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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING VARIOUS GROUPS

Titus 2:1-10

In this lesson, the apostle moves from the issues of church leadership and false teachers to the various groups within the church and their moral obligations before the world in which they live. He is concerned that they show the beauty of the truth about Jesus Christ in order to have a positive impact on an unbelieving world (cf. 2:5, 8, 10). Paul states this truth as teaching **sound doctrine**. The concern of *sound doctrine* is not with the content of doctrine; rather, it is with behavior. *Sound doctrine* leads to proper Christian behavior, love and good works; the diseased teaching of the heretics leads to controversies, arrogance, abusiveness, and strife.

Titus was to “rebuke sharply” the opponents, but he is to “communicate” or “speak” to the people. The words, “the behavior that goes with,” translates to “be fitting, be suitable to something.” That something is **sound teaching**. Sound or healthy teaching is teaching that is in accord with the message of the Savior. Thus, there are two fundamental truths that emerge in this section. First, it is the message of the Lord Jesus and the new life we have in Him that becomes the foundation for a Christian’s behavior or lifestyle in this fallen world. True changes, those that take place from within, simply do not occur without an intimate relationship with God through faith in the truth of the message of Christ. Second, that message of the Savior should lead, as it is appropriated by faith, to a life that is consistent with Christian doctrine.

True spiritual maturity comes through growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ, but older men should be models of maturity and involved in mentoring other men in the Lord. Four qualities are singled out. They are to be temperate, dignified, self-controlled, and sound in faith. It would appear the false teachers were teaching things that were undermining God’s roles for husbands and wives, particularly for the women. Quite contrary to the way the world has gone regarding the home, the biblical mandate calls us to make the Christian home a vital part of our calling and witness to the world. At the center of this is the role God has ordained for women as wives and mothers. The instructions for the younger men are summed up in one instruction—they are to be self-controlled.

Rather than attack slavery, Paul gave biblical principles to enable slaves to live their lives under God’s sovereign care and in a way that they could witness to the power of the gospel. In Paul’s instructions concerning the behavior of slaves, we also have what amounts to a key purpose for the whole section (1-10) and for all of us as believers in Christ. In seeking to function as ambassadors of Christ who proclaim the message of our Savior, we have an awesome responsibility to make the truth of Christ attractive by lives that truly reflect the saving power of the message.

(Excerpt from “The Letter to Titus Commentary” by J. Hampton Keathley III)

Instructions to Titus

Date	Lesson	Text
07/10	Introduction	
07/17	Greetings	1:1-4
07/24	Elders	1:5-9
07/31	False Teachers	1:10-16
08/07	Various Groups	2:1-10
08/14	Godly Behavior	2:11-15
08/21	Good Citizens	3:1-8
08/28	Final Instructions	3:9-15
09/04	Summary and Review	

Food for Thought

Minister Mentor

Those who are mature in the faith can help others to mature in their faith

So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said

(Exodus 18:24 NKJV)

From "Our Daily Bread", Jan 31, 2008)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Sound doctrine should be lived by the senior members (1-5)

Lived by seniors because of gained understanding and wisdom (Job 12:12)

Lived by seniors to display a righteous life (Prov 16:31)

Lived by seniors to show God's sustaining power (Isa 46:4)

Lived by seniors to show God's grace (Ps 37:25)

Sound doctrine should be taught to the younger members (6)

Taught to the young so as to not give the enemy an opportunity (1 Tim 5:14)

Taught to the young to keep them from being idle (Prov 31:27)

Taught to the young to cultivate inner beauty (1 Peter 3:4-5)

Taught to the young so that the household will be nurtured (Prov 31:20-22)

Taught to the young as part of discipleship (Acts 9:36)

Taught to the young so that they will do good deeds (1 Tim 5:10)

Be an example of sound doctrine (7-8)

An example by working hard (Acts 20:33-35)

An example by working to support self (2 Thess 3:7-9)

An example in speech, life, love, faith and purity (1 Tim 4:12)

An example of godly leadership (1 Peter 5:2-4)

An example of proclaiming God's truths (2 Cor 4:2)

Sound doctrine should be obediently lived by workers (9-10)

Obedient workers who work as if serving God (Eph 6:5-8)

Obedient workers who work with all their hearts (Col 3:22-24)

Obedient workers who can endure unjust treatment (1 Peter 2:18-20)

Obedient workers who are faithful in doing what has been assigned (Matt 24:45-47)

Obedient workers who are faithful to the trust given (1 Cor 4:2)