

## “What Must Be Taught”

### HEART ATTITUDE: Seeking Truth and Righteousness

#### TITUS 2:1-15 (NIV)

*You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. (1)*  
*Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. (2)*  
*Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. (3)*  
*Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, (4)*  
*to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. (5)*  
*Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. (6)*  
*In everything set them an example by doing what is good.*  
*In your teaching show integrity, seriousness (7)*  
*and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. (8)*  
*Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, (9)*  
*and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive. (10)*  
*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. (11)*  
*It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, (12)*  
*while we wait for the blessed hope—*  
*the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, (13)*  
*who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (14)*  
*These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you. (15)*

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#### • FOCUSING

1. How do parents teach their children their values and beliefs?

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2. What religious beliefs were you taught growing up? How?

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- **STUDYING GOD'S WORD**

3. What main theme begins this chapter? (2:1)

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Notice the emphasis on “sound doctrine” in these instructions to Titus. This is the *content* of the faith. Believers must be grounded in the truths of Scripture — then they won't be swayed by the powerful oratory of false teachers, the devastation of tragic circumstances, or wide swings of emotion. Learn the Word, study theology (Biblical doctrine), apply principles to your life, and *do* what you learn is God's way.

4. What is important for older men to be taught? (2:2)

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5. How can older and younger Christians help each other? (2:2-8)

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6. What must older women be taught? Why? (2:3-5)

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7. What responsibility do older women have? (2:4)

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8. What should younger women be taught? (2:4-5)

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9. Why is it important for Christians to live blameless lives? (2:5)

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Women who were new Christians were to learn how to have harmony in the home by watching older women who had been Christians for some time. We have the same need today. If you are of an age or position where people look up to you, can you be confident that your example is motivating younger believers to live in a way that honors God?

10. What advice did Paul give to younger men? (2:6-8)

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This advice given to young men was very important. In ancient Greek society, the role of the husband/father was not viewed as a nurturing role, but merely a functional one. Many young men today have been raised in families where the father neglected his responsibilities to his wife and children. Husbands and fathers who are good examples of Christian living in their families are extremely important role models for young who need to *see* how it is done more than to be *told*.

11. Who should set an example for others? How? (2:7)

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12. What response did Paul hope for? (2:8)

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13. How did Paul instruct slaves? Why? (2:9-10)

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The standards set by Paul apply to any employee/employer relationship. Employees should always do their best work and be trustworthy, not just when the employer is watching. Businesses in the U.S. lose millions of dollars a year to employee theft and time-wasting. If all Christian employees followed Paul's advice, what a transformation it would make!

14. What does the grace of God bring? (2:11)

15. Why should all Christians, whether old or young, be taught? (2:11-14)

16. What motivation do we have to live righteous lives? (2:12-13)

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The power to live the Christian life comes from Jesus Christ. Because Jesus died and rescued us from sin, we are free from sin's control. He gives us the power and understanding to live according to God's will and to do good. Then we will look forward to his wonderful return with eager expectation and hope.

17. How did Paul emphasize the importance of teaching all Christians? (2:15)

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Paul told Titus to teach and *live* the Scriptures. We must also teach, encourage, and correct others when necessary. Although good teaching occurs in the pulpit, classrooms and small groups, much of the teaching Paul refers to must be done in the "classroom" of personal and family relationships.

### • **UNDERSTANDING**

18. What does a person's lifestyle reveal about his/her beliefs?

19. What should a Christian's lifestyle be like?

20. What responsibility do Christians have to each others?

21. What role should accountability play among Christians?

22. What can we learn about our attitude about work from Paul's instructions to slaves?

23. How can you make the Gospel attractive to unbelievers in the way you work?
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24. What motivates you to live a godly life? Explain.

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25. From what older, more mature believer do you want to learn?

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26. How can you teach other Christians?

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27. What do you have to share with other Christians about what you have learned in your own walk?

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28. How can you ensure that what you teach other Christians, even by your own life's example, is in accordance with sound doctrine?

• **DOING THE WORD**

29. Of all the advice Paul gives in his passage about how to live a holy life, what is one specific area that you will commit yourself to concentrate on regularly?

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30. How will you remind yourself each day that the way you work is a testimony to others?

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31. What steps will you take to learn from another more mature Christian?

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32. What steps will you take to share what you have learned with a younger believer?

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*May God richly bless you as you mature in His Word!*