

Dr. Robert Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 13, Titus 2

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 13, Titus 2, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Robert Yarbrough's session on Titus 2 focuses on the importance of good works as a tangible expression of Christian faith. He examines Paul's instructions to Titus regarding rebuking those who profess faith but deny God through their actions, emphasizing that genuine faith transforms behavior and desires. **Yarbrough highlights the need for church leaders to model good works and to encourage various demographic groups within the church to embrace sound doctrine.** He clarifies that salvation comes through grace, but this grace should inspire believers to live upright and godly lives, eager to do good. **The lecture also addresses the role of older women in discipling younger women, encouraging them to manage their households and maintain a Christian presence.** He cautions against misinterpreting Paul's instruction as confining women to domestic labor, asserting that it calls them to be diligent in their household responsibilities while also recognizing their broader involvement in public life.

2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Yarbrough, Session 13 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Pauline Epistles → Pastoral Epistles).



Yarbrough_PastEpistles_Session13.mp3

3. Briefing Document: Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 13, Titus 2

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. Robert Yarbrough's Session 13 lecture on Titus 2:

Briefing Document: Dr. Robert Yarbrough on Titus 2

Main Theme: The paramount importance of aligning faith with action (orthopraxy) within the Christian life, and the specific instructions Paul gives to Titus regarding how to promote sound doctrine and proper conduct within the Cretan church. A core concern is combating hypocrisy and ensuring that Christian profession translates into tangible life transformation, impacting both individual behavior and the broader community.

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Rebuking and Refuting False Teaching:** Paul emphasizes the need for church leaders to actively rebuke those who promote false doctrine, especially those focused on Jewish customs ("circumcision group") and those who exploit faith for personal gain.
- "They must be silenced, these people who are rebellious, and talking nonsense. They need to be silenced because they're disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach, and that is for the sake of dishonest gain."
- Yarbrough highlights the ongoing issue of financial corruption within churches globally, citing statistics showing significant losses due to theft exceeding the amount given to foreign missions.
- **The Centrality of Good Works:** Yarbrough stresses that "faith that is confessed needs to align with actions." Good works are not merely an add-on, but a vital expression of genuine faith. They are "a high priority for gospel believers."
- He emphasizes that a transformed life – impacting spending habits, speech, and priorities – is a natural consequence of embracing the gospel.
- Christ's death is directly linked to the creation of a people "zealous to perform good works." This zeal should extend to the social and political sphere, including obedience to rulers and authorities.
- **Addressing Specific Demographics:** Paul gives specific instructions for different groups within the church:

- **Older Men:** To be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, love, and endurance.
- **Older Women:** To be reverent in the way they live, avoid slander and addiction, and teach what is good to younger women. Yarbrough emphasizes the critical role older women play in discipling younger women and providing theological instruction, practical help, and encouragement. He counters potential marginalization of older women by referencing 1 Timothy 5, highlighting Paul's concern for their care.
- **Younger Women:** To love their husbands and children, be self-controlled and pure, busy at home (good managers of the household), kind, and subject to their husbands. Yarbrough clarifies the phrase "busy at home," arguing that it should be understood as good management of the household and should not be interpreted as restricting women's activities or public presence. He notes women should be encouraged towards "ordering of household matters" and maintaining a "Christian presence."
- **Younger Men:** To be self-controlled in everything and set an example of doing what is good.
- **Slaves:** To be subject to their masters, pleasing, not talking back or stealing, and fully trustworthy, thereby making the teaching about God attractive.
- **The Foundation of Grace:** While emphasizing good works, Yarbrough makes clear that these works are *not* the basis of salvation. "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people."
- Grace is what teaches and disciplines believers, enabling them to deny ungodliness and live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives.
- Grace equips God's people, forgives them, and encourages them.
- **Counteracting Hypocrisy and Upsetting Households:** Yarbrough argues that Titus faces a significant challenge in addressing those who profess faith but whose lives contradict it, leading to disruption and undermining the gospel's credibility.
- He provides an anecdote about a friend who initially rejected biblical teachings on sexuality but later came to faith, illustrating the potential for transformation even in those with deeply held opposing views.

- **Leadership and Confrontation:** Church leaders must be prepared to "teach and refute those whose teaching is not sound," even if it involves conflict. Yarbrough acknowledges that this can be difficult, especially for those who dislike conflict, but emphasizes God's ability to equip individuals for the task.
- **Speaking rather than Teaching:** Yarbrough makes the observation that the greek word for speak in this passage may be more appropriate than teach, because speak implies all forms of verbal communication, whereas teach makes it sound like instruction is limited to formal settings.

Quotes:

- "It's not as if, well, if you can just get people to do good, then everything's going to be good, because it's not about human goodness. It's about God and about the appropriation of the grace of God through faith in Christ."
- "Christ gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people who are his very own, eager to do what is good."
- "A central aim of Christian faith and life is good works in their practical expression and outcome."
- "Paul understands that orthodox proclamation without orthopraxy... makes a mockery of the faith we proclaim."
- "But the point I want to make is Paul's not confining women to labor at home... Paul, as the NRSV recognizes, is simply calling women to be diligent in and full attention to the ordering of household matters."

Implications:

This session emphasizes the ongoing need for churches to:

- Prioritize sound doctrine and actively refute false teaching.
- Emphasize the transformative power of the gospel, leading to tangible changes in behavior and priorities.
- Equip and encourage members to engage in good works as an expression of their faith.
- Disciple individuals within specific demographic groups, addressing their unique needs and challenges.

- Be prepared to confront hypocrisy and address issues that undermine the gospel's credibility.
- Understand the roles of men and women in the church while avoiding overly restrictive interpretations of scripture.

4. Study Guide: Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 13, Titus 2

Titus 2: Apostolic Instruction for Pastoral Leaders

Study Guide

I. Key Themes

- **Sound Doctrine and Good Works:** The inseparable connection between correct belief and righteous living. Faith must be demonstrated through actions.
- **Combating False Teaching:** Identifying and refuting those who distort the gospel for personal gain, especially those from the circumcision group.
- **The Importance of Leadership:** The qualifications and responsibilities of church leaders in promoting sound doctrine and good works.
- **Demographic-Specific Instruction:** Tailoring teaching to different age groups and genders to promote godliness within the church community.
- **The Transforming Power of Grace:** God's grace is not merely forgiveness, but also a force that shapes and disciplines believers, leading to transformed lives.
- **The Role of Women in the Church:** Recognizing the vital contributions of both older and younger women in discipleship, teaching, and maintaining Christian households.

II. Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. According to Yarbrough, what is the primary issue in the churches of Crete that Paul addresses in Titus?
2. Why does Paul emphasize the importance of good works in the book of Titus?
3. How do the "circumcision group" disrupt the church, and what motivates their actions?
4. In what ways does Dr. Yarbrough say that professing believers deny God by their actions?
5. How should Titus address the rebellious people full of meaningless talk and deception?

6. What does Yarbrough suggest about the relationship between grace and works in the Christian life?
7. What does it mean to "speak what is appropriate to sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1), and why is this important for Titus?
8. Why is the discipleship of older women considered critical for the health of any church?
9. Explain Yarbrough's view of what Paul meant by urging the younger women to be "busy at home."
10. How does Yarbrough interpret Titus 2:11, "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people"?

III. Quiz Answer Key

1. The primary issue is that there are people who profess to know God, but their actions deny Him. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for doing anything good, indicating a disconnect between faith and works.
2. Paul emphasizes good works because they are a tangible expression of genuine faith. Confessed faith needs to align with actions, and works that God recognizes as good are a high priority for gospel believers.
3. The "circumcision group" disrupts the church by teaching things they ought not to teach for the sake of dishonest gain. They insist that Christians must adhere to Jewish traditions regarding diet and circumcision.
4. Professing believers deny God by their actions when their lives do not reflect the transformed behavior that should result from embracing the gospel. They claim to know God, but their works do not align with their confession.
5. Titus should rebuke the rebellious people sharply to bring them back to sound faith. They need to be silenced because they disrupt households and teach things they should not for dishonest gain.
6. Grace is not merely forgiveness but also a force that shapes and disciplines believers, leading to transformed lives. It instructs and equips believers to live godly lives and motivates them to do good works.
7. "Speak what is appropriate to sound doctrine" means that everything Titus says, formally and informally, should be consistent with sound teaching. This is vital to avoid hypocrisy and to ensure integrity in his ministry.

8. The discipleship of older women is critical because they can significantly influence younger women in godliness. They can provide theological instruction, practical help, prayer support, and serve as examples.
9. Yarbrough argues that Paul's urging of younger women to be "busy at home" should be understood as good managers of the household. He does not mean confining women to labor at home, but diligently ordering household matters, since the home also served as a base for ministry.
10. Yarbrough interprets it to mean the saving grace of God has appeared to all people. The Greek in the verse seems to indicate that 'saving' is an adjective modifying grace rather than an indication that everyone gets saved.

IV. Essay Questions

1. Explore the connection between sound doctrine and good works in Titus 2. How does Yarbrough's interpretation challenge the notion of faith as a purely intellectual assent?
2. Discuss the role of church leadership in addressing false teaching and promoting spiritual health. What qualities and actions are essential for leaders in this context?
3. Analyze how Titus 2 provides specific instructions for different demographic groups within the church (older men, older women, younger men, younger women, slaves). What are the key principles underlying these instructions?
4. Examine the significance of grace in Yarbrough's understanding of Titus 2. How does grace empower believers to live transformed lives and engage in good works?
5. Evaluate Yarbrough's interpretation of the "busy at home" passage (Titus 2:5) in light of the broader context of women's roles in the New Testament. How does he balance traditional views with a more nuanced understanding?

V. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Sound Doctrine:** Accurate and biblically grounded teaching that leads to spiritual health and growth.
- **Good Works:** Actions and deeds that are motivated by faith and align with God's will, demonstrating love for God and others.
- **Circumcision Group:** Individuals, often of Jewish background, who insisted that Gentile Christians must adhere to Jewish customs and laws, such as circumcision, in order to be truly saved.
- **Dishonest Gain:** Seeking personal wealth or advantage through the manipulation or distortion of religious teachings.
- **Rebuke:** To strongly correct or reprimand someone for wrongdoing or error.
- **Faith (Confessed):** Public acknowledgement of belief in a set of religious principles; outward verbal expression of faith.
- **Grace:** God's unmerited favor and love, which empowers believers to live transformed lives.
- **Hypocrisy:** The practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform.
- **Sanctifying Grace:** God's grace that makes holy; the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit that sets believers apart from sin.
- **Orthopraxy:** Correct or right practice; proper conduct, both ethical and liturgical.
- **Pedagogically effective:** Using strategies that promote learning; effectively teaching to different groups of people.
- **Oikourgos:** Greek word for "good managers of the household."
- **Semetic/Hellenic:** A term for anything associated with the ancient descendants of Shem, son of Noah.
- **Hermeneutically unwarranted:** An interpretation that cannot be justified based on the Bible; not warranted by the science of interpretation.
- **Gadabout:** A habitual pleasure-seeker or wanderer.
- **Situation ethics:** The theory that ethical decisions should be made based on the circumstances of a particular situation, rather than upon fixed law.

5. FAQs on Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 13, Titus 2, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Titus 2 FAQ

- **What is the primary issue Paul addresses in Titus 1 and 2?**
- The primary issue is the presence of rebellious individuals within the Cretan churches who are promoting false teachings, disrupting households, and pursuing dishonest gain. These individuals claim to know God, but their actions contradict their profession, leading to a denial of God through their works. They were causing people to get "off base" as they walked away from Christ to embrace human customs. Paul emphasizes the importance of sound doctrine and the alignment of faith with actions, countering the influence of those whose lives do not reflect genuine belief.
- **Why is Paul so concerned about "good works" in the book of Titus?**
- Paul stresses "good works" because they are the practical expression of genuine faith. He argues that true faith transforms a person's life, leading to changes in behavior, priorities, and relationships. He also emphasizes that Christ died, in part, to create a people zealous to perform good works. If someone professes faith but their actions deny God, there is a serious disconnect that undermines the truth of the gospel. Good works serve not to earn salvation, but to reflect and embody a faith that has already taken hold. Paul underscores that such works are "excellent and profitable" for everyone.
- **How can churches protect themselves from corruption and those who seek dishonest gain?**
- Churches need strong leadership that encourages sound doctrine and refutes those who oppose it. Leaders should exemplify generosity and hospitality, but also exercise discernment in how church funds are used. The church should address the issue of "works", and emphasize that actions should align with faith. The church should confront those who profess faith but show the opposite through their actions.

- **What does it mean for older men to be "temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance"?**
- It means that they should be stable, mature Christians who consistently demonstrate faith, love, and perseverance in their lives. They should be steady and not volatile. These qualities make them reliable examples for the rest of the church.
- **What is the role of older women in the church, according to Titus 2?**
- Older women are to live reverently, avoid slander and addiction, and teach what is good. Their primary role is to mentor and influence younger women, encouraging them to love their husbands and children, be self-controlled and pure, be busy at home, be kind, and be subject to their husbands. This mentorship is essential for the health of the church and prevents the Word of God from being maligned. Older women can be an immense force for theological instruction, practical help, prayer support, example, and encouragement in all kinds of ways.
- **What does Paul mean when he tells younger women to be "busy at home?"**
- Paul is not confining women to labor at home. Rather, he is emphasizing the importance of diligent management and care of the household. The focus is on the "ordering of household matters," reflecting the cultural context where household churches were common. Women should prioritize their responsibilities within the home, but this doesn't restrict them from public activities or ministry. Paul wants women to maintain a Christian presence in their homes, and to glorify God.
- **How should young men demonstrate their faith, according to Titus 2?**
- Young men should demonstrate self-control in all areas of their lives. They should set an example through their good deeds and teaching, showing integrity, seriousness, and soundness of speech. By living in this way, they will silence those who oppose them and bring no shame upon the church.

- **How does grace relate to good works in the Christian life, according to Paul in Titus 2?**
- Grace is the foundation for good works. It is not by works that we obtain God's grace, but rather grace that instructs and empowers us to live godly lives. Grace teaches us to say "no" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives. The saving grace of God has appeared to all people. This transformation leads to a life characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control, resulting in a life rich in doing good things for God and others.