SUBJECT : Live The Truth And Teach The Truth BIBLE BASIS: Lesson Scripture: Titus 2:1-15 BIBLE TRUTH: To highlight practical aspects of the Christian life MEMORY VERSE: READ Titus 2:7-8

Lesson Aim:

To help students understand what God expects of them when no one is looking. Prov. 15:2-4

Introduction

- Titus was another of Paul's sons in the faith. He was a young Greek who served the churches under Paul's leadership. At the time of the writing of this letter, Titus was in Crete, a large island off the coast of Greece. Paul left him their to help oversee the churches that were having serious doctrine and life styles issues. Tit. 1:5, Tit. 1:12-16
- In this short letter to Titus, Paul instructed the young leader in the kind of conduct the Lord expects from various groups in the church. Titus was to address older men, older women, younger men, younger women, and slaves, what we would call employee's today, about various issued of conduct and lifestyles. Paul's exhortation to godly conduct was first based on sound doctrine.
- The belief in the Cross and in God as Creator and Judge makes a difference in the way we live. Belief and practice cannot be completely separated. This week we will be examining what God expects of us. It was Titus's responsibility to teach the Cretian believers their responsibilities and to lead everyone by his godly example.1Tim 4:12

Tell The Truth

- Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:
- Paul had just finished writing about how tuff the Cretian people are in chapter one. To deal with this people, Paul instructs Titus to speak sound doctrine. Sound doctrine means the wholesome and healthy teachings of God's Word in contrast to the diseased of Jewish fables and commandments of men. The teachings of fables and traditions of men will only implant a cancerous disease into the human heart and result in spiritual death and destruction. 2Tim. 2:16-18
- Can a child of God be cursed for unacceptable behavior, Yes or No?
- Gal 3:10-14, Num. 23:19-20, 1Cor. 11:30-32, John 5:24, Rom 8:1-2, John 10:27-29
- The exhortation to Titus to speak sound doctrine was urgent then, and it is urgent today. The spiritual health and destiny of God's people and of the church are at stake. The only thing God has given the church to set a man free from his human limitations and destructive behaviors is the truth. John 8:31-32, Col. 2:8-10
- We are not called to teach or preach our own ideas or opinions nor the latest fads of theology. Rom 1:16-17
- As teachers of Gods word, we are to study to show ourselves approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim 2:15, Rev. 22:18-19.

Older Men

- [2] That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.
- Older men are to be *sober*: temperate and moderate. To be sober is to say what you mean and mean what you say. He doesn't say one thing and do another. Jam 1:8
- Older men are to be *grave*: serious, honorable, worthy, reverent. It has to do with seriousness of purpose and life. It is the opposite of being flippant or ill responsible. Elderly men are not to go through what is called mid-life crises and enter a *second childhood*. 1Corn. 13:11
- Older men should be mentors to younger men especially the fatherless. Mothers are wonderful, but can never take the place of a father when it comes to teaching a man how to be a man. James 1:27
- The elderly who really know the Lord are not to waste time or stop living before their time is up in this life. Phil. 3:13-16
- Elderly men must be *sound in the faith*: means to have un-hypocritical faith. Many believe in the cross for salvation but cannot believe God for the difficult situations in their lives. Unfeigned faith believes God regardless of the circumstances. Mark 11:22-24, Rom 3:3-4, 2Cor. 10:35 Heb.12:1-2, Rom.12:3-8
- Older men are to love God and His Word more and more as the years pass, ever growing in faith and patience. Isa. 40:28-31

Older Women

- [3] The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;
- How are they to live? Elderly women are to be holy: reverent, devout, different and set apart in purity of behavior and thought. They are to live and move about in a spirit of holiness and be focused upon sacred things.
- Older women are to present themselves in a manner that projects holiness in their speech, in the way they dress, and in the way they conduct themselves in public. 2Cor. 7:1, 2 Peter 3:11
- Elderly women are not to be false accusers: slanderers, talebearers, gossipers, a person who goes about talking about others, stirring up mess. This is so terrible a sin that the devil himself is called the accuser of the brethren. Rev. 12:10, James 3:6
- Older women are not to be given over to much wine. Prov. 20:1
- Older women are to be teachers of good things this refers to ministry in the home. Elderly women are to live such godly lives that they teach by their very example and testimony within the home.

Young Women

- [4] That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, [5] To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.
- Older women are to teach the young women how to be sober and live for Christ in a sinful and corruptible world. Deut. 6:7, Prov. 22:6
- Young women are to "love their husbands. A young wife may live in a mansion and have the finest of furnishings, she may be the most beautiful woman in the world and have the very best wardrobe, she may have a husband who loves her ever so dearly, but if she does not love her husband, they are both unhappy and often miserable.
- Young women are to love their children. There are two issues about this command that must be covered, the problem of child abuse and young women putting their profession before their children. To many children are being raised by grand-parents because our young mothers are too selfish or not taught to love their children. Isa. 49:13-15.
- Young women are to be discreet : *temperate*. She is not to neglect her young family and live a life of pleasure and irresponsibility at the expense of her family.
- Young women are to be *chaste*: morally and sexually. 1Thes 4:3-7.
- No success can take the place of failure in the family. Matt. 19:3-9

Young Men

- [6] Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.
- Note that only one exhortation is specifically directed to young men.
- This is not because they are more saintly and need fewer instructions, smile. To be sober-minded: means to have a mind that is sensible, and focused upon meaningful things.
- This is critical for young men for three reasons. The bodies of young men are becoming more and more sexually alive as they move on toward middle age. Attraction and passion increases and stirs the young man to pay attention to the opposite sex. This is normal and natural; it is the way God has chosen to cause young men and women to become attracted to each other and to marry and carry on the human race. They must be real men, honorable men, keeping themselves for the sake of their family, Christ and His church.1Thes. 4:3-7
- The young men are searching for their place in society. Three of the biggest decisions ever made have to be made when a man is young: *leaving home, marriage* and *employment or profession*:
- Youth, up until middle age, is usually an unsure time for young men, a time when they have to fight to secure their place in the world. This is the reason for the charge: young men must control themselves. The urge to attack, run over, bypass, neglect, ignore, and abuse people in order to move ahead must be controlled. 2Tim 3:6

Young Ministers

- [7] In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,
- What are young ministers or teachers to be like in the world? Five traits are given. Young ministers are to be a pattern of good works. The word "pattern" literally means to make an example or form.
- His life must not tear down what his words build. His example must be his first concern; his instruction his second concern. Mat. 5:13-16
- Young ministers and teachers are to be uncorrupt; that is, they are to have pure motives and preach a pure doctrine. They must have pure motives every time they step into the pulpit and classroom. They must preach and teach only for the purpose of reaching and ministering to people. 2Corn. 5:17-19, Act 24:16-18
- Note that the focus is not on the preacher or teacher. It is the doctrine and message of God's Word. The preacher and teacher must *proclaims it with gravity, dignity, and seriousness*. 2Corn 4:1-7
- There is the temptation that professional ministers in particular face is the temptation to use the ministry as a means of livelihood. There is the temptation to *hold back on the Word*, on what should be done, lest the people disapprove and one's livelihood be affected... 1Thes. 2:2-6

Sound Speech

- [8] Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. Young ministers and teachers are to preach and teach with "sound words." The word *sound* means healthy and whole. The teacher must be true to God's Word, for only God's Word can make people sound, healthy, and whole. 1Thes. 2:2-6
- The results of the combination of living for Christ and teaching his Word is the preacher and teacher cannot be condemned. Others may accuse him, but the accusation will be false and God will know the truth. Titus 1:9
- Opponents to the preacher or teacher will be put to shame by their gossip and accusations. If the preacher or teacher suffers, he will suffer because of the evil doing of others, not because he has done evil
- There is a right way and a wrong way to preach and teach.
- The young minister or teacher faces enormous temptations in his preaching and teaching, especially the temptation to impress people and win their approval and favor. How does this happen? By thinking about preaching and teaching in order to show one's, preaching ability, charisma, education, authority, intelligence, insight, knowledge.

Believers In The Marketplace

- [9] Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; [10] Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.
- There were millions and millions of slaves in the Roman Empire during the days of Paul. For this reason the New Testament has much to say to servants. 1Tim. 6:1-2; (See the book of Philemon)
- The attitude of the marketplace believer is that the energy and effort he puts into his job is important to the Lord. Work is worship when it is done to the glory and honor of God. Col 3:23-24, Eph. 6:5-9;
- Believers in the marketplace are to go beyond the call of duty: he is to actually please his master in all things. This includes such things as...
- *Good attitude* of appreciation for the job and for the livelihood it provides him, in *spirit*: he shows commitment and loyalty, in *thought*: he thinks about how to improve it and to be more efficient, in *talk and words*: he builds up the company and the work it does, in *relationship*, he seeks to build good relations with all fellow employees.
- The Christian workman is to show all fidelity, that is, trustworthiness, loyalty, and faithfulness. The marketplace believer does not steal. The Christian workman is to adorn the doctrine of God in all things. **1**Tim. 6:1-2

The Grace That Makes It All Possible

- [11] For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.
- Grace has been given so many different definitions, I don't know where to start. Some call grace a license to sin, others call it cheap grace, still others call it a dangerous doctrine. I have been told by some that it teaches weakness. How do you define the grace of God that brings salvation?
- Grace makes its appearance in so many forms that I have trouble defining it. What were you doing when grace found you? Eph. 2:1-9
- What does grace mean according to the God of love. Grace says to the believer there is nothing we can do to make God love us more than he loves us right now; no amount of spiritual calisthenics or renunciation of sin, no amount of knowledge gained from seminaries , no amount of giving, no amount of crusading on behalf of righteous causes, can change his love for you right now. 1John 4:7
- The flip side of this amazing grace is that there I nothing we can do to make God love us less. No amount of sin, ungodliness, worldly lust, crime, racism or pride, fornication or adultery or even murder will cause God to love you less. Grace mean that God already loves us as much as an infinite God can possible love and cannot love us less. Rom. 8:38-39, Rom. 5:6-10, 2Pet. 3:9

The Grace That Teaches

- [12] Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
- The grace of God teaches us how to live. It teaches us to do three things. God's grace teaches us to deny; *ungodliness*, anything that is not like God, that violates God's commandments and goes against His will. *Gods grace teaches us to deny worldly lusts*; those things we desire to have that God has forbidden. Mat. 16:26, Luke 21:34
- So why are we so afraid of Gods grace? Grace teaches us what the Law of Moses condemns. 1Tim 1:9-10, John 1:17
- God's grace teaches us to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Soberly: self-controlled, temperate, and disciplined. It is restraining desires, lusts, and appetites. 1Cor. 9:24-27
- Righteously: doing the right thing at the right time in the light as well as behind closed doors. Matt. 6:33
- *Godly*: to be like God; to live as God would live on this earth; to live in the consciousness that God lives within the very body of the believer—that the believer's body is the very temple of God. It is living and moving and having one's being in God. 1Corn 3:15-17, Col 2:9

Looking For His Return

- [13] Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
- God's grace teaches us to look for the return of the Lord. The blessed hope and appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ are not two different things; the blessed hope <u>is</u> the appearing of our Lord. Act. 1:11, 1John 3:1-3
- The return of Jesus Christ will mean a **glorious union**: we shall see Christ for the first time and be united with Him forever. John 14:1-3
- The return of Jesus Christ will mean a **glorious reunion**: the dead in Christ shall arise and we who live shall be reunited with our loved ones and friends forever. 1Thes. 4:17-18,
- The return of Jesus Christ will mean a **glorious transformation** of body: 1Cor. 15:42-44, 1Cor. 15:53
- The return of Jesus Christ will mean a **glorious life of happiness**: we shall be free from trials, pain, suffering, evil, and death. Rev. 21:1-7
- The return of Jesus Christ will mean a glorious remaking of the heavens and earth: 2 Peter 3:10-13
- The return of Jesus Christ will mean a **glorious reward**. 1Peter 1:3-5
- The return of Jesus Christ will mean an eternity of ruling and reigning in the earth. Rev. 22:5, Rev. 22:12

The Greatest Gift Of All

- [14] Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.
- What's so amazing about grace is that Jesus Christ would give himself for someone like you and me. Jesus Christ "gave Himself for us." What does this mean? It means that Jesus Christ died for us. The word "for" means that He died on our behalf, for our sake, in our place, as our substitute. This mean his death represents our death when we accept him as our savior. This was Paul's Testimony. Gal. 2:20
- It means that Jesus Christ took our sins upon Himself (past, present and future, and paid the penalty of death for them. He bore our verdict sin, our *guilt*, our condemnation and shame for sin. Isa. 53:1-6
- John 11:25, Rom 8:1-2, Rom 3:23
- Christ death and the shedding of his blood was the redemption price he paid for all our sin and iniquity. 1Peter 1:18-21, Heb. 9:12 Redemption is complete. Everything that was necessary to secure our eternal salvation was accomplished at the cross. John 17:4, 19:30
- This is how God demonstrated His grace to the world: Rom. 5:8,
- Christ died that he might purify to Himself a peculiar people zealous of good works. Eph 2:8-10

Should We Talk About This Grace?

- [15] These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.
- The grace of God is to be proclaimed in three ways.
- We are to preach, teach, and bear witness to it. There is no argument about the grace of God, about the Lord Jesus Christ; God does love the world. He has sent His Son into the world. Therefore, we are to speak forth the message of His grace. We should utilize every method of speech there is. We don't have a choice. 2Corn 5:17-19
- We are to exhort people in the grace of God. The word *exhort* means to encourage. People are lonely, empty, without purpose, discouraged, distressed, and without hope. They need to hear the glorious message of God's grace. They need to hear about God's gift of eternal life. John 3:16
- We are to rebuke people in the grace of God. There is no excuse for men rejecting the grace of God in their sin. God has done too much for us in Christ Jesus His Son. A man is a fool to reject eternal life, the glorious redemption and hope which Christ gives. Men need to be told the truth, rebuked and put under conviction by our rebuking them in the grace of God. 2Tim 4:2, Acts 5:20, Isa. 58:1, Jeremiah 1:7

Believers In The Marketplace

- Where do you think the gates of hell are located? In the local church or the marketplace? Matt 16:16-19
- Can Mark 16:15-18 be applied to every <u>believer</u>?
- Where are these signs needed most at church or in the marketplace?
- In our attempt to divide our lives into <u>secular and spiritual</u>, we have been lead to believe that secular work is non-spiritual and the anointing operates only under certain situations. Col 3:23-24, Eph. 6:5-8
- What about separation of Church and State? The issue is not about Church and State. The Constitution of the United States of America protects your rights to worship God according to the dictates of your mind. There is no law governing separation between God and State in the Constitution.
- What we do everyday of our lives in the marketplace is necessary to move the Kingdom of God forward. Ps. 75:6
- To minister in the temple or to minister in the marketplace requires the same anointing. 1Corn 12:4-7
- 2Corn 4:7 We have this treasure in us.

What Kind Of Culture Did God Intend For The Church To Be?

- God never intended for his church to be a subculture within a dominate culture satisfied with simply survival, but a counterculture empowered to make a difference in the marketplace.
- We are the salt of the earth, and the light of the world. God had not called us simply to survive in the marketplace. God has placed us there as an anointed glorified virus to bring transformation right where we are.
- Rom 12:1 be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you might prove that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- You're going to be challenged. But, remember, Rom. 12:21 be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.
- We as believers are called and anointed to make the difference in our cities, neighborhoods, our workplaces. 1John 4:4, 2Corn. 4:7 One of us can chase a thousand 2 of us can put 10,000 to flight. Are we ready to be intentional about going to the next level?

What Time Is It?

- It's time for the Church to rise up and take possession of our inheritance. (creation, the marketplace of which God gave Adam dominion)
- Every since Calvary, Satan's dominion and power in this world has been subject to Christ. Jesus said all power is given unto me in heaven and earth, Go ye therefore and teach all nations. 2Corn. 5:18-19 No one will do it for us. Act 10:1-6, Acts 9:1-6
- If Jesus is all power, then Satan is powerless. He is a defeated, disembodied fallen angel. So, why is he so dangerous?
- He is the master of deception. His assignment is to convince the believer the Bible is not true and that we cannot trust the promises of God. Rev. 12:7-12, 2Corn. 1:20
- <u>As believers</u>, we must start to claim back the dominion we had before the fall. God had given Adam dominion over everything in the earth realm. We must claim back our cities, our nations, and our world, for the Kingdom of God. Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the nations. Ps 2-8