

# Truth

## LIVE AND TEACH THE TRUTH

Focal Verses • TITUS 2:1–15

### Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: **SENSE** that God desires and expects us to live godly lives; **COMMIT** to display faith in God through acts and deeds; and **PRESENT** a godly example for others to follow.

### In Focus

Aaron and Regina were in charge of leading the teen small group Bible study. Since black history is church history, they decided to share with the teens about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s faith and message. Aaron started the class by saying, "There are a lot of stories out there about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The truth is that Dr. King's strong Christian attitudes and sound doctrine guided his single-minded efforts to break down Jim Crow laws of the South. Often, we forget how difficult it was for Dr. King to fulfill his calling."

"That's right," Regina added, "it's important we remember that a lot of influential people told Dr. King to wait!"

Aaron nodded, "Yes! Many older Black ministers in the early years thought Dr. King was too radical and that his marches and sit-ins caused too much violence. White church leaders who had never felt the stinging darts of segregation wrote, telephoned, and pleaded with him to wait. 'This was not how one handled the Southern problem,' they told him."

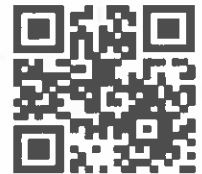
Regina reminded the teens, "Dr. King's posture remained dignified even while some tried to hold him back. He wasn't mean-spirited when he spoke out against vicious mobs who were lynching mothers and fathers and drowning "sassy" teenagers on a whim. Dr. King demonstrated how the gospel of Christ could combat police filled with so much hate; they would kick, brutalize, and kill marchers who wanted to vote. It was the tireless example Dr. King set that finally won over most of his detractors."

*The book of Titus reminds us that regardless of the circumstances or how many well-meaning persons we find ourselves at odds with, we must teach the truth by example. Like Dr. King, we must hold fast to the characteristics of a Soldier of Christ. Despite opposition, what should motivate us to continue sharing the truth of Jesus and leading by Christ?*

### Keep in Mind

"In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works:  
in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity"  
(Titus 2:7, KJV).

SCAN FOR VIDEO



## Focal Verses

---

**KJV** Titus 2:1 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.

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.

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.

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.

## The People, Places, and Times

**Titus.** He was a minister of the Gospel and a co-laborer with Paul in the ministry. Titus was a Greek who served with Paul on several missionary journeys. In other writings, Paul refers to Titus as his partner and fellow helper. Titus had served with Paul on a mission to Corinth and was sent to Crete to continue his service in the ministry. Paul wrote while Titus was on assignment in Crete. Paul's pastoral epistle to Titus seems to have been written from Corinth after his first imprisonment. Paul's epistle to Titus was similar to Paul's first epistle to Timothy and is believed to have been written around the same time from the same place.

## Background

Contaminated teachings began to develop within the Cretan church. Paul left Titus in Crete to establish proper church government and to ordain other ministers in the Gospel. In his letter

to Titus, Paul speaks of the qualifications for elders and warns Titus to be aware of false teachers.

## At-A-Glance

1. The Need for Sound Doctrine (Titus 2:1)
2. The Call to Teach the Next Generation (vv. 2–6)
3. The Responsibility to Live the Life You Teach (vv. 7–8)
4. The Duty to Comply with the Social Structure (vv. 9–10)
5. The Mandate for Godly Teaching and Righteous Living (vv. 11–15)

## In Depth

### 1. The Need for Sound Doctrine (Titus 2:1)

Paul urged Titus to faithfully teach sound doctrine. Paul was aware of how different

doctrines can bring division and confusion in the body of Christ. He tells us not to be like children, tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14). Sound doctrine always results in a life centered around Jesus Christ. The first chapter of Titus ends with Paul's warning against false teachers. He then goes on in chapter 2 to remind Titus not to be moved by false teachers and their inaccurate doctrine.

False teachers began to deny that Jesus was the Son of God. They doubted the reality of the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Such teachings caused many to turn away from sound doctrine and embrace the doctrine espoused by the false teachers. While false teachers may say that they represent Jesus and that they know God, their actions often contradict a faith in God. One cannot claim to be a representative of God and deny the resurrection of Christ.

## **2. The Call to Teach the Next Generation (vv. 2–6)**

Each generation has a responsibility and an obligation to teach the next generation. Paul exhorts Titus to teach the aged men to be calm and patient and to teach the younger men in both word and deed. In addition, older women are instructed to teach younger women to live a life according to holiness. Older women are to instruct younger women in personal conduct, and concerning their relationships with their spouses and children.

Oftentimes, we see younger couples make mistakes early in marriage that could have been avoided if an older couple had taken the time to mentor and teach them. The body of Christ will benefit as we fulfill our responsibility to give to others, share what we have learned, and train others in the faith and teachings of Jesus Christ.

## **3. The Responsibility to Live the Life You Teach (vv. 7–8)**

“Do as I say, and not as I do” is a popular quote within our society. However, Paul reminds Titus of the importance of living a life that aligns with our teachings. “Faith without works is dead also” (James 2:26). Therefore, we can't just say we believe in Christ and in the Word of God. We must follow the teachings of God if we say we are children of God. Genuine faith moves from belief to action. Our actions of faith produce fruit. Jesus tells us, “A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit” (Matthew 7:18). Therefore, if we teach Christ, we must also live Christ. Our actions prove what we believe.

## **4. The Duty to Comply with the Social Structure (vv. 9–10)**

Being a Christian does not negate our social responsibilities. Paul urged Christian slaves to remain compliant with the social laws of the land. Servants were to obey their masters and not respond to them with backtalk or sarcasm. Christian slaves in that culture were expected to follow the law and allow their lives to serve as godly examples as a testimony to their masters. However, this duty is not limited to just slaves and masters. Paul goes on to speak of a Christian's responsibility to respect those in authority. In 1 Timothy 2:2, we are instructed to pray for those in authority. Such godly instructions apply to all who rule over us in one capacity or another.

## **5. The Mandate for Godly Teaching and Righteous Living (vv. 11–15)**

God does not discriminate. He is not partial to a particular group or to those from a particular background. It is the will of God that all should receive salvation. As followers of Christ, we should take every occasion to live a righteous life. We must live for Christ in this present age while we await the return of our Lord and Saviour. Don't allow anyone to despise

you for teaching the truth. Speak the Word of God, encourage, and correct with authority.

### Search the Scriptures

1. What role should older men assume in the lives of young men (Titus 2:2)?
2. What behavior is befitting of a Christian woman (vv. 4–5)?
3. How should Christian slaves interact with their masters (vv. 9–10)?
4. Why did Christ give His life for us (v. 14)?

### Discuss the Meaning

1. Why do you think Paul admonishes Christian slaves to remain obedient to their masters?
2. Imagine that you work in an environment that is hostile to Christianity. How can you continue practicing your faith while remaining employed at this company? What is your greatest witnessing tool?
3. Imagine that your best friend was recently married and is experiencing difficulty with his or her new spouse. Who could he or she turn to for godly counsel? How might Paul's letter to Titus provide guidance in this particular area?

### Liberating Lesson

Recent scandals in the business world have caused people to question the integrity of others. Individuals often say one thing and do another. This has become so common in our society today that less and less weight is given to a person's word. In fact, it almost seems expected that an individual will break a promise. Think about times when you said you would do something and failed to do it. What kept you from following up on your promise? How can you avoid a similar situation in the future?

### Application for Activation

Think about a time when you have followed after godliness in both word and conduct. Then think of another time when your actions didn't represent righteous, godly living. Write down the reasons you believe you followed after godliness. Then, write down the reasons you believe you didn't follow after godliness. What steps could you have taken to behave in a manner that follows the teachings of Christ? Make a commitment to take the necessary steps to behave in ways that will please the Lord.

### Follow the Spirit

What God wants me to do:

---

---

---

---

### Remember Your Thoughts

Special insights I have learned:

---

---

---

---

#### Sources:

Henry, Matthew. *Commentary on the Whole Bible*. Edited by Leslie F. Church. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1961. 1884–85.  
*Life Application Study Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1996.

## Say It Correctly

Kalos, kal-OS

## Daily Bible Readings

### DAY 316

Romans 15:1–33; 16:1–27

Psalm 144

### DAY 317

1 Corinthians 1:1–31; 2:1–16

Psalm 145

### DAY 318

1 Corinthians 3:1–23; 4:1–21

Psalm 146

### DAY 319

1 Corinthians 5:1–13; 6:1–20

Psalm 147

### DAY 320

1 Corinthians 7:1–40

Psalm 148

### DAY 321

1 Corinthians 8:1–13; 9:1–27

Psalm 149

### DAY 322

1 Corinthians 10:1–33; 11:1–16

Psalm 150

## Notes

---

---

---

---