



MONDAY 04 JULY 2016

SERIES: ZECHARIAH

Read: Titus 2:1-5

Plug In...

The role of older men and women in the church is high profile. They are seen and watched by younger men and women. Others are looking on too (vv.5, 8). Older people's behaviour must conform to the teaching of the gospel. When behaviour disconnects from sound teaching the implication is that younger people's faith is influenced towards damage.

Chew It Over...

We need to remember that we shape those younger than us. The words out of our mouth, the behaviours we display mould other minds. As the younger person watches the older person they internally are figuring out, 'well does this work?', 'does this make a difference?', 'how serious is this?' Research in Australia reveals that in the past few decades Christian families have hollowed out. The older people still go to church and confess a faith, but so many of their children have left the church, left their faith. How might this passage reveal some of the reasons why?

There no threshold as to when a younger person crosses over to be an older person. There is a relativeness to the older-younger mentoring. We all find ourselves under an older person, and over a younger person. Whatever stage of life we are at we must take the responsibility of mentoring seriously. This passage shows we don't choose to be a mentor, we find out we are a mentor.

Prayer Suggestion

Given we are flawed creatures and each day wake up prone to make mistakes, ask God to protect you from foolish activities, especially as they communicate things to others. Ask for help that as we aim to mentor well, part of our mentoring keeps teaching others that we are flawed people who have complete forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Ask for help to be people – even mentors – that continually repent and ask for forgiveness. That we model this even before others.



The Lakes

TUESDAY 05 JULY 2016

SERIES: ZECHARIAH

Read: Titus 2:6-7

Plug In...

Good works, integrity, and dignity are bound to correct teaching. As we've seen in chapter 1, the behaviours teach and confirm the content of the message. Our actions and behaviours are also *apologetic* (i.e., give a public defence for the faith) – v.8.

Chew It Over...

If you have revealed to others you are a Christian and told them that you believe certain things, then now your whole life is a lesson to them. Have you thought about how you are always teaching? Reflect on how the way you enter the door at work, then how you do your work, then all the little conversations with colleagues are all teaching something? What about at your club, your home? We can't escape being teachers of the gospel as Christians.

Prayer Suggestion

May God make us more aware that our words, actions, behaviours have power and influence. May God shape us further so that we might be beyond reproach before a world that looks on – that our lives are persuasive as we share the gospel.



The Lakes

WEDNESDAY 06 JULY 2016

SERIES: ZECHARIAH

Read: Titus 2:8-10

Plug In...

Slavery in Crete was different to slavery in America's past. It was not like the African-slave trade. Slavery in Crete was more like trying to pay off a massive debt. Some people got themselves into so much debt, and without bankruptcy rules in place, the only option was to give themselves (even their families) over to the one they owe for a period. Sometimes this was fair, other times unfair. Paul speaks to the person in this situation with regards to the temptation to feel desperate and go on to rip off their master.

Chew It Over...

We can easily draw analogous lessons to working for an employer. They have said they will give X amount of dollars and we now owe them X amount of time and energy. Even if you think that you are not paid enough, or feel unfairly done by, the challenge is to not talk back, gossip, or grumble about your boss. The challenge is to not steal hours (think: long lunch, not starting on time, surfing the net). This is not just to be a model employee but more about the gospel message. Is the gospel message before your employer adorned or slandered (vv. 5, 10)?

Prayer Suggestion

So often Lord we skip over the little things like they don't matter, or don't think they are matters of integrity. Help us Lord Jesus to be consistent in everything, that our consistency with the gospel and its implications run deep, that we are honest even when no one is watching.



The Lakes

THURSDAY 07 JULY 2016

SERIES: ZECHARIAH

Read: Titus 2:10b

Plug In...

Verse 10 has a final clause that begins with “so that.” The clause beginning with *so that* is not just following on from what Paul has to say to slaves in their situation. It is a ‘so that’ after all he has said to the young men, the older men, the older women. All this is *so that* Christian people will “adorn” the gospel in the situation and life roles they find themselves.

Chew It Over...

The literal word for ‘adorn’ is a Greek word from which we get our word *cosmetics* from. Just like you put on makeup, do your nails, put on deodorant to make yourself more appealing (or more tolerable) before other people, our good works make the gospel stand out to people. Cosmetics are meant to show off your better side. We need to take seriously this stand out (cosmetic) behaviour. Whether young, old, employee, or employer, leader, or servant, do we show that the gospel is attractive?

Prayer Suggestion

We ask the Lord that we will adorn the gospel in *everything*, everywhere, all the time.



The Lakes

FRIDAY 08 JULY 2016

SERIES: ZECHARIAH

Read: Titus 2:11-14

Plug In...

Paul shows we live between two moments in history. First, the grace of God appearing with salvation (when Jesus died and rose again) – v.11. Second, a future moment when Jesus Christ returns.

The moment we live in currently is called the *present age* (v.12). The people who have been cleansed as a special people are seen and experienced in this present age by their eagerness to do good works (v. 14).

Chew It Over...

It is non-negotiable, the grace of God appearing and creating a special people issues in people who right now deny godlessness and worldly lusts and go about doing good things. This is not saying they are now perfect, but that the once saved increasingly do these things which both confirm and promote the gospel. God uses His changed people to market the gospel to the world! You are a walking billboard!

Prayer Suggestion

Pray that we grow to be like Christ. Pray that as we age we take great encouragement to see how much our lives have been changed and have been used to shape others and encourage them in the gospel. May this be our legacy to the praise of God in all His glory!



The Lakes

WEEKEND 09-10 JULY 2016

SERIES: ZECHARIAH

Read: Titus 2:15

Plug In...

The end of chapter 2 has Paul saying to Titus to encourage the church there to do these things; to encourage and rebuke the Christians if need be. It is a matter of the authority of God (*cf.* 1:1-3). It is a matter of having lives that truly are touched, changed, and made by gospel truths.

Chew It Over...

We all don't like correction, our pride takes a knock. However, God gives us one another to help move us to be more and more consistent with living a gospel-driven life. As you head to church this weekend, who can you encourage? How can you, whatever life stage and role you find yourself in, model and thus encourage the people you bump into?

Prayer Suggestion

May the Lord grant us hearts that submit to the authority of His word. May the Lord make us consistent with sound teaching, doctrine; the gospel. May we be Christ-like.