

Daily Bible Study

“What Christian Women & Workers Are To Be”

Titus 2:3-5, 9-10

December 1 – December 7, 2013

MONDAY –This week our text in our study of Titus is **Titus 2:3-5, 9-10**. We are looking at “*What Christian Women & Workers Are To Be*”. If you are a Christian woman, there is a certain pattern of behavior that is expected of you and if you are older, there is a specific work that the Lord has for you to do. Your life experience puts you in a unique position to help younger Christian women be the wives, mothers, and homemakers that the Lord intends them to be. In **verses 3–5** we will receive the Divine details. Secondly, after our look at women we will turn our attention how God would have Christian workers conduct themselves in the workplace. This section was originally addressed to Christian slaves but the principles given here by the Apostle are just as applicable to twenty-first century employment situations as they were to the work situations faced by slaves in the first century. Read **Titus 2:3-5, 9-10**: ³ *the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—*⁴ *that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,* ⁵ *to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed...*⁹ *Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,* ¹⁰ *not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.”*

Suggestion for Prayer: *God, teach me from Sacred Scripture how to live and act as a Christian in whatever situation and calling You have placed me.*

TUESDAY – **Titus 2:3**: ³ *the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—*” Here we are introduced to some things that God wants taught and obeyed by older women. We have the same question we had when addressing men and that is what is an *older woman*? Is there a specific age Paul had in mind? It appears that we can at least say that *older women* are those whose children are now grown up. The raising of a family stage of life is behind them. This is why we find them being told to teach *younger women* concerning their duties to husband and children. It is assumed they have had practical experience of this themselves and are now able to use their experience to help the younger women. Well, first we read older women are to *be reverent in behavior*. The KJV translates this”...*that they be in behavior as becometh holiness*”. The word translated *reverent* occurs only here in the New Testament and it literally means,

“befitting actions or sacred things to God”. Older women are to behave in ways befitting those who are servants of God. Others may please themselves in the way that they live and recognize no higher authority than their own desire and wills but not so with older Christian women; they are to be different and it should be obvious in the way they dress, look, live, and act that they are dedicated to God (**1 Timothy 2:9**). ...*not slanderers* would refer to the use of their tongues and they are to exercise strict self-control abstaining from malicious gossip, the spreading of rumors about people, and saying unkind things about them damaging others reputations. None of this is to be heard on the lips of an older Christian woman. ... *not given to much wine* refers to the self-control of these women concerning drinking which was a common practice among women of that day and age. Drink is not the answer for loneliness, difficulty and or temptations of various kinds. The original language is clear saying that Christian women are not to be literally “*enslaved*” to wine. Finally, moving from the negative to the positive we find that older women are to be *teachers of good things*. The things they have learned in the course of their Christian lives are to be shared especially with the younger women. In summary they are not to be self-absorbed thinking about themselves. They are to be concerned about others, particularly the younger generation. And in various different ways, some formally and others informal both by word and example of living they are to teach them what is good so they too might live lives that are pleasing to God and a blessing to others.

Suggestion for Prayer: *God, help me if an older man to pursue these commands and pray for help to live them out. May we all strive for this maturity, seriousness, love, and patience.*

WEDNESDAY – **Titus 2:4-5**: ⁴ *that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,* ⁵ *to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed...*” In these verses we are specifically told the things that the older women are to teach the younger. It is obvious and God designed that no one can have more influence and ability to communicate to these younger women than older women who have “been there, done that”. They are to start by *admonishing the young women to love their husbands*. Obviously not ALL women will have husbands and children but the Apostle is addressing the norm here. We see from **1 Corinthians 7** that Paul had a very high view of singleness, particularly because of the special opportunity it provides for Christian service but he also recognized that most young women would become wives and mothers. Marital love is a beautiful thing; a Divine picture of the ultimate love of God for His people. In Colossians and Ephesians we learn that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Here in Titus we see the circle closed; the love of a husband is to be matched by the love of a wife. Listen, older women are to *admonish* (*train, encourage, urge*) young women to love their husbands. This is something contrary to a fallen sinner. Before marriage in the fanciful dreams of a young girl she may imagine that nothing could be easier than to love her

Husband but Sacred Scripture tells us God and the Apostle know better. There may be things about a husband that make loving him difficult and the difficulty in loving him may be with the young women herself and regardless the older, more experienced Christian woman can help with appropriate counsel. Same goes with *loving their children*. Young mothers are to be trained to love their children. Love is not indulging our children so that they always get their own way or refusing to discipline them. Showing love means making wise decisions about appropriate behavior and disciplining when there is disobedience. Mothers need help in this, and older women should be there to help. ... *to be discreet* means to be prudent, sensible, self-controlled, to live wisely. The focus again is on the mind; having a sensible outlook on life that will filter down into sensible behavior. ... *chaste* means to be pure and sexual purity is in view. Marriage does not exempt a woman from sexual temptation and she may find herself attracted to another man. Knowing this, The Lord commands purity and faithfulness to her husband and that is to be the case even if things are difficult in the marriage. ... *homemakers* calls for women to be busy at home, literally, *oikourgos* (from *oikos* (home) and *ergon* (labor, work)). Much has been said in reference to this command and note that it does not say that married women should never have a job outside the home but make no mistake, it does mean that her home is to have the priority. Old-fashioned as it may sound the home not a career is to come first. A wife has a responsibility before God to ensure that her home is properly managed. She is so to take care of things and order things at home that it is a place where her husband and children are happy to be. ... *good* could be translated kind and a Christian women is to be kind and not harsh. ... *obedient to their own husbands* is the clear teaching of the New Testament concerning wives. Just as Christ is the head of the church, so God has ordained the husband the head of his wife. The husband's role is that of a leader within the home, and it is the duty of his wife to accept and follow his leadership. We don't mean superior as a husband's leadership is to be characterized by the self-giving love that is seen in Jesus and His relationship to the church. But the husband is to *lead* and as the church is subject to Jesus and accepts his leadership, so a wife is to be subject to her husband. Why is this all so important and why is it the duty of older women to teach the younger women these things? The answer is ... *that the word of God may not be blasphemed*. Some of the things God is commanding here are hated and ridiculed in today's society, especially those that have to do with marriage and the home. There are professing Christians who also thoroughly dislike them. In a society which rejects the things we just went through it is vital that Christian women heed and obey. What is at stake here is the reputation of Christianity, the gospel, the Savior. It is absolutely true that God's way is always the best way and the young woman who heeds these instructions will find it to be for the betterment of herself, her husband and her children but also the public image of the faith. Failure to obey will give an excuse for people to malign the word of God. They will hold the gospel responsible for a Christian woman's misconduct and as a consequence will treat it with contempt.

Suggestion for Prayer: God, help Christian women to have Your strength and grace to live in

this manner and all of us to live in a way that brings credibility to Your Word and message.

THURSDAY – Titus 2:9-10a: “*Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,* ¹⁰ *not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity,*” The Roman world at this time was full of slaves. It is estimated that were somewhere in the region of fifty million of them including a third of the inhabitants of Rome. People became slaves for many reasons including being taken as prisoners of war, punishment for crimes, debt, kidnapping, sold into slavery by parents, selling themselves, and being born slaves. Occupations of slaves were varied; servants, farmers, craftsmen, teachers, soldiers, and even doctors. Roman law did not forbid them from being treated harshly either but thankfully many were often treated kindly. With our history we often look upon slavery with hatred and abhorrence for good reasons which we will speak on more this Lord's Day but surprisingly, however, the New Testament itself does not condemn slavery. It does condemn the activity of *andrapodistes* (slave-dealer, trader, kidnapping, man-stealing **1 Timothy 1:10**). But we fail to find a condemnation of the practice of actually having slaves. There were so many slaves in this time that literally the collapse of society would have taken place if slavery had instantly disappeared. Our text often used for employee/employer relationships in our day is clear in that it calls for *obedience to masters*. **Colossians 4:1** and **Ephesians 6:9** command slaves be given what *is just and fair because you know that you also have a Master in heaven and there is no partiality with Him*. Christian slaves and workers are to behave in obedience, attempting to please their masters. Not being lazy they are to work diligently without being argumentative, grumbling and talking back. They are also to be thoroughly honest and not thief time, money or anything else for that matter. Christian workers are to be able to be fully trusted.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to work for with my whole heart for my employer, which is actually You to and for Your glory (**1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:23**).

FRIDAY – Titus 2:10b: “...*that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.*” We saw how Christian slaves (today's Christian workers if you will) are to conduct themselves; Paul concludes this section with a reason for this. He wants the gospel of Jesus Christ and the teaching of God and His word to look nice before the eyes of a lost world. The world needs to see and know the Savior and employers, managers, and fellow workers need to hear and see the truth of our God our Savior worked out in our lives. They need to see the difference Jesus has made in us. This is one reason we are to obey all these instructions by God's grace. We are to make Jesus' teaching attractive by how we live. We may not see the entire impact but the way in which we do our jobs as Christians may be just the thing that God will use as He draws people to Himself. The way we work we can bring discredit upon the gospel or it can do the very opposite.

Suggestion for Prayer: God, help me work in such a way that Your teaching looks attractive.