## Titus 2:1-10 Teaching That Makes You Healthy Fintry, 13/9/2009, pm

• Pause after reading to think about how this might be interpreted today... and what accusations might be thrown at Christians because of a passage like this one?

#### In accord with...

- This is not salvation by works, but in accord with salvation by grace:
  - look, for instance, at v.11...
  - For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. (v.11)

### Older men (v.2)

- Temperate in control of himself; tempered steel is strong steel, it doesn't crack when put under pressure because it has been formed well
- Worthy of respect
- who do you respect? JGSST
- Self-controlled
- Sound in faith healthy, lived out, not just "doctrinally sound"
- Sound in love not just spoken of, but through and through
- Sound in endurance goes on living in faith and love... like the name in Blackpool rock, the same all the way through...

#### Older women (v.3-4)

- Reverent focused on God and his glory
- Not slanderers how we speak and think of others reflects how much Christ is Lord of our lives
- Drink one particular demonstration of self-control (apart from slaves, only group not explicitly told to be self-controlled!)
  - (note overlap of these calls for Christian living between different groups; same principles, perhaps somewhat different applications)
- Good wholesome, not any of the negative caricatures of crabby, spiteful, bitter older people
- Train pass on, encourage others, not just shut into their own world and their own concerns...
  - who is the next spiritual generation beyond you, and how are you playing your part in helping them grow?

## Younger women (v.4-5)

- Love their husbands and children:
  - "you will love your children, yes?"
  - train a plant... give it the direction so it blossoms and flourishes
  - busy (as opposed to lazy) at home (ie, where their normal working life was spent)
  - kind huge effect in a simple little word!
  - self-controlled
  - subject to their husbands within the context of first century marriage, how should you live?
  - ref "What's right with feminism"

# Younger men (v.6-8)

- By example in amongst, facing the same issues
  - self-control
  - integrity
  - seriousness ie, stuff matters, what they do is of significance, not necessarily the manner in which it is said or done!
  - soundness of speech healthy, can't be condemned
  - people will get annoyed, upset, resist the gospel, but will be frustrated because we don't lose our tempers, we don't slander others, we live out what we say...

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#### **Slaves (v.9-10)**

- Within the context of slavery, how should you live?
  - good slaves, exemplary slaves, unusual slaves...
  - pointing their masters to the Saviour
- How do we point those spend our lives around to the Saviour:
  - how do we make the gospel message attractive by the way we live, consistently, day in and day out...
  - cafe/venue in Edinburgh a friend of ours from Davidson's Mains runs... she gets both Christian staff, coming from the churches in the city, and secular staff, applying for jobs... she says, with sadness, its often the Christian staff who are the poorer employees (perhaps because they think its a Christian enterprise it is in some way less strict?)
  - it shouldn't be that way!!

#### **Conclusion**

- Because Christ has won you for himself, give yourself to serving him
  - not self-interest, but Christ's interest...