

The Epistle of Paul to Titus

Chapter 2



For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly,
righteously, and godly, in this present world;
- Titus 2:11-12

Titus Chapter 2



The Grace That Teaches Us to Live

Sound doctrine shown in households, conduct, work, and hope.

Theme Verse

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

- Titus 2:11-12

Teaching Emphasis

Titus chapter 2 shows that sound doctrine is not merely something to defend in debate. Sound doctrine must become visible in the conduct of the church. Paul moves from the ordering of elders in chapter 1 to the ordering of daily life in chapter 2. Older men, older women, younger women, younger men, servants, and Titus himself are all addressed because the truth of God must shape every group within the assembly.

The heart of the chapter is grace. The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation and teaching believers to deny ungodliness, live rightly in the present world, and look for the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ. Grace does not weaken holiness. Grace trains, purifies, redeems, and produces a people zealous of good works.

Introduction to the Study



Titus chapter 1 dealt with order in the church, the appointment of elders, and the correction of false teachers. Chapter 2 now shows what sound doctrine should produce in the lives of ordinary believers. Paul does not leave doctrine in the abstract. He applies truth to character, age, household responsibility, speech, work, hope, and public witness.

This chapter also reminds us that the church is a teaching community. Older believers are not meant to disappear into the background, and younger believers are not meant to be shaped mainly by the world. Men and women in the household of faith are to be formed by sound doctrine and by the example of mature believers.

The instruction to servants in verses 9-10 shows that even ordinary labor can adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour. The gospel is not only proclaimed from a pulpit. It is also displayed through honesty, submission, fidelity, sober-mindedness, and good works in places where unbelievers are watching.

The chapter closes by grounding all these instructions in the grace of God. The Christian life is not moral improvement detached from the gospel. Christ gave Himself to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify unto Himself a people zealous of good works.

Study Focus

- The connection between sound doctrine and visible Christian conduct.
- The responsibility of older believers to model and teach godliness.
- The need for sober-mindedness among younger believers, especially young men.
- The importance of Titus being a pattern of good works before others.
- The way ordinary work and faithfulness can adorn the doctrine of God.
- The grace of God as the foundation for holiness, self-denial, and hope.
- The authority Titus must exercise through speaking, exhorting, and rebuking.

Structure of Titus 2:1-15

A simplified corresponding structure showing how Paul moves from sound doctrine, to household conduct, to the grace of God that teaches believers how to live.

Correspondence	Verses	Movement	Teaching Emphasis
A	2:1	Titus must speak sound doctrine.	The chapter opens with a command to speak things that fit healthy teaching.
B	2:2	Aged men must be sober, steady, and sound.	Maturity should be marked by reverence, self-control, faith, charity, and patience.
C	2:3-5	Aged women must teach younger women what is good.	Generational discipleship protects homes and guards the reputation of God's Word.
D	2:6-8	Young men and Titus must show sober-mindedness and good works.	Titus must be the visible pattern of the doctrine teaches.
C'	2:9-10	Servants must show faithful conduct in ordinary work.	Believers adorn the doctrine of God through honesty, submission, and fidelity.
B'	2:11-14	Grace teaches all believers to live soberly, righteously, and godly.	The grace that saves also trains, purifies, redeems and creates zeal for good works.
A'	2:15	Titus must speak, exhort, and rebuke with authority.	The chapter closes with another charge to teach clearly and exercise spiritual authority faithfully.

Teaching Note

The structure shows Paul's argument clearly: doctrine must be spoken, lived, modeled, adorned, grounded in grace, and defended with authority. Titus is not simply organizing a church program. He is forming a people whose lives make the doctrine of God visible.

Titus Chapter Read

Verses 1-5

Sound Doctrine in the Household of Faith

1 But speak thou

† the things which become sound doctrine:

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.

Titus Chapter Read

Verses 6-8

Young Men and Titus as the Pattern

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.

Titus Chapter Read

Verses 9-12

Adorning Doctrine and Grace That Teaches

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.

The Grace of God That Teaches

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;

Titus Chapter Read

Verses 13-15

The Blessed Hope and a Purified People

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.

Companion Bible Footnote Helps

The following notes are summarized as study helps from the Companion Bible footnotes and structure. They are worded for teaching use and are not intended to replace the Scripture text.

Verse(s)	Word or Phrase	Teaching Help
2:1	sound doctrine	Healthy teaching. The doctrine is sound because it strengthens life rather than feeding speculation or disorder.
2:1	become	The idea is what is fitting or suitable. Paul wants conduct that fits the doctrine being professed.
2:2	aged men	Older men are addressed first because maturity should provide a visible example of steadiness and restraint.
2:3	becometh holiness	Conduct that suits a sacred life. The older women are to carry themselves as those set apart unto God.
2:3-4	teachers of good things	The church is strengthened when mature believers teach younger believers how truth is lived in practical relationships.
2:6	sober minded	Self-controlled and clear-minded. This word gathers much of the chapter's concern for disciplined Christian judgment.
2:7	pattern	A visible model or example. Titus must embody the doctrine he teaches.
2:8	sound speech	Speech that is healthy, weighty, and not easily condemned by opponents.
2:10	adorn	To decorate or make fitting. Faithful conduct makes the doctrine of God our Saviour visibly attractive and honorable.
2:11-12	grace appeared / teaching us	Grace is not passive. The grace that brings salvation also trains believers to deny ungodliness and live rightly now.
2:13	blessed hope	The believer's hope is anchored in the appearing of Jesus Christ, not in the stability of the present age.
2:14	peculiar people	A people belonging especially to Christ. Redemption produces a purified people zealous of good works.
2:15	speak, exhort, rebuke	Titus is charged to teach, encourage, and correct with authority rooted in the Word of God.

Biblical Observations

Observation 1 - Sound Doctrine Must Become a Sober Life

1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

- Paul begins with the command, “speak thou.” Titus must not allow false teachers, cultural pressure, or church disorder to define the moral life of the assembly. He is to speak what fits sound doctrine. This means doctrine is not separated from daily conduct. The aged men are not merely told to know more; they are called to become sober, grave, temperate, and sound in faith, charity, and patience. Their maturity should produce weight, restraint, steadiness, love, and endurance.
- The older men in the church are placed under the authority of the Word. Age by itself does not produce spiritual maturity. A man can grow older and still remain proud, harsh, careless, or childish. Paul calls older men to live in a way that gives younger believers a trustworthy example of what long obedience should look like.

Personal Application...

Men should ask whether their life is becoming sound with age. Are we growing more sober, steady, patient, and faithful, or are we simply becoming more opinionated and settled in our habits? Sound doctrine should make a man easier to trust, not harder to correct. For a men’s Bible study, this is a direct challenge: our homes, churches, and younger brothers need mature men whose lives carry spiritual weight.

Biblical Observations

Observation 2 - Generational Discipleship Protects the Word of God

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.

- Paul's instruction to aged women shows that discipleship in the church is not limited to formal office. The older women are to live in a manner that suits holiness and then teach what is good. Their lives and words are to help form younger women in sobriety, love, discretion, chastity, household faithfulness, goodness, and order. The concern is not merely private domestic success. Paul says the purpose is "that the word of God be not blasphemed." The conduct of believers affects how the watching world speaks about the Word.
- This passage also shows that the church must not surrender the formation of younger believers to the surrounding culture. If older believers do not teach the younger, someone else will. Paul expects the assembly to be a place where spiritual maturity is passed down intentionally and where family life is treated as part of Christian witness."

Personal Application...

Men should not read these verses as if they only apply to women. The principle is broader: mature believers must help train younger believers in the areas where the world is disciplining them most aggressively.

Husbands, fathers, grandfathers, and older brothers in the faith should ask whether they are helping build homes where the Word of God is honored rather than contradicted. A man's leadership should make it easier for his household to obey Scripture, not harder.

Biblical Observations

Observation 3 - Titus Must Be a Pattern Before He Is a Preacher

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.

- The command to young men is brief but searching: be sober minded. Young men often face temptations toward impulse, pride, anger, lust, laziness, distraction, and the desire to be noticed. Paul does not first call them to platform, position, or influence. He calls them to self-governed seriousness before God.
- Titus himself must be a pattern of good works. This is crucial. Paul does not allow Titus to correct others while living carelessly himself. The teacher's life must carry the doctrine. His teaching must show uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, and sound speech. Opponents may still dislike the truth, but they should not be given an easy accusation through foolish conduct, reckless words, or hypocrisy.

Personal Application...

Before we try to win arguments, we should ask whether our lives give weight to the truth we speak. Young men especially need to learn that seriousness is not the same as harshness. A sober-minded man is clear, disciplined, humble, and governed by the Word. In conversation, online interaction, family conflict, and church discussion, our speech should be sound enough that even those who oppose us cannot honestly accuse us of foolishness.

Biblical Observations

Observation 4 - Ordinary Work Can Adorn the Doctrine of God

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.

- Paul addresses servants because the gospel reaches into the ordinary and difficult places of life. Their conduct toward masters is to be marked by obedience, a desire to please well, restraint in speech, honesty, and fidelity. The word “purloining” points to dishonest taking or keeping back what is not theirs. Paul’s concern is that believers should not use their circumstances as an excuse for rebellion, deceit, or poor witness.
- The phrase “adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour” is one of the strongest statements in the chapter. Doctrine is adorned when believers live in a way that makes the truth honorable before others. This does not mean we make the gospel true by our conduct. The gospel is true because it is God’s Word. But our conduct can either decorate the doctrine with visible credibility or dishonor it through hypocrisy.

Personal Application...

In modern life, this applies strongly to the workplace. Christian men should be known for honest labor, truthful reporting, respect toward authority, reliability, and refusal to steal time, money, credit, tools, or trust. A man may speak about Christ, but if he is lazy, dishonest, argumentative, or careless at work, his life contradicts his message. Ask whether your conduct at work adorns the doctrine of God or gives others a reason to dismiss it.

Biblical Observations

Observation 5 - Grace Saves, Trains, Purifies, and Gives Hope

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.

- Paul now gives the theological reason behind the whole chapter: the grace of God has appeared. Grace brings salvation, but it also teaches. This is important because many people treat grace as if it only forgives while leaving the life unchanged. Paul teaches the opposite. Grace trains believers to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.
- The Christian life also looks forward. Believers are not merely trying to improve society or manage personal morality. We are looking for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ. This hope does not make us idle. It makes us zealous of good works because Christ gave Himself to redeem us from all iniquity and purify us as His own people. Therefore Titus must speak, exhort, and rebuke with authority. Grace must be taught clearly because grace reshapes the whole life.

Personal Application...

Ask what grace is teaching you to deny and what grace is training you to pursue. The same Christ who forgives us also redeems us from iniquity and purifies us for good works. Do not reduce grace to comfort when God intends it to produce holiness, hope, and zeal. A man who is truly looking for the appearing of Christ should live differently in the present world.

Modern-Day Equivalents

The table below compares what Paul is addressing in Titus 2 with common modern-day equivalents in the church and society. The goal is not to force the ancient setting into our time, but to help the men see how the same spiritual issues continue to appear in different forms.

What Titus 2 Addresses	Modern-Day Equivalent	Teaching Point
Sound doctrine must fit daily conduct.	Bible knowledge separated from obedience, especially in online debate culture.	Doctrine is healthy when it produces a healthy life.
Older men must be sober, grave, temperate, and sound.	Older men becoming passive, cynical, harsh, or spiritually checked out.	Age should increase spiritual steadiness, not excuse spiritual drift.
Older women must teach younger women what is good.	Generational fragmentation where young adults are discipled more by media than by mature believers.	The church needs intentional intergenerational discipleship.
Young men must be sober minded.	Impulsiveness, lust, distraction, anger, entertainment addiction, and platform-seeking.	Young men need self-control before they seek influence.
Titus must show himself a pattern.	Leaders with charisma, gifting, or platform but weak character.	A teacher's life must not undermine his doctrine.
Servants must show fidelity and adorn doctrine.	Workplace dishonesty, stealing time, poor attitude, quiet rebellion, or minimal effort.	Ordinary labor is part of Christian witness.
Grace teaches believers to deny ungodliness.	Grace treated as permission instead of transformation.	The grace that saves also trains and purifies.
Believers look for the blessed hope.	Fear-driven end-times talk, political panic, or complete loss of eternal focus.	Christian hope should produce holiness and steadiness, not sensationalism or despair.

Chapter 2 Review



Summary

Titus chapter 2 teaches that sound doctrine must become visible in the life of the church. Paul begins by commanding Titus to speak what fits healthy doctrine. Then he applies that doctrine to aged men, aged women, younger women, younger men, Titus himself, and servants.

The chapter shows that the church is a discipleship community. Older believers must model and teach godliness, younger believers must receive instruction, and leaders must be patterns of good works. Even ordinary work becomes a place where believers can adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour.

The deepest foundation of the chapter is the grace of God. Grace has appeared, bringing salvation and teaching believers to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. Christians are to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world while looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of Jesus Christ.

Key Movements in the Text

- 1. Sound Doctrine Spoken - Titus must speak the things that become sound doctrine.
- 2. Mature Men Formed by Truth - Aged men are called to sobriety, reverence, temperance, faith, charity, and patience.
- 3. Mature Women Teaching Good Things - Aged women are to model holiness and train younger women in faithful living.
- 4. Younger Believers Called to Sober-Mindedness - Younger men are especially exhorted to self-control and seriousness before God.
- 5. Titus as the Pattern - The teacher must show good works, uncorrupt doctrine, gravity, sincerity, and sound speech.
- 6. Doctrine Adorned Through Work - Servants are called to honest and faithful conduct that honors the doctrine of God.
- 7. Grace as the Foundation - Grace brings salvation, teaches holiness, points us to Christ's appearing, and produces zeal for good works.
- 8. Authority in Teaching - Titus must speak, exhort, and rebuke with authority rooted in God's Word.

Chapter 2 Review

Questions for Reflection



- What does Titus 2 teach us about the relationship between doctrine and daily conduct?
- How should older men in the church become examples to younger men?
- Where are younger believers being discipled by the world instead of by mature Christians?
- Why does Paul connect household faithfulness with the reputation of the Word of God?
- What does it mean for a man to be sober minded in today's culture?
- How can a teacher or leader undermine sound doctrine by his conduct?
- In what ways can ordinary work adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour?
- What worldly lusts or ungodly patterns is grace teaching you to deny?
- How should the blessed hope shape the way believers live in the present world?
- Why must Titus speak, exhort, and rebuke with authority, and how can this be done without pride?

One Memory Verse

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

- Titus 2:11-12



Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for the grace that brings salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Teach us by Your grace to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Make the older men steady and faithful. Make the older women holy and fruitful in teaching what is good. Strengthen younger believers to receive instruction and walk in self-control. Help us adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in our homes, our speech, our work, and our conduct. Keep our eyes on the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ. Make us a purified people, zealous of good works. In Jesus' name, Amen.