

## Community of Gospel Truths

**Reading:** Titus 2: 1-8 (NKJV)

**Theme:** The truths of the Gospel displayed

- 1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:
- 2 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 behaviour, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—
- 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.

Chapter 2 is Paul's encouragement to Christian people to live a life worthy of Christ. The church is a community of God's people who seek to make the name of Christ known. We do this by practicing what we profess to believe as Christians.

In verse 1 Paul writes that we ought to speak the things which are proper and sound doctrine. A literal translation of this is "healthy or wholesome doctrine." The doctrine or teachings of Christ are healthy for our spiritual growth and in many ways our physical health. The words that we speak ought to provoke and encourage behaviour that reflects the doctrine that we believe.

Moving on the verse 2. Older men need to set a good example to other men in the church. They especially need to be a good example to the younger men. Older men are encouraged to be a good role model for the younger men and to be someone that can look up to. In the context of the 1st Century older men are those over the age of 50 years.

Paul, tells us what these men are to do to set a good example. They are to be sober minded, reverent, temperate, sound in faith and patience. They are also to show love towards fellow believers particular young men in the church. The love mentioned here is agape. Which is deep affection, a central theme in Scripture. This is the relationship that we have God and therefore ought to encourage us to treat others the same.

In the third verse Paul writes older women. Again these are women over the age of 50. They are to be like to older men in the church. The faithfulness of the women is a good witness to younger women in the church. There are a few things that Paul points out that are different to the men. Paul encourages the women to not be slanders meaning that they ought not to use speech that damages the relation of another, usually by false accusations or by malicious gossip. It is likely that Paul wrote this because some women were given to gossiping or sparing rumours.

Paul also mentions about not being given to much wine. This means that we are not to be enslaved by the controlling power and influence of strong drink. Having said that we ought not to be under the enslavement or power anything that can control us. Paul may have written this because of what he writes in the latter part of the verse, to be “teachers of good things.”

With this in mind Paul writes how the women are to be good teachers. They are to be sober minded, love their husbands, love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers of the home and obedient to their own husbands. This is so that the Word of God be not blasphemed.

Titus was about 40 years old at this point, but still considered a young man and was to be an example to other men. The instructions to the young men are similar to those of older men. They are also to be sober minded, do good works, and show respect, integrity and to be faithful. This is so that those who are not believers will not have anything evil to say of them.