

Stability, Direction and Meaning Titus 2

Titus 2: Introduction

- We live in an age suspicious of “The Big Story” – any belief that claims to have the final word on the direction in which the world is headed.
- We used to ask, “What is the meaning of life?”
- The 20th Century brought an end to all the “isms” that provided answers.
- The result: “Life has no meaning.”
- Peter Gabriel captured the sentiments of our time as part of London’s *Millennium Dome Show* back in the year 2000.

Downside Up by Peter Gabriel

*I looked up at the tallest building
Felt it falling down
I could feel my balance shifting
Everything was moving around
These streets so fixed and solid
A shimmering haze
And everything that I relied on disappeared*

*(Refrain) Downside up, upside down
Take my weight from the ground
Falling deep in the sky
Slipping into the unknown*

*All the strangers look like family
All the family looks so strange
The only constant I am sure of
Is this accelerating rate of change*

- By contrast the Bible has a huge story line – a beginning, a middle and an end.
- This story in the Bible follows the course of history from its very beginning to the future creation of a new heaven and a new earth.
- It includes God’s plan of redemption.
- It includes (overworked as it may sound) God’s plan for you and me.

- In this chapter Paul challenges us to stay focused on Jesus in order to fulfill that plan.
- God brings stability, direction and meaning to the intentionally Christ-focused life.
- Our seemingly tedious, meaningless, everyday lives can have enormous eternal significance when Christ is at the center of them.

When you feel this:

“And everything that I relied on disappeared”

Consider that Christ has redeemed you.

Look forward to His return.

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Titus 2 Outline

Paul answers two basic questions for us:

1. How Should We Christians Live?(in 2:1-10)
2. Why We Should Live That Way? (in 2:11-15)

How Should We Christians Live? 2:1-10

- **2:1** The way of life Paul advocates is consistent with “healthy doctrine.”
 - In other words, our behavior should match our beliefs – because God will empower us to make that possible.
- **2:2** For the older men:
 - The overall sense is that they should be dignified, balanced and worthy of respect – all with a healthy faith, love and patience.
 - The word **temperate** can also be translated “self-controlled”.
 - Older Christian men, perhaps more than anyone, should absolutely radiate stability, direction and meaning for all the world to see.
- **2:3-5** For the older women:
 - Make it a point to be an example and teacher to the younger women in the church.
 - **Slanderers** = “devils”
 - **Given to much wine** = “not enslaved” to it.
- **2:3-5** For the older women:
 - **Admonish** here means to “pass on a sound or reasonable perspective” – related to the word “temperate” or “self-controlled,” when talking about the older men.
 - Older Christian women should, by word and example, pass on the concepts of stability, direction and meaning to younger women in the church.
- **2:6** For the younger men:
 - Here Paul has literally only one word in the original: **sober-minded**.
 - This is (again!) the same word translated “temperate” or “self-controlled” earlier.
 - Paul figured if Titus could get the young men, especially on Crete, to be self-controlled, he would genuinely be accomplishing a lot.

- **2:7-8** This is for Titus personally.
 - Paul assumes that people will want to find fault with Titus and his teaching about Christ.
 - Titus needs to beware of that and set the kind of example that will cause any serious criticism to simply bounce off.
- **2:9-10** **bondservants** – this applies to all of us who work for someone else.
 - If you are a Christian, you should make it your goal to be a model employee.
 - The word adorn in v.10 is related to “cosmos” or “cosmetology.”
 - Your life has the ability to make the gospel look good - **or not so good.**
 - For the Christian, there are no insignificant jobs or types of work.
 - Wherever you are you have contact with a unique circle of people.
 - These people become part of your ministry or your mission field – your *calling* or *vocation*.
 - **Stability, direction and meaning** in your life can eternally impact this circle or group.

When you feel this:

*“The only constant I am sure of
Is this accelerating rate of change.”*

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Why Should We Live That Way? 2:11-15

- **2:11** Take special note of the **for** at the beginning of this section.
 - Paul will now explain why he just said all that he did.
 - All the seemingly simple behavioral instructions in the previous section are motivated by gigantic theological ideas.
 - It is all this intense theology that gives our lives **stability, direction and meaning.**
- **2:13**

“Believing that Jesus is coming back soon gives us a sense of urgency to get the gospel out, it gives us a proper perspective on material things, and it has a purifying effect on our lives. We know our God and Savior Jesus Christ could come at any time, and that anticipation makes all the difference in our lives.” – Pastor Chuck Smith (in *The Word for Today Bible*)
- **2:11-14** **What Grace Teaches Us:**
 - Some distort the Gospel of grace and make it sound as if it means that good works are not important – since we are not saved by them.

- Grace teaches the opposite. We are not only saved by grace, but by grace we are transformed.
- *God's grace is the means of our salvation; good works are the result of it.*
- **2:15** This verse is directed specifically at Titus – and by extension at any pastor or other person who is responsible for teaching God's word.
 - Don't shrink back from your responsibility to declare the truth.
 - Neither personal conflict nor popular opinion should stand in the way of the one who needs to speak these things with authority.

Titus 2 Conclusions

- Contrary to the current mindset, the Bible has a huge story line – a beginning, a middle and an end. *(Gasp!)*
- This story in the Bible follows the course of history from its very beginning to the future creation of a new heaven and a new earth.
- It includes God's plan of redemption.
- It includes *(yes, we can say it again)* God's plan for you and me.
- Christ's death, resurrection and future return provide the foundation for how we think and act at this present time.
- Regardless of who you are – man, woman, young, old, employer or employee, your life should reflect the **stability, direction and meaning** that this world needs to see.
- How we think and act is motivated and empowered by our relationship with Christ.

"Jesus gave Himself for us; the least we can do is give ourselves to Him and live Christ-honoring lives until He comes." – Warren Wiersbe

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