

## Lesson 10

August 15, 2023

### Responsibilities of the older and younger

Titus 2:1 - But as for you (Titus), speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

Returning to his instructions to Titus, Paul established a strong contrast with the false teachers he had just discussed. Paul further instructs Titus to teach in the congregation what is in accord with sound doctrine, or more literally, "healthy teaching." The notion of healthy teaching is common in the Pastorals and is centered around **Bible doctrine**. So also, is the idea that certain behavior goes along with sound doctrine, and other behavior does not. Paul used the words meaning accurate/correct teaching which are stronger than "healthy teaching."

1 Tim 6:3-6 - If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to Godliness, 4) he is conceited (puffed up" with an inflated ego) and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 5) and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. 6) But Godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

### How do you handle arrogant people?

1. Stay calm
2. Don't get emotional
3. Make sure you are filled with the H.S. and use divine doctrine.
4. Ask them a question. Where did you get that idea?

5. Share with them the truth if they will listen, otherwise, excuse yourself from the conversation so as not to anger them or cause further damage.

### morbid interest in controversial questions -

This type of person understands nothing. Picking up a medical analogy, Paul described them as “diseased with” controversies, “debates,” perhaps on theological problems; wanting to win a debate instead of understanding the truth.

disputes about words - and arguments, (“battles of words”), out of which come only envy, quarreling, malicious talk, evil suspicions, and constant friction.

A good example of word arguments might be about resuscitation vs resurrection.

**Resuscitation** - The miraculous restoration back to life of a physically dead person, whose mortal body dies again. Resuscitation is distinct from resurrection, which describes the rise from death to an immortal body.

**Resurrection** - The biblical term that describes being physically raised from the dead to receive an immortal body. (1 Cor. 15:42)

**depraved mind** - "of men corrupted (depraved) in mind."  
The inmost source of evil is in the perverted mind.

This is where MAS thrives.

**deprived of the truth** - They had the truth, but through want of moral integrity and of love of the truth, they were misled by a pretended deeper gnosis (knowledge) and higher ascetical holiness, of which they made a trade.

**Supposing** - Νομίζω, "Nomizo" - to form an idea about something but with some suggestion of tentativeness or refraining from a definitive statement, think, believe, hold, consider. (regarding the matter in this point of view) that piety (so translated for 'godliness') is a means of gain (that is, a way of advancing one's worldly interests:

But actually there is gain in the truth, only not financially speaking. The **gain in Godliness** is found in the truth of God's word, not in our own understanding.

Godliness does not give financial gain (1 Tim. 6:5); it itself is gain when accompanied with contentment.

**Contentment** αὐτάρκεια "Autarkeias" literally means "self-sufficiency." Yet the sufficiency of oneself is due to the sufficiency of God.

**1 Tim. 1:10** - "and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching".

The victims of false teachers (vs. 16) were out of harmony with sound doctrine; but now Paul would describe the right sorts of behavior.

Paul clearly believes that speaking the truth is the best antidote to error.

**Speak the things** - (V.PAM) This is a command! The things refer to the entire scope of doctrine.



Some people cherry-pick scripture to mean something different than was intended. This is very common today. Use of the original languages helps us to understand the proper context to use scripture.

Titus needed to speak firmly, to clarify the wrong teachings in the new churches in Crete. He was also to boldly teach, according to the context of scripture.

sound doctrine - ὑγιαίνω, (Hugiano) (Pt.pa) to be free from error, be correct.

doctrine - διδασκαλία "DIDASKALIA" (n.ds); ② that which is taught, teaching, instruction.

Sound doctrine must lead to ethical conduct in the lives of all the people in the church. Even in Titus' frustration with the unruly Cretans, Paul told him that it doesn't matter whether they like it or not, the truth had to be told. Paul does not believe they are worth arguing with but said Titus should concentrate on rebuking them in order that they "may become sound in the faith". This is a positive approach, which is still of great value when

dealing with those who deviate from the truth in churches today.

## The importance of Bible Doctrine

**1. B.D. is the only way to know and love Jesus Christ.**

1 Cor. 2:14 - But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

In the beginning Adam and Eve were created Trichotomous (a body, a soul and a human spirit), but after disobeying God, their human spirit was removed from them and replaced with a sin nature. They fell into sin, became separated from God, and lost their human spirit. In this new status of Dichotomy - body and soul only, they were separated from God and incapable of a relationship with Him. (Gen. 2:17, 3:8) Faith in the savior, Jesus Christ brought regeneration, and the human spirit

was added back again. (1 Cor. 15:22) The sin nature remained throughout their life.

Every person born is born Dichotomous and separated from God. It is through their faith in the God/man Jesus Christ that they receive a human spirit and therefore - Trichotomy. Since only believers can receive spiritual truths, it follows that the man without the Spirit, an unregenerate person, would not and could not receive the message of wisdom regardless of his intellectual abilities or accomplishments. God gives us Common Grace. This is a Grace that allows the gospel to be understood by unbelievers. Since unbelievers do not have a human spirit, The Holy spirit stands in the gap and interprets spiritual things to the unbeliever. They are Dichotomous, (They have only a body and soul). When an unbeliever becomes a believer, they become Trichotomous. (They receive a human spirit). (1 Thess. 5:23 )

A person who becomes a believer receives the indwelling of the Holy spirit and a human spirit. By possessing the Holy Spirit, and a human spirit that can understand



spiritual things, they can now be guided by the Holy spirit, they can then evaluate and apply all the things the Holy Spirit reveals to them. (This does not negate the need of a pastor-teacher for the teaching of and the correction and reproof of God's word).

**Rom 12:2 - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**

**John 15:15 - "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.**

**2. B.D. leads to occupation with Christ**

[What is Occupation with Christ?](#)

1. Occupation with Christ is a mental attitude by which a Christian believer views all things in life with the Lord Jesus Christ in mind.

2. Occupation with Christ is our love for the Son, the 2nd Person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ, therefore it is the expression of love for God. The Bible commands us to love God, with all our heart, soul and mind. Being occupied with Christ is a great part of our love for God. Therefore, this concept is one of the most important spiritual functions in the Christian life.

**1 Pet. 1:8 - and though you have not seen Him, you love Him (occupation with Christ), and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,**

**3. B.D. in the soul produces confidence in life.**

**Job 5:24-27 - "You will know that your tent is secure, for you will visit your abode and fear no loss.**

25) "You will know also that your descendants will be many, and by our offspring as the grass of the earth.

26) "You will come to the grave in full vigor, Like the stacking of grain in its season. 27) "Behold this; we

have investigated it, and so it is. Hear it and know for yourself."

4. B.D. is the source of Divine Viewpoint in the Kardia.

2 Cor. 10:5 - We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

Isa. 55:7-9 - Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 8) For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. 9) "For as the heavens are

higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

5. B.D. is the basis of orientation to God's Plan in Time.

Rom. 8:28 - And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

6. B.D. produces both sanity and stability of mind.

Phil. 2:2 - make my joy complete by being of the same mind (as Christ), maintaining the same love (as Christ), united in spirit (as Christ), intent on one purpose (being obedient to Christ).

Phil. 2:5-8 - Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to

be grasped, 7) but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men.

8) Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

We learn how to be obedient by studying His word.

## 7. B.D. is the basis for Divine Guidance.

Spiritually speaking, what does God think? How can I align with what He wants?

**Rom. 12:2-3 - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**

3) For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think, to have



sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

8. Without B.D., Satan corrupts the minds of believers.

2 Cor. 11:3 - But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

Titus 2:2 - Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.

(For the purpose that the aged men (in age) be sober (not drunk), grave, stabilized in the mind, accurate in faith, (accurate) in charity, (accurate) in patience.

(Note: Old age is the greatest time of life. It is the chance for the soul to shine instead of the body of youth)

Titus was aware of several groups of people and encouraged them to be "sound in the faith" as he preached "sound doctrine."

These groups included:

Older men, younger men, older women, younger women and bondservants (slaves).

Older men - πρεσβύτης "Presbutes" This word means old in years, not in rank, as we had studied regarding an elder "presbuteros" in past lessons. God has a plan for these older men.

**(Psalm 92:12) - The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**



**Palm tree branches** are used to represent victory.

Palm trees are very strong, holding firm to the fiercest winds and storms without breaking. Every part of the palm tree is useful. They have no branches. The tree does not rely on branches for its support. It is deeply rooted and independent as its own tree.





**The Lebanon Cedar** is a slow-growing tree whose longevity is legendary. Some Lebanon Cedars have been on earth for more than 1,000 years.

The characteristics of the elder man are made referencing these two trees.

**Song of Solomon 5:15b - His appearance is like Lebanon  
Choice of the cedars.**

**Prov. 20:29 - The glory of young men is their strength, and the honor of old men is their gray hair.**

God desires the older men to become righteous in his old age. This man will grow closer to God and withstand the storms of life. God expects this older man to flourish.

### **Older men are to be:**

1. **temperate** - If someone's behavior is temperate, it is calm and controlled. **(Gal. 5:17-26)**

Νηφαλέος "Nethaleos" - ① pertains to being very moderate in the drinking of an alcoholic beverage, temperate, sober and ② to being restrained in conduct, self-controlled, level-headed.

Temperance speaks of self-discipline in the older age.

Temperance should be considered also in the use of alcoholic beverages, so the man can be alert and attentive to circumstances or consequences. This does not mean he cannot drink; it means that as an older man, he can have a great stabilizing influence on others.



You cannot do that if you are drunk!

The peaceful image of the palm tree on a beautiful beach comes to mind.

Temperance is behavior shown toward others, by having a calm response, even when others may not respond the same way to you.

This can be the difference of a Christ-like response of patience or a response from man that cannot control his tongue, which leads to confrontation.

2. dignified - Σεμνός "Semnos" - having or showing a composed or serious manner that is worthy of respect.

This person gains respect with his very presence, just like the presence of the Palm and Cedar of Lebanon trees. (1 Tim 3:4-5) - He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5) but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?

3. sensible - having or showing good sense or judgment.

Making sound decisions that are well thought out.

Σώφρων "Sophron" - Being a characteristic of persons distinguished for public service, Sophron appears in the list of qualifications for an ἐπίσκοπος "Episcopus."

(God can use us when we are sensible)

4. sound in faith - the application of being "sound" in this text relates to the trust we have in God. It has to do with the believer's spiritual health. We grow spiritually mature by learning bible doctrine.

As we grow spiritually mature, we learn to trust God more and more. The endurance of the elder man is like the Cedar of Lebanon, slow and long-standing growth.

Sound - υγιαίνω "Hugiano"

- In Faith - by having B.D. in the soul.
- In Love - "agape" Spiritual Love. Part of the R.M.A.
- In Perseverance - Or patience; Faith Rest drill

Old age should be the best part of life. That is the way God planned it. (Read Psa. 71:9-18)

How can we know God without learning about him through the scriptures?

The older men who exhibit the characteristic of a "sound life" (unbreakable strength) are expected to equip younger men to live a life that is "sound in the faith." These qualities speak to the development of character and integrity and for living a life that is dignified, respected and temperate.

**America, we have a problem. We are plagued with fatherless homes! We need elderly men to teach Godliness.**

Men have quit being leaders in their homes.

We have older men that do not talk to the younger men. Today, many older men do not teach younger men about how to treat a woman properly, how to be responsible, how to work and support a family or to have respect for authority. The young men fall into crime, alcohol and drug abuse. Gangs take these fatherless young men in and teach them the ways of the streets!

A fatherless child is at a major disadvantage compared to a fathered child who has been taught about God, what is good and what is right. Look at these statistics!

## **Fatherless Effects**

- 63% of youths who died by suicide come from fatherless homes
- 90% of runaway and homeless children come from fatherless homes
- 71% of high-school dropouts come from fatherless homes
- 85% of children who show behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes
- 80% of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes

Source: The Fatherless Generation

All as a result of men who abandon their responsibilities. Many fathers can also be found in prisons and in the gang lifestyles that are absent of the teachings of God. They have given up their God-given leadership roles.

5. Sound in love - This is ἀγάπη (agape) love.

Jesus told his followers to love one another in the same sacrificial way he loved them. This command was new because it demanded a new kind of love, a love like his own love poured out for all on the cross.

One important aspect of agape love is that it extends beyond emotions. It's much more than a feeling or sentiment. Agape love is active. It demonstrates love through actions.

**John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35) "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."**

6. Sound in perseverance - ὑπομονή (hypomonē).



This means "steadfast hope". To have the capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty, to have patience, especially for those who have lived long lives.

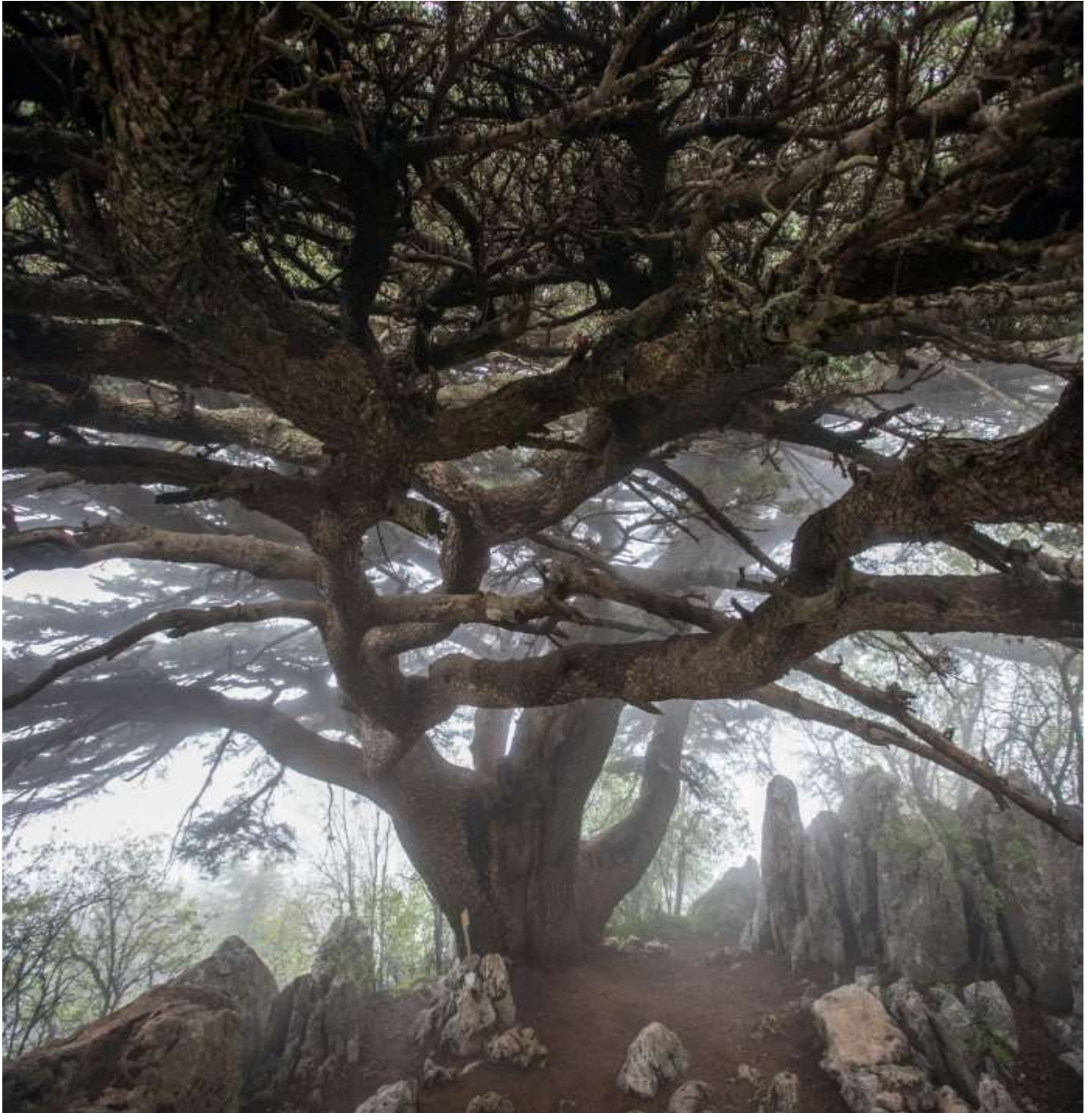
**Rom. 15:4 -For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.**

Older men are expected by God to be the leaders of our homes and churches.

When this man grows spiritually and is able to respond to God's calling for him, The man flourishes. When the man leads in this way, the complete hierarchy of the family and church flourishes as well.

**Psa. 92:12-13 - The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**

**13) Planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God.**



**A Cedar tree in Lebanon in all its glory!  
A flourishing example of the righteous man!**