

of respect, self-controlled,<sup>5</sup> and sound in faith,<sup>1</sup> in love and in endurance.

<sup>3</sup>Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers<sup>u</sup> or addicted to much wine,<sup>v</sup> but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup>Then they can urge the younger women<sup>w</sup> to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup>to be self-controlled<sup>x</sup> and pure, to be busy at home,<sup>y</sup> to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands,<sup>z</sup> so that no one will malign the word of God.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>6</sup>Similarly, encourage the young men<sup>b</sup> to be self-controlled.<sup>c</sup> <sup>7</sup>In everything set them an example<sup>d</sup> by doing what is good.<sup>e</sup> In your teaching show integrity, seriousness<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>f</sup>

<sup>9</sup>Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything,<sup>g</sup> to try to please them, not to talk back to them,<sup>10</sup> and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior<sup>h</sup> attractive.<sup>i</sup>

<sup>11</sup>For the grace<sup>j</sup> of God has appeared<sup>k</sup> that offers salvation to all people.<sup>l</sup> <sup>12</sup>It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness

**2:2** <sup>u</sup>ver 5, 6, 12; Titus 1:8

<sup>1</sup>Titus 1:13

**2:3** <sup>v</sup> 1Ti 3:11

<sup>1</sup>Ti 3:8

**2:4** <sup>w</sup> 1Ti 5:2

**2:5** <sup>x</sup> ver 2, 6, 12; Titus 1:8

<sup>1</sup>Ti 5:14

<sup>2</sup>S Eph 5:22

<sup>3</sup>1Ti 6:1;

<sup>4</sup>S Heb 4:12

**2:6** <sup>y</sup> 1Ti 5:1

<sup>c</sup> ver 2, 5, 12;

Titus 1:8

**2:7** <sup>d</sup> S 1Ti 4:12

<sup>e</sup> S ver 14

**2:8** <sup>f</sup> 1Pe 2:12

**2:9** <sup>g</sup> S Eph 6:5

**2:10** <sup>h</sup> S Lk 1:47

<sup>1</sup>Mt 5:16

**2:11** <sup>i</sup> S Ro 3:24

<sup>1</sup>2Ti 1:10

<sup>1</sup>S 1Ti 2:4

**2:12** <sup>m</sup> Titus 3:3

<sup>n</sup> ver 2, 5,

6; Titus 1:8

<sup>o</sup> 2Ti 3:12

**2:13** <sup>p</sup> S 1Co 1:7;

<sup>1</sup> S 1Ti 6:14

<sup>q</sup> 2Pe 1:1

**2:14** <sup>r</sup> S Mt 20:28

<sup>s</sup> S Mt 1:21

<sup>1</sup> Heb 1:3;

<sup>1</sup> Jn 1:7

<sup>u</sup> Ex 19:5;

Dt 4:20; 14:2;

Ps 135:4;

Mal 3:17;

1Pe 2:9 <sup>v</sup> ver 7;

Pr 16:7;

and worldly passions,<sup>m</sup> and to live self-controlled,<sup>n</sup> upright and godly lives<sup>o</sup> in this present age, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope — the appearing<sup>p</sup> of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,<sup>q</sup> <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us<sup>r</sup> to redeem us from all wickedness<sup>s</sup> and to purify<sup>t</sup> for himself a people that are his very own,<sup>u</sup> eager to do what is good.<sup>v</sup>

<sup>15</sup>These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

### Saved in Order to Do Good

**3** Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities,<sup>w</sup> to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good,<sup>x</sup> <sup>2</sup>to slander no one,<sup>y</sup> to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

<sup>3</sup>At one time<sup>z</sup> we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. <sup>4</sup>But when the kindness<sup>a</sup> and love of God our Savior<sup>b</sup> appeared,<sup>c</sup>

Mt 5:16; 2Co 8:21; Eph 2:10; Titus 3:1, 8, 14; 1Pe 2:12, 15; 3:13

**3:1** <sup>w</sup> Ro 13:1; 1Pe 2:13, 14 <sup>x</sup> S 2Ti 2:21; S Titus 2:14 **3:2** <sup>y</sup> Eph 4:31

**3:3** <sup>z</sup> S Eph 2:2 **3:4** <sup>a</sup> Eph 2:7 <sup>b</sup> S Lk 1:47 <sup>c</sup> Titus 2:11

**2:3** *Likewise.* The same moral standards applied to women as to men. *not to be slanderers.* Slanderous talk apparently was a common vice among Cretan women. *addicted to much wine.* Cf. 1:7; 1Ti 3:3, 8.

**2:4** *love their husbands.* Just as husbands are exhorted (Eph 5:25) to love their wives.

**2:5** *subject to their husbands.* See Eph 5:22 and note; Col 3:18; 1Pe 3:1 and note. *no one will malign the word of God.* Indicating Paul's deep spiritual concern behind these ethical instructions. See also vv. 8, 10, dealing with his concern that Christian living should help rather than hinder the spread of the gospel.

**2:7–8** Perhaps Titus was still a young man and was not yet well respected by the Cretan churches. The demands on a leader are all-inclusive, involving not only his word but also his lifestyle (see Jas 3:1 and note).

**2:7** *good.* See Introduction: Distinctive Characteristics.

**2:9–10** Instructions for a distinct group in the churches. Slavery was a basic element of Roman society, and the impact of Christianity upon slaves was a vital concern. Guidance for the conduct of Christian slaves was essential (see Eph 6:5 and note).

on right doctrine. *grace of God.* The undeserved love God showed us in Christ while we were still sinners and his enemies (Ro 5:6–10) and by which we are saved, apart from any moral achievements or religious acts on our part (see 3:5; Eph 2:8–9 and notes). But this same grace instructs us that our salvation should produce good works (see v. 14 and note; Eph 2:10).

**2:12** *teaches us.* The word translated “teaches” refers to more than instruction; it includes the whole process of training a child — instruction, encouragement, correction and discipline. *this present age.* See 2Co 4:4 and note.

**2:13** *the blessed hope — the appearing of the glory.* The second coming (see 1Ti 6:14; 2Ti 4:1; see also note on 2Ti 4:8). *our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.* It is possible to translate this phrase “the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ” (KJV), but the NIV rendering better represents the Greek construction and is an explicit testimony to the deity of Christ (see Ro 9:5 and note).

**2:14** Salvation involves the double work of redeeming us from guilt and judgment (see Ro 3:24 and note) and of producing moral purity and helpful service to others (see Introduction: Distinctive Characteristics).