



# Daily Bible Habit

## Pastoral Epistles

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### Focus Points...Titus 2

#### Listen To...

Paul as he describes God's will for men and women, young and old, slave and free.

#### Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, You have given me Your Word. You have called me to faithfully live and teach others Your Truth. Embolden me so that I may have the courage and resolve to train others in the way of Truth. In Your name I pray. Amen.

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#### Commentary:

Titus 2 begins with the most important calling of a pastor.

"You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine." (2:1)

But the word the NIV translated as "teach" is not the word for teach. The common Greek word for teach is *didasko*. The word used in 2:1 is *laleo*. *Laleo* basically means "to carry on a conversation." It refers to any kind of speaking, talking, or conversation, formal or informal. "Just keep on talking about everything that is fitting with the true teachings of Scripture," might be a better way to understand Paul's words to Titus.

In Titus 2 Paul gave instructions to Titus as to how to speak with (or "teach") senior citizens. Men were to be worthy of respect (2:2). Women were to be "reverent." The Greek word for "reverent" is not found anywhere else in the New Testament. It means "to have reverence appropriate for service in the temple."

As Paul appealed to the men to live up to their calling, Paul urged Titus to teach the women their higher calling. Their lives were to be conducted as if they were ministering in the temple.

When people realize that everything we do is sacred, solemn service in the presence of God, it has a way of influencing their thoughts, attitudes and behaviors. That's what Paul urged Titus to tell the women. Remind them that they are to live their lives like reverent temple servants in the house of the Lord.

Paul urged that the older men were to be temperate and worthy of respect, etc. Note, however, that Paul's words to the older women, demonstrates that the

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older women had a possibly greater and more urgent responsibility. It was their responsibility to "train" the younger women.

"Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, 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." (2:4-5)

The sacred duty of the older women is to "train" them. (2:4) The original Greek word for "train" is the English word "sophomore." The elderly women are to train these sophomore younger women so that they will not be foolish know-it-alls. These young women—as all people—must live in accordance with the Word of God. They must minister to their families "so that no one will malign the Word of God." (2:5)

Luther's Small Catechism begins with the words, "As the head of the household should teach his family." Certainly the head of the household—the male—has the spiritual responsibility to lead the household in the ways of the Lord. Titus 2 seems to place the greater day-to-day responsibility on the women. Certainly men are not absolved from their responsibility. But Paul's teaching is clear: the young women must ensure the Christian growth and nurture of the family.

In Titus' ministry to men and women, young and old, slave and free, the message is the same. He is to teach them the Word. And they are to learn to

"say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ." (2:12-13)

Paul's charge to Titus is also his charge to us.

"These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you." (2:15)

May God enable you to minister with this boldness.

**Prayer:**

Holy Spirit, thank You for giving me the responsibility—and privilege—of sharing Your Word. Move me to share the grace of Jesus with youth and seniors, men and women, and all You have placed in my sphere of influence. Enable me to be an example as I realize my duty to train my family, my friends and everyone I know to walk in Your grace. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

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