

# Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

**Date** : 21 Aug 2022

**Sermon Title** : For Better Not For Worse

**Speaker** : Rev John Foo

**Text** : Titus 2

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Titus was Paul's protégé whom he had left in Crete, and this letter is a follow through on the work that needed to be done. In Chapter 1, Paul listed down some qualifications that Titus was supposed to look out for when appointing leaders in church. Then Paul cautioned against teachers who were leading people away from the truth and sound doctrine.

In Chapter 2, Paul exhorts Titus to teach what accords with sound doctrine. (Titus 2:1) "Sound doctrine" refers to correct teaching based on the truth of God. This week, we will look at – "What we are taught must influence the way we conduct ourselves.", as we look at how Paul moves on to show how sound doctrine can be exhibited in the conduct of those who had been taught. (Titus 2:2-10)

## **Titus 2:1-10**

When we read Titus 2:1-10, we know which group we belong to, and we can also clearly see how we are to behave. However, these things do not come naturally for us. The things we learn may not translate to the appropriate actions in our lives.

## **3 dangers that may prevent us from living or conducting ourselves according to the teachings of God:**

### 1. What we learn only stays in our head

When we listen to God's word and think that we already know everything about it and there is nothing new to learn, we would be missing the point.

- Although it is good to be concerned about whether we know a lot of things of God, it is more important to be concerned whether all these correct teachings of God are showing up in our lives and expressed in the way we behave and in our attitude.

When we read or hear God's word, we should ask ourselves all these questions:

- Do I understand His Word?
- What does His Word mean for me?
- What does God expect me to do?
- How should I live my life in light of this truth from God?

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*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

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God does not want us to only gain knowledge and that is why we are not attending a school every Sunday just to learn about Him. Instead, God created the church, a community where we learn to live with one another in inter-dependence whilst guided by the truth of God, i.e. His Word. The church involves every part of its community, and we are to conduct ourselves according to God's truth in it.

## 2. We do not feel the need to change the way we conduct ourselves

We may feel satisfied with the way we are and may not see the need to change ourselves until a crisis happens. As a result, we do not particularly pay attention to the teachings of God or whether our conduct is in line with His teachings.

When we read about godly leadership and the qualifications required in Titus 1, we will be missing the point if we want to step down from being a leader when we feel we do not meet those qualifications.

- Instead of being concerned about being a leader, we should focus on the things listed down by Paul and the way we conduct ourselves. If we focus on these and not the leadership, we will all be qualified to be leaders of the church and hence it should be our focus to do so. Though we are far from perfect and work-in-progress, it should not stop us from conducting in a manner that is Christ-like.

A quote by non-believers which can be found online reads, "I have no problem with God. It's his fan club I can't stand." It is hurting to come to realise that non-believers have no problems with God, but he/she has a problem with the way we conduct ourselves.

- The way we conduct ourselves is very critical for the sake of the gospel, the name of God and His Word:
  - "that the word of God will not be reviled." (v.5)
  - "so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us." (v.8)
  - "so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour." (v.10)

We are called to be "light of the world" and "salt of the earth" so let us not end up being caught to be "dark of the world" and "scum of the earth" because that is not what Jesus wants us to be.

## 3. We prefer the worldly way more than the godly way

This may be because we are more familiar with the worldly way. It could also be because majority are following the worldly way or the worldly way is more attractive to us.

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- If we are not careful, before we know it, we will be embracing a lot of the world's way and are no different from a non-believer.

Some may even be surprised that we are believers.

## Titus 2:11-14

**The last part of our passage in verses 11-14 gives us the motivation why we should live our lives in a godly manner – It is because we have received the grace of God.**

- We are not struggling alone in living out this life. (v.11)
- The grace of God is there to help us resist all ungodliness and worldly passions. (v.12a)
- The grace of God is moving us towards self-controlled, upright and godly lives. (v.12b)

If you receive the grace of God, by this amazing grace and in trusting it, God will supply whatever you need for that moment to conduct yourself in a godly manner. The grace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ has been made available so that we can go straight to God for help.

The last 2 verses say, one day our Lord Jesus is going to come back, and He is going to claim those who are His own. When that day comes, would we have lived godly Christian lives and be ready for His coming?

## CONCLUSION

What we are taught through sound doctrine must influence the way we conduct ourselves because we have received the grace of God to move towards a self-controlled, upright and godly life. Let us trust in this amazing grace of God to help us resist all ungodliness and worldly passions by allowing God's Word to change our conduct for the better.

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## **A. Review Sermon Application**

***Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.***

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk!?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?

2. Appoint someone to read Titus 2:1-14 slowly.

- a. Which group(s) do you belong to, and have you been behaving according to God's Word above, in your life?

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## **B. Relate Sermon Content**

***Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.***

3. The way we conduct ourselves is very critical for the sake of the gospel, the name of God and His Word.
  - a. What kind of Christian conduct can cause God's name, His Word or the gospel to be reviled? Describe some that can be seen at home, at work, at school, in church or in the community?
  - b. Do you find yourself guilty of any?
  - c. Which of the 3 dangers prevent(s) you from living or conducting yourself according to the teachings of God.
  
- 4a. With reference to the sermon on "For Better Not For Worse",
  - (i) Do you understand His Word?
  - (ii) What does His Word mean for you?
  - (iii) What does God expect you to do?
  - (iv) How should you live your life in light of this truth from God?
- 4b. How can your group members encourage or help you to achieve 4a.(iv) above in the following week(s), till your next meeting?

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## **C. Testimonies, Prayer and Action**

***Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.***

5. Share your testimony on how by God's grace, you overcame one of the 3 dangers that prevented you from conducting yourself according to God's Word, to live in a godly manner.

OR

Give thanks to God that He has given us His grace to overcome challenges and live a self-controlled, upright and godly life.

6. How does our community look like to the people outside of our church community?

Discuss what your small group can do to better reflect God's teachings and His glory to the people around you and the community beyond our church.

Bring all that have been shared in 4a. and 4b. to God and pray for the Holy Spirit to convict each heart individually and as a community in your small group and our church to follow Christ wholeheartedly, that you will truly adorn the doctrine of God in your life. May the world around us see the Word of God through our lives in the way we live so we will be the "salt and light" in it.

### Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

- 1) Mighty To Save – Hillsong <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCZ3Kcl4uEQ>
- 2) Jesus at the Centre – Israel & New Breed  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEmRHP-86Bo>
- 3) The Potter's Hand – Hillsong <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqXL3y9Rlbl>

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