

Foundation of the sermon

Purpose

Demonstrate why it is important for Christians to live their lives as examples

Principle Idea:

In an environment that is hostile to the Gospel we must live godly lives to counter act the effects of this world.

Type of Outline

Exposition of Titus 2:1-15

I. Introduction

As we enter into chapter 2 of Titus Paul transitions his thoughts from pastors and their mandate to preach to instructions regarding the behavior of the people in the churches. His focus is on how people should conduct themselves in the churches who were located in a world of various heresies. In verse 1 Paul instructs Titus himself on his method of teaching in the light of the opposition of the gainsayers mentioned in the previous section. Paul discusses the proper behavior necessary in the church in verses 2-6. In verse 2 Paul turns his attention to the exhortation of the elder men in the congregations. In verses 3 through 5 he focuses on the instructions for elderly women in the churches, and how they should be examples instructing young married women on proper behavior. He makes a short comment concerning the teaching of young men in verse 6. Paul then pauses in his thoughts to talk to Titus about his own deportment in verse 7-8 and in verse 9-10 he speaks to slaves in the church and the necessity that they should conduct themselves in a proper manner. Lastly Paul gives a reason for the people of the churches to live their lives in an orderly and decent fashion.

II. Body

A. Instructions on proper teaching to counter act the one's who oppose verse 1
Paul uses this verse to give the churches an important admonition concerning teaching in general to counter act those who were opposing the church. We harken back to last weeks sermon to note that these were mainly Jews who had followed the Gnostic teachings. Paul says in verse 1

“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:”

As he did in verse 9 of chapter 1 Paul emphasizes the importance of sound “healthy” doctrine as the means for counter acting those that oppose. This admonition is directed at Titus but may be applied to those who teach and preach in the congregations of God today. This is not a suggestion it is a command. Paul uses the phrase sound doctrine here, in verses 1:9 and 2:1, and also uses it in I Timothy 1:10 in contrast to immoral mans activity where he says:

ESV 1 Timothy 1:10 “the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,” (1Ti 1:10 ESV)

Verse 1 acts as an introduction to this section – all that follows in chapter 2 are instructions based in sound doctrine --

B. Instructions to members of the churches on proper behavior verses 2-10

Paul is advocating the use of “healthy doctrine” in the instruction of the members of the churches in Crete when he states:

“2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. 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; 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. 6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. 7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, 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. 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.”

1. Instructions to the elderly men in the congregations verse 2.

In this section and in the sections that follow Paul uses a series of adjectives and a few nouns to give the characteristics that people in the churches should exemplify. He says that elderly men should be sober – being dignified in all things. He tells them they should be grave – serious people in serious times of opposition. He further states that they should be temperate – prudent and self-controlled in their actions. Throughout Titus Paul advocates soberness in regard to the use of alcoholic beverages. The Bible does not ban the use of alcohol by people in New Testament churches, but it does strongly condemn the use of alcohol to excess, causing drunkenness.

The other night I was watching “It’s a wonderful life” and in one section of the movie George Bailey and the “angel” called Clarence go to a bar to get a drink. The place they go is called “Nick’s.” The bartender is called “Nick” and he says to them, “We serve hard liquor in here to people who want to get drunk quick.” We as Christians should avoid those kind of places and those kind of situations.

I should make a disclaimer here – most of the theology in “It’s a Wonderful Life” is bad and not based in Scripture – so beware – watch it for fun -- if you do – and not for instruction in righteousness.

Paul goes on to tell Titus to teach the elderly men to be sound in the faith, charitable in the acts, and persistent in their way of life.

2. Instructions to women in the churches verses 3-5

Paul gives elderly women in the church similar instructions on how to behave in the congregations. Then he tells them that they are to be examples and teach younger women in the churches how to act properly.

a. Instructions to elderly women verse 3

He tells Titus to teach elderly women to be “reverent” translated “as becoming holiness” in the KJV. The word here speaks of acting in the same manner as a “temple” worker – holy in the conduct of life.

He tells them not to be slanderers and this seems to be tied to the instruction that follows about “not being enslaved to wine.” Clarke says this concerning this passage:

“Both among the Greeks and Romans old women were generally reputed to be fond of much wine; hence the ancient scholiast on Homer, II. vi., speaking of old women, says: ... At this age they delight in wine; ... It is likely, therefore, that it was customary among the elderly women, both Greeks and Romans, to drink much wine, and because it was inconsistent with that moderation, which the Gospel requires, the apostle forbids it: doubtless it was not considered criminal among them, because it was a common practice; wine to young persons, judged it to be necessary for the aged.”

When we drink too much our inhibitions lessen, and our tongue gets loose. How often have you heard someone who has drunk too much say: “Let me tell you something ...” Cindy and I have noticed that people in our circle sometimes abuse alcohol to get things off their chests – we have noted that some people drink too much to “get things off their chests” or as Cindy says to: “spill their guts.” It’s not pretty, it’s not helpful – and Paul was speaking to the tendency of women in that culture to drink too much and to “slander” others. All Christians, not just the elderly women, should avoid this situation by not drinking too much.

Paul turns from negative commands to a positive one and tells Titus to teach elderly women to teach “good things.”

b. Instructions to younger women verses 4-5

Paul continues to talk about how to instruct people in the churches on how to act properly. Here however he turns the instruction over to the elderly women spoken to in the previous passage. He begins his instructions to young women with the phrase “In order that they may encourage ...” The they pronoun here refers to the “elderly women” who are acting properly. They were to “encourage” or teach younger women on proper deportment in the churches. Here Paul has in mind specific “young women.” These are women who are “lovers of their husbands” and “lovers of their children.” These are the young wives in the churches with small children.

The elder women are to instruct these “young” wives: First to be lover’s of their husbands and children; Next to be sensible, prudent, domestic, and in subjection to their husbands. Note – I didn’t write it Paul did. Paul tells young mothers to be “workers at home” and in subjection to their husbands. Not a popular teaching in this day and age.

Then Paul gives a reason that women should conduct their lives in the manner he commands Titus and the elder women to teach – at the end of verse 5 he says:

“...that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

The word blasphemy in English comes from the Greek word used here. It means to slander – The reason women should follow these teachings on their manner of life is so that the Word of God is not slandered.

3. Instructions to young men verse 6

Paul gives a brief command to Titus on what to teach “young men.” He states in verse 6:

“Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.”

4. Instructions to Titus himself (and all pastors) verses 7-8

In verses 7-8 he talks directly to Titus himself and by proxy to all pastors since Titus – he returns to the theme of “stopping the mouths of the gainsayers” we spoke about last week. He tells Titus that he must act in a certain way in the churches – so that those who oppose will not have any evil word to attack him with. The proper deportment for a pastor is:

“7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, 8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; ...”

5. Instructions to slaves verses 9-10

Because the system of slavery spoken of in these next few verses does not exist in the US in this time we shall not dwell on them here. Other than to say we ought to look at these admonitions for our actions toward our superiors at work. I have seen many a young person who cause trouble at work and then find themselves hopping from job to job because they don't act in a proper way toward their managers.

C. Reasons for proper behavior in the church verses 11-15

Paul wraps up his discussion on the proper conduct of life spoken of in the previous verses with the reason it is so important to live life in this manner if you are a Christian. He says:

“11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 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. 15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.”

God is calling for Himself a people. As Peter said in I Peter 2:9: “ But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:” (1Pe 2:9 KJV)

III. Conclusion

People in the church are commanded to act in a self-controlled, temperent way, to be prudent in all their dealings, serious in their conduct of life. These again are not suggestions but commands. The teachers in the church must teach these things – the purpose for this teaching is so that those in opposition to the church will not have a word to say in a negative sense about God, the people of God, nor the word of God

Title: Proper instructions for a proper people of God