remarkable. The median age of death for men was 46.5 years of age, we learn this from inscriptions on ancient tombs. So an older man would be in his 30s or 40s!

4. Older women are not to be slanderers or gossips, but are to set the example for the younger women as they love their husbands and children (**Eph 5:22-25; 1 Tim 3:8,11; 5:2,14,23; 1 Pet 3:1-5**)

Note: The median age of death for women was only 34 years! “Older” may mean beyond child-bearing age. Not drinking too much wine, so as to be drunk (**Eph 5:18**). Drinking in moderation was a part of meals and parties (**Jn 2:9-10**) and also for medicinal purposes (**1 Tim 5:23**).

The work of a woman at home is praised as a good and beneficial thing (**Prov 31:10-31**)

5. The word of God may not be reviled (**1 Tim 6:1; Heb 4:12**)

6. Younger men who have reached adulthood are to be models of good behavior

(**Php 3:17; Jas 3:1; 1 Tim 4:12; 5:1; 6:3; 1 Pet 2:12; 3:16; 5:3; 2 Cor 11:3**)

7. Slaves and masters relationship (**Eph 6:5; 1 Pet 2:18; Col 3:22**)

Note: As the Gospel went out, slaves became Christians. Yet in the Roman society, they had no rights and were completely under the control of their masters. Some slaves were bakers, cooks, tutors for children, farm-workers and house-servants. But now as Christians, they could be powerful witnesses to the Gospel by their examples in trustworthy, obedient, and willing faithfulness to their masters. In history, it would eventually be the Christian world-view which would end slavery.

8. They may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior (**Mt 5:16; Lk 1:47; Php 2:15**)

### **Luther’s Preface to the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus 1546 (1522)**

“This is a short epistle, but a model of Christian doctrine, in which is comprehended in a masterful way all that is necessary for a Christian to know and to live.

In chapter 1 he teaches what kind of man a bishop, or pastor, ought to be, namely, one who is pious and learned in preaching the gospel and in refuting the false teachers of works and of man-made laws, those who are always warring against faith and leading consciences away from Christian liberty into the captivity of their own man-made works, [as if these works,] which are actually worthless, [should make them righteous before God.]

In chapter 2 he teaches the various estates—the older, the younger, wives, husbands, masters, and slaves—how they are to act, as those whom Christ, by his death, has won for his own.”

## **C. LIFE APPLICATION**

1. Why is it essential to teach what accords with sound doctrine?

2. How important is it that our daily actions be godly, so that the word of God may not be reviled?

3. In our daily vocations, where can we show all good faith, so that in everything we may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior?