

A Godly man 'does what is good'

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See service sheet online at [www.knbc.org](http://www.knbc.org)

Welcome

Opening Scripture	Ps 100
Hymn:	MP 529 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
Bible Reading:	Isaiah 12
Prayer:	Adoration and praise,
Main reading:	John 15, Titus 2:1-15 (especially 1-8)
Hymn:	MP 522 O the deep deep love of Jesus
Sermon	A Godly man 'does what is good'
Hymn	MP 624 Take my life and let it be (Tune St Bees)

Close -----

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The audio file is [21\\_03\\_21.mp3](#).



### Welcome and pray

Drive past the L/B factory site and you can make out the two long buildings on the top of the hill they are called CAB 1 & 2. I used to love to walk through CAB, it means Car Assembly Building. At one end is an empty plinth comes on a conveyor belt. Soon a sub-frame (chassis) is added, there is the open engine with all the pipework, from overhead all the way from West works comes a body which lowers and the other parts are raised to be

united. At this new level are a host of assemblers add doors, bonnet, boot, bumpers wheels all on the move. Brake and other fluids added, a battery, then a man jumps in, turns the key and all the lights come on, there's the sound of the engine catching and the car is driven off the end of the track with a triumphant squeal of the tyres. I'm enthralled as I followed the line, the motion, the buzz, the clamour, but mostly how all these metal parts come together in a product that - DOES something. x2

To think I nearly worked for Glacier Bearings - a life of making metal rings.

✚ A car can be filled with people, it will take you to work, holiday, around the world - It is super useful and enjoyable

I think there is something of that excitement in God's heart when he made man. He made him from the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life. And now this man came a living being. He was active, he did something. It was a good result that only got better when 'she' joined him!

So how miserable it must have been when Adam and Eve sinned, failed, failed to function properly. Destined to be 'scrapped' as we say, - but God had a plan to do some 'reclamation' work to reclaim, repair, restore man so he would be complete and function properly, - to work properly.

A Christian is a man or woman who has been reclaimed by Christ. If you are a Christian, then this remedial work is still going on. Christ has put his Spirit within a believer so that we will think and act as like Him.

As we come to our passage this morning Titus ch. 2, let me remind you the letter is for **the faith of God's elect**, 1:1 the **faith** of God people. And for what end? that they will do something. Faith is to be active. No action = no faith.

Action - a good action - is the theme of the letter - to 'do good'.

See 1:8 - the man of God is **one who loves what is good**. Follow me - let your fingers do the walking can you see 2:14 Christ **gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good**. 3:1 **to do whatever is good**, 3:8 **that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to - doing what is good**. 3:14 **Our people must learn to devote themselves to - doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives**. This is 2:3 through **teaching - what is good**, and 2:7 through **Titus** who is to be **an example by - doing - what is good**. Get the point! We will see why this is the case later.

In the previous section those attacking God's people are trying to cause the opposite **1:16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing - anything good.**

■ They are putting paint stripper on the car and grit in the engine!

Now Titus the Pastor wants to see God's reclaimed people run well, bear fruit, good fruit. Those others, the **bad apples** had been trying to corrupt them – and had some success in doing so. Their false teaching had led to wrong conduct. The cure? good sound teaching to lead to godly conduct.

■ They had been offering bad food and it had led to trouble (a friend's son ended up in hospital years ago as a result of sustained cheap food)

✚ No Titus wants to see them have **good food and take good exercise.**

The good food, good teaching is key and this section Ch.2 starts with it “1 **You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. 2 Teach...** And ends with it 15 **These, then, are the things you should teach.**

The true doctrines of the gospel are sound doctrines, they are in themselves good and holy, and should make the believers so; and fit for, and vigorous in, the service of God. The aim of teaching is to make us useful, fruitful.

v12 Christ's desire for you and I, the reason he gave up his life on the cross, is to produce people who will say no to the world's ways, - and my sinful ways - and live **upright and godly lives**. Again we read v14 He **gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager - to do what is good.** - the end aim - faith in action.

V11-14 is the summary. However, we must beware slipping into vagaries and generalities and fail to apply it to myself. That is why Titus now addresses different people in the church. We have much in common but there are specific things, specific problems particular to men, young or old.

Today we will focus on men, - ladies your time is coming!

### *So Godly men*

2 **Teach the older men - older men** There are three things to consider here: weaknesses particular to men, weaknesses particular to age, and weaknesses particular to culture. No escape! - we cannot cover everything here -

Some weaknesses are harder/easier to spot than others. A man is always a man so there is no way we can grow to experience that. Not true for age, for

as the saying goes ‘**we were all young once**’ you see the changes. And culture? Usually you are too far into the woods - to see the trees.

2 **Teach the older men - to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.**

Each word deserves a sermon but I will spare you that. These six phrases it seems can be split into two groups - and within each group the two either side, prop, prompt and produce the central one. For example:

1. To be **worthy of respect** to be an **upright Godly** man you need both **temperance** and **self-control**.
2. Secondly to display Christ's **love** you need to be **sound in faith**, and steady in it, to **endure**.

**To be temperate** is to practice restraint, be serious and sensible; i.e. prudent, thoughtful or **AV sober, vigilant** i.e. careful.

You can see it needs' it's twin brother **self-control**. To be a man **worthy of respect** he will need to curb his own desires and impulses.

✚ In other words - not only should the man be wise to know what he should do - he must also have the self-control to do it – to live it.

Young men too ... 6 **Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.**

■ “Yes you are right” I hear you say, men need **self-control** “yes they do”, well, in case you are thinking, so do women, glance down to v5

There are many men who have failed to be worthy of respect because they have lacked self-control in the area of sexual passion. And have given in.

Christian men, Christian leaders, have lead themselves into temptation.

Proverbs says that to give in to adultery is like a highway to the grave. - and many are the slain - Satan's trump card is to ruin the reputation of Christian men. - And he has been very successful. – *We need to be very careful*

**There are temptations particular to men - and temptations particularly to age**

People adjust to aging in different ways, how about you?

When the body shouts more loudly “take it easy, let me have my way” some give in and let the body dictate, these are the pipe and slippers people, who have a slow death by TV. Or frit away too much time on hobbies.

There are those who deny it, dress like a youngster to try and mask the fact. Some try to prove themselves, “I'm not over the hill”. It's a worldly view.

■ Picture two curves (display) our body and our spirit. The body will fail – and increasingly there is little we can do about it. But spiritually ^^  
Never be lacking in zeal, never lose the fight, like a middle aged General..

■ Let me take you to 1840 to Kabul capital of Afghanistan. General William Elphinstone was so cautious, so hesitant, so unwilling to take action that he lost all the initiatives. The result? the enemy overran his unprepared barracks. He was so outmaneuvered in retreating only one man survived

✚ He had lost the fight. A soldier who loses the fight is worse than useless. A Christian man is a soldier for the Lord. Don't lose your 'fight'

■ Donald Davis who lived to his nineties was active in his faith to the last. He wrote/phoned people, give hospitality, his house plaque: 'Koinonia'

There are things particular to being a man, things particular to age what about culture? What of the snares around that can stumble us as men?

Remember how those in Crete were described?!...“**Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."** Tit 1:12

Cretans were so prone to dishonesty it had become a national trait. Labelled as **evil brutes** for their hurtfulness, and **lazy gluttons** for their laziness, they were more inclined to eat than to work or live by some honest employment.

Hard, dishonest, lazy - Men who became Christian needed to stand against it

A saying went: as a warning to a woman swept of her feet by a charming Spaniard watch out you will spend the rest of your life doing all the work for a lazy husband. Across Europe men are to be seen sitting in the squares playing backgammon and wasting away their time while their women worked. One could go on. Polish men? What of English men?

What is sought after and valued in our UK society? Leisure? Eating? Entertainment? To be comfortable? some people would do anything to be able to do nothing. a trouble free, pain free, passive existence? Retirement?

Others want that – It's not for the Christian man. We have been called to action. Equipped, commissioned, and sent out to fight the good fight of the faith. to be a man known for doing good, a man **worthy of respect**.

Paul says to the Cretans to **do good**. Their situation, is also our situation now

✚ One of the problems is that for years we haven't had 'to do' anything.

■ The state looks after the poor, so I don't need to do anything, sick, .. the elderly.... education .... These in the past were the work of Christians, - but the state takes care of it. So... - and it will take care of me. So....

✚ I feel a real challenge about this, Christian men we must beware of this passivity, not taking out... putting in – by doing good.

A Christian man is to be **sound in faith**. That is have a firm conviction of the truth of God's word, to know it, to understand it, to reason and defend it, to have applied it to my life.

✚ A Christian man will never effectively lead his wife, his children, his household, without being sound and strong in faith.

The Christian man is to be clear about God as Sovereign creator, about sin, about grace, about judgment, about hell. You should have a strong conviction that God in Jesus Christ is the only bestower of eternal salvation.

The Christian knows he is called to fulfil the great commission of making disciples of all nations and that he is called to a life of holiness, and faithful service of the King - as long as he lives.

A Christian man needs a solid faith to live a life of **love**. This Agape love is the real love that we see in God. To love God with all his heart, mind and strength, and his neighbour as himself. This is an active **love**. It presses on patiently remaining faithful and generous though up against real difficulties.

So he needs **endurance**. x2 This word is often translated patience 29, or patient continuance, patient waiting meaning resolve, constancy,

For an older man it is very easy to fret, be overly anxious. *"I won't attempt that in case I don't make it"*. We are to take the initiatives of love - and see them through. The man who does that is steadfast he perseveres he **endures**.

■ My experience is that the Lord puts me in situations I can't get out of. In one sense it is true for us all, our family, church family work colleague.

A Godly man is not knocked off course by the worst of trials & sufferings

### Young men

If older men need self-control to get going, younger men need self-control to stay on the road.

A young man needs self-control to avoid being a hothead; wilful and head-strong he is quick to start things but not to finish them. They need to take listen and take advice.

More young people are ruined by pride than by any other sin.

Young men, and women today see themselves as a unique group that looks to itself, - modelling itself on others within their same age group.

That is not how it used to be – nor how it should be. Young men used to look to older ones as an example as to how to conduct themselves and what sort of character they should be aiming to develop.

BCM Intern William does that. He is 18, he has a humour and lightness about some things – but a seriousness about the important things. He realises that he need to build into his life qualities that will stand the test and trials to come. He knows there will be days of evil and sorrow and sins to avoid. He is wise because while still young he is laying a good foundation. His life will not be littered with regrets and miseries but it will be useful and fruitful.

In life you get one go – Q “A wise young man will not mourn when older but have peace and comfort in death, and after it a glorious crown of life.”

*Titus - as a young man - is told to model this to them*

Paul says to him 7 **In everything set them an example by doing what is good.**

And secondly **in your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.** In other words Titus: “continue to expand God’s word with solid **serious and sound** teaching”.

Q - The best antidote to wrong teaching is positive moral exhortation and teaching which promotes good spiritual health and worthy behaviour.

Titus is not to model the life of a man - but a man of God. A Godly man is a reclaimed, renewed man. You cannot be godly any other way.

Are you trying to live a life that pleases God? You should do, but you cannot, you cannot unless Christ comes to enable you. Do you want that? Really? Then do what he says: “**If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.** Lu 14:26

✚ Do you still desire godliness above all? Turn to Christ – and you make the right choice. Then he will clothe you with himself - and with power.

- Put on a uniform and you become a Policeman, a ticket collector, a postman etc.

When someone becomes a Christian they become a new person, they are clothed with Christ, the old rags have gone and like the prodigal son we are given new clothes to wear.

- The key place is the locker room – it’s the changing room - that is where we take off the old and put on the new.

Then, with a new heart, you can become like THE Godly man Jesus Christ.

- I remember going to a paint shop. And out drove my car. My expression was ‘Wow’. The paint gleamed, there was a deep shine and everything looked perfect. The car went in scratched, dented and tatty. I could hardly believe the transformation was possible. I was delighted.

So it is with a Christian, the paint shop, the workshop is that secret place where the transformation is made - to produce such a wonderful result

One day all will be brought to light, like the spring where at the moment most trees look the same soon there will be signs of that new life within, it will show, others will stand out as dead, they look dead because they are dead – A Christian can be seen, can stand out because we bear fruit.

My life was selfish and wasteful now he has called me to do good, when I am too old to do anything I will write to people, and if strength litter picking

- Steve Bagnell the Care Centre manager has just written his testimony – “I left a trail of destruction behind me wherever I went. My life was built on lies and deceit. I failed as an employee, a friend, a partner. I failed as a human being. Even worse, I failed as a father. I lived a life full of shame and embarrassment”. What a waste, how useless - then Christ changed him.

✚ He had been reclaimed, renewed, remade - the change is a delight to see

- Once homeless himself now he says: I manage the homeless project at BCM. It’s not a job. It’s a calling. Having received unconditional love and God’s truth when I was at my lowest what a privilege it is now to offer that to others in return. Not for myself but to glorify God.

I, like Steve used to be what is called a “waster”, so are many, many men, wasted time, wasted lives, but Steve is now a builder, doing good. So that is how a Christian man can live well, and glorify God by *doing good* x2 ....

“**Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.** Ga 6:9-10

End