

A Godly woman 'teaches what is good'

See service sheet online at www.knbc.org

Welcome:

Opening Psalm & Prayer: Psalm 51

Hymn: 52 - God Sent His Son

Prayers:

Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Notices: Join Birmingham Bible Convention three evenings
Please take and pray through the Prayer sheet.

Reading: Titus 2:1-15

Hymn: 254 – I Am a New Creation

Sermon: A Godly woman 'teaches what is good'

Hymn: 1259 - Bless the Lord O My Soul (10000 Reasons)

Blessing: Jude 24-25

Close -----

Listen to today's sermon by clicking on the link at www.knbc.org.

The audio file is [21_04_25.mp3](#).



Welcome and pray

The film the Bridge over the river Kwai is a classic. British prisoners of war - once disciplined soldiers, have become a rabble - the enemy has got the better of them – and they have let things slip in their personal discipline, leaving them defeated, disorganized. Their attempts at bridge building is shambolic. The newly arrived senior officer (Alec Guinness) meets a disheveled mass. He sets about restoring them, the end result is they become disciplined, competent, efficient and build a magnificent bridge.

How easy it is to let things go in life.

How easy it is to let things go, let things slip in the Christian life. Gradually, if unchecked, useful becomes useless, helping becomes hindering. And all because the point and purpose of the life has been let go of. (steering wheel). That is why Jesus says we must remain in him if we are to be fruitful -useful Jesus' call to follow him means to stay close, listen carefully, love and obey. This sadly is not what has happened with some of the women we are looking at this morning. Paul is instructing Titus how he should direct the church in Crete. Last time he had the older men in his sights - now it is older women.

Paul says 2:3 **Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.**

The women are to be reverent in the way they live.

The King James version says: **that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness.**

This is a summary statement. Paul has already spelt out how men should live Holy lives and he says 'Likewise' God expects women to be the same.

That is men are to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love and in endurance. Women are to be 'likewise'

Christ calls men and women to holiness. With our eyes staid on Jesus we recognize that He; Christ the righteous One, is God in the flesh. 'Behold' him, i.e. take hold of him with the eyes behold his glory and live the life that honours him. It is to this you and I are made and called. This is the life which is clean, good, wholesome, satisfying and filled with value, purpose and Joy.

The men were told positively what to be: **temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, sound in faith, love, endurance.** – But the women had to be

warned of what not to be: **Slanderers and addicted to much wine** What has gone wrong?

They had professed faith, shows every sign of being truly converted and yet had lost their way, slipped, given a foothold to the enemy of their soul and given in to their own evil desires and wants. Did they not know that the desire of the flesh is contrary to the desire of the Spirit!

✚ As is said: **“We become the choices we make”**

We read of two things: they should not be **slanderers** - they should not be addicted to **much wine**.

What had caused this? Why these? Is Paul just plucking something out of the air as things to avoid? No these were very real problems and we can see how they slipped in. Remember how those at Crete are described? It is not good! **“Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.”** Tit 1:12

■ This is a national trait, I can think of a nation, where lying is the norm.

What of England? What are our national traits? – and failings?

You wouldn't expect the women to be evil brutes, but liars? And therefore **slanderers**?? Yes. And **lazy gluttons** and therefore **addicted to much wine**? Quite possibly. x2.

So picture the scene... The children are grown up so no more school runs. The husband is busy working, the house is looking good so there's all day to take it easy. You have more time, you begin to idle it away, gradually you to let the disciplines of the Christian life go, and become lazy.

■ This has been the danger with the 'lockdown' being away from others and not engaged in Christian service.

There's the phone, those long and not very God honouring conversations. There's the TV, those midmorning not very God honouring shows. In fact quite the opposite, like gossip they parade the sins of others as entertainment They are not for the Christian. x2 You have professed faith and know that **"Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."** 2Ti 2:19

These women are to live reverent lives and to be ready to teach others - but the truth is that they have turned back, they now have no enthusiasm for the things of God, it has gone.

The devil greases the pole and it is easy to slip. The devil finds work for idle hands – and idle tongues. They had become slanderers which means evil gossip. Speaking about others - but not speaking 'good' of others, but

2a

pointing out mistakes, exaggerating failings, enjoying rummaging around in someone else's private business.

A sharp tongue is the only edged tool that grows sharper with use.

It is a problem Paul has to say 3:1,2 **“Remind the people to slander no-one,”** These women were idle, but one thing was not idle, their tongue. That was working very well!

So too, over in Thessalonica in northern Greece we read: **“We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies.”** 2Th 3:11 Paul says to Timothy in Ephesus: watch out for women who **“get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to.”** 1Ti 5:13. this is not the reserve of older women only - here younger women were doing it. Were they just following their mothers? Like mother like daughter?

James says 3:10 **Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.**

Paul says they are not to be slanderers and not false accusers. In Crete there was a hostile group causing great damage among Christians, ruining whole households. – but now it's Christians cutting down their fellow believers with their tongue.

■ Years ago I saw the old West Works at Longbridge, the carriage works, a lovely building being demolished. It must have taken a long time to build - but to knock down? that is quick and easy - maybe in just a day.

So it is with the tongue, it is good at destroying. What's been built comes quickly down. Speak against someone and their reputation's quickly tarnished.

■ The peer Lord McAlpine said that 'in one talk' his whole character, honour and reputation had been destroyed.

It is easier to destroy than build.

■ A foreman on a demolition site was asked: “do you required skilled men to demolish the building?” His reply: “You require skilled and careful men to build and build well, but to demolish, it's easy, anyone can do it”

The answer is: **Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up x2 according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.** Eph 4:29

2b

What we say should be directed and motivated by concern for the hearer.

No wonder David, who knew what damage the tongue can do, pleaded with God: “**Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.**” Ps 141:3

“The world’s most ferocious monster has his den just behind the teeth.”

✚ “Lord help me with my tongue” x2

God has given these women a job to do, **to teach what is good** but how can they with a tongue like that - who would listen? x2

■ I can say “I have often regretted my speech, not often my silence.”

Again David: “**I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth**” Ps 39:1 Concerned about your tongue? there is a very helpful series how to tame the tongue / build a muzzle for you, I listen to them from time to time. (Al Martin)

Drinking

They were lazy or careless with the tongue and equally careless and indulgent when it came to wine. ‘**Much wine**’ we are told. *By the carafe/vat!*

When we think of excessive drinkers it’s probably noisy pub scenes that come to mind, or the man in the street with the can - but actually middle aged, middle class, women drinkers are amongst the worst group.

Lack of control – with what comes out of the mouth – and with what goes in

Indulging the flesh is the opposite of what God has called you and I to.

Drinking too much is a way of ‘letting go’ it is also saying that I am looking for satisfaction through the bottom of a glass. **Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.** Eph 5:18.

That is - let the Spirit of Christ be the controlling force in your life, do not give in or succumb to the bad influence of alcohol. - don’t “let go”

✚ Don’t let go of self-control – put on self-control! That is the only way to break the cycle, a carelessness gives in to ‘**Much wine**’ which then produces more careless as seen with the tongue.

Isaiah speaks of the complacent, careless women of his day: **The LORD says, “The women of Zion are haughty, walking along with outstretched necks, flirting with their eyes, tripping along with mincing steps, with ornaments jingling on their ankles. Therefore the Lord will bring sores on the heads of the women of Zion; the LORD will make their scalps bald.”** Isa 3:16-17

Joe 1:5 adds “**Wake up, you drunkards, and weep! Wail, all you drinkers of wine; wail because of the new wine, for it has been snatched from your lips.**”

Peter says God’s people are now **redeemed from that empty way of life.** 1Pe 1:18. Now you are to be useful with the time you have, to be active, to be those who do good not bad. We’ve spent enough time doing bad, and enough time wasted in idle pursuits. beware of going back there, remember:

If you are not going towards the Lord - then you are going away from Him

If you are not going forwards with the Lord - then you are going backwards

God has given them a job to do, they are not to waste their time on idle pursuits **but to teach what is good. To be teachers of good things** AV

teaching

Yes women are to teach - to teach women - as the next verse 4 explains.

1Ti 2:12 “**I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man;**”

Men are to take their God given responsibility seriously. To lead in their home, to govern their family well to grow to lead in the church, to pray etc.

✚ **Women please you must help and support them in this.**

Women too have a role to teach, not to be teaching men that is to reverse the God given order but to teach women. Women have a role with women. It is easy to see that some women prefer the company of men, (Yes I know it is true with men also) women need to concentrate on helping women - especially younger women.

You are thinking “who are the younger women here?” I will pounce on any I find at the end and say “I must now teach you!” You could try that, the best thing is to start to take an interest in them and their life. They will allow that if they see the quality and godliness of your life. Then they will listen.

■ Younger women especially those with families need help today like never before. Ask Hannah, six children, a husband working, family a long way away, she won’t ask for help, and probably won’t say she needs it, but she does, the right kind of help.

Not many young women in the church, not many young mums in the church Then there are plenty around. Many here are in desperate need.

KN has 50% higher single parent families than the City average already high.

A Christian organization called ‘**Safe Families**’ has been in touch this week to see if we can help local families that are referred to them. Single parent

families, a parent that is struggling, a child has ADHT, or needs practical help, help with form filling, or a just friend to talk to. *June link-up*

We meet them all the time, this organization with help organize us to do what we should already be doing! Who can you help? A neighbour? So please don't walk out of here without applying this to yourself. Nor leave it as good intentions.

As they say "When all is said and done, there's a lot more said than done."

God's word instructs women to teach **Then they can train the younger women..** **Then**, in other words if you live reverently then you can train others. If you aren't living a Godly life but a sloppy carnal life, then you can't teach anyone. How useless

Ladies God is calling you to holiness. – and usefulness

✚ **The call of God on you - must produce a profound change in your life.**

That person becomes a new creation, a new person, a miracle takes place within that person. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God. It is God's work. MP254

And why? So that all who are Born Again, having been **reconciled to God through Christ, are now given the ministry of reconciliation:**

It is not just that you take a message – you are the message. x2 The miracles that Jesus did were to authenticate, to make it very clear to all around, just who Jesus is. So today those born again by the Spirit of God are the walking miracle to be seen - that it will be very clear to all around - just who Jesus is.

Mess up in life and you muddy the water. No-one can see Christ clearly.

- I was hearing on Tuesday of a young woman who was with the Mission when I joined, she is easily middle aged now and I hear she is not walking with God. What a tragedy. It should not happen. There is no need for it to happen. It is like an accident where everyone thinks – "how avoidable, it should never have happened".

When God speaks of living a Holy life it is not a suggestion. Yes it is a high standard, but it is not an afar off and unreachable ideal. He has given his Spirit, His Holy Spirit to make you Holy. Not living a Holy life?, then the dirt not only sticks to you – but also to Him – how could we let that happen!

I joined an FIEC conference with about 30 church leaders. It was a joy to see how quick everyone was to be self-critical and concerned for holiness.

✚ **A separate, Holy life is what Christ save you for – and what the world needs to see.**

Holiness is beautiful. Seeing holiness lived out is beautiful - and powerful. Do you want to live a Holy Life? then come to Christ and he will purge you of your sin and make you Holy.

Jesus asked some he met, "**what do you want me to do for you?** what would you say? Something for yourself?? The best seat in Heaven like James and John. Or would you say with Bartimaeus "have mercy on me". Christ gave him sight to see – and he then left all to follow Him.

Christ died on the cross to **reconcile** you the sinner to God, he is now willing **not to count your sins against** you. How can anyone who has experienced forgiveness then continue to sin, - it is to crucify Christ all over again.

Once Born Again everything changes; for Christ **died, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them.**" 2Co 5:15

To teach it you have to live it. No-one is listening if you are careless with your tongue and your life. I remember a lady who was just that. That is why there should be only gracious words backed up with a careful life. **Watch your life closely** Paul says to Timothy. May nothing ruin your testimony as in the case with these women with their loose tongues and their '**much wine**'.

If any of this rings true to you then the answer is to seriously seek the Lord in repentance and show you mean it by doing something! Yes do something

Paul says: women are to "**dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, x2 appropriate for women who profess to worship God.**" 1Ti 2:9-11

Godliness and good deeds remember is the end aim of this letter. That requires tackling head on those areas in your life that need to be corrected.

- In that River Kwai film the commanding officer - saw the problem clearly, - knew what needed to be done - and took decisive action.

✚ **May you live by the Spirit, be led by the Spirit and keep in step with the Spirit, that his fruit will grow and mature in your life.**

For the grace of God teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who 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.

Titus 3:11-14

END