

****READ THE TEXT****

INTRO-

Introductory Illustration

- **Perhaps** there is no group of people that **Satan** has his powerful and his hateful eye upon -- than our **YOUNG MEN**.
 - Have you ever wondered why Satan so forcefully works to snag and enslave and shipwreck and destroy young men?
 - **The young men** are the next generation of leaders of marriages, of families, of churches, of societies > *if Satan can attack here, the ripple effect is widespread!*
- In his classic & necessary read for all young men, JC Ryle: “*Thoughts for Young Men*” writes on the reasons why YOUNG MEN need exhorting...
 1. the painful fact that there are few young men anywhere who seem to be Christians.
 2. death and judgment are waiting for young men, even as it waits for others, and they nearly all seem to forget it.
 3. what young men WILL BE, in all probability depends on what they are now, and they seem to forget this.
 4. the devil uses special diligence to destroy the souls of young men, and they don’t seem to know it.
 5. young men need exhorting because of the sorrow that it will save them, to begin serving GOD NOW.
- Dangers & pitfalls & traps abound for young men: Ryle lists 5:
 1. pride
 2. love of pleasure (sensuality)
 3. thoughtlessness
 4. contempt of Christianity (procrastination)
 5. man-pleasing (fear of man’s opinion)
- Young men: you must be taught to...
 - Nurture your soul
 - Mind your immortality
 - Protect your heart
 - Pursue your God
 - Serve your Church
- We need truth -- *God’s Truth, clarity, a Word from God!*

Background to Titus 2

- This is the 4th group Paul addresses (Titus 2.1-10)
- Young men must be *urged, taught, instructed, compelled!*

THESIS — This text address young men specifically today & let's hear God speak thru His Word...

The text explained:

I. The PEOPLE (young men)

A. Far from *Christianity* being something for *your parents* and the *older people who wanna get serious about GOD* -- God *pleads with young men* to wake up & consider what really matters.

1. The young men (Τοὺς νεωτέρους) speaks of those 30s and under. Surely those in their teens, 20s and 30s are included here. ***A vital segment of society!***

B. Young men are summoned to: to be 'manly men who fear & obey & cling to God' (1 Kings 2.2); "fear God" (Prov 1.7), to "remember their Creator in the days of their youth" (Eccl 12.1), "be sexually pure" (2 Tim 2.22), to submit to their elders (1 Pet 5.5), to treat young women with all purity (1 Tim 5.2), be an example in life (1 Tim 4.12).

C. **Spurgeon exhorted you:** You young men that are strong, overcome the wicked one and fight for the Lord while you can. You will never regret doing all that lies in for you for our blessed Lord and Master."

II. The PLEA (urge)

A. The verb παρακάλει has the idea of strong urging. This is to be constant, persistent, ongoing, habitual teaching/training of our *young men*.

B. We must teach, press these home to their hearts. ***Yes it's the father's primary job and then church is to assist & come alongside.*** But *are we doing this?* What about the teen boys, the youth in their 20s or 30s - the not yet married, the young married men. ***This is intentional, diligent, proactive, serious-minded counsel!***

1. Satan seeks to *urge* our men from the youngest of days. So must we strive all the harder to *urge & teach our young men* the ways of Christ in Truth!

III. The PRIORITY (be sensible)

A. NASB: sensible; ESV: self-controlled; NLT: to live wisely; KJV: sober minded.

B. The word sensible (σωφρονεῖν) **speaks of:** a prudent man; focus upon "SELF CONTROL"; one who is reasonable; he keeps his head. **One who controls himself & his passions.**

1. Young men must be taught to *control* their passions & impulses. Not every desire needs to be pursued. We must have 'mastery over our bodies' and over our 'desires' and 'cravings.'

C. The opportunity lies before this man, but he *chooses to control & restrain himself.* Sensible in standing strong rather than giving in. Restraining rather than indulging.

Verses 7 & 8 flesh this out even more. *Sensible in 4 specific areas.*

How should the young man be sensible & controlled?

I. HIS DEEDS (live rightly)

A. Must strive to be an example of good deeds (1 Tim 4.12).

B. One of the themes of Titus: καλῶν ἔργων >> Titus 2.7; 2.14; 3.1, 3.8; 3.14;

Heb 10:24

1. Prov 20.11 - it is by his deeds that a young man distinguishes himself, if his conduct is pure and upright. O young men: *live rightly* (Ps 119:9!)

II. HIS DOCTRINE (believe rightly)

A. With purity in doctrine -- in Titus' teaching (as a young man), he must have pure motives, good content & solid integrity.

B. Our young men, like Titus, he must teach with purity - **integrity (ESV)**; uncorrupted; wholeness; pure. All this in his Doctrine - teaching. Should have integrity!

1. Young men need theology -- solid theology. Dads, give it! Lead in family worship, let them lead. Quiz them on theology. Show them *how to live & what to believe!*

III. HIS DIGNITY (think rightly)

A. The word [σεμνότητα] means: "Seriousness" - this dignity includes: reverence, gravity; comes from a heavenly-mindedness.

1. Doesn't mean he doesn't laugh & have fun; but the reality of GOD, of SIN, of HOLINESS, of HEAVEN/HELL give him a sobriety/seriousness about him!

B. This is why a man named **Increase Mather** wrote in the 1600's a book called: "*Solemn advice to young men, **not** to walk in the ways of their heart, **nor** in the sight of their eyes; **but** to remember the Day of Judgment.*"

1. Mather advises young men by saying: "You Young ones will die, and therefore you are exhorted to Repent and Pray, and make sure of your salvation in Christ. And think honestly within yourself, If I should die this night, what would happen to my SOUL? In what place would my immortal Soul be lodged forever? And remember The Great Day of JUDGMENT. Live now as you will wish you had lived, when That Final Day comes. Think within your heart, If Jesus Christ the Son of God should now open the Heavens and come down to Judge the Earth; What would He say to me? What Sentence would He pronounce upon me? Would He say to me, Come thou Blessed, or would He not say, Go thou Cursed? Remember these things now, so may you hope to find Mercy in that Day."

C. Sadly it's true as a recent headline of a news article had it: "we're losing a whole generation of young men to video games." Let's recover dignity & urge it upon our young men.

IV. HIS DISCUSSION (speak rightly)

A. Our speech is to be sound. Words can CRIPPLE and HARM but Titus' words are to be restorative, healing and helpful. They are to be SOUND, healthy, profitable.

1. Col 4.6 - let your speech always be w/ grace.

2. We know how the world talks -- Netflix, radio, social media, snapchat & instagram. *If Christ has cleansed your heart, let your mouth speak Christ-honoring words!*

B. Why? V.8 - so that the opponent will have nothing bad to say about us.

C. Note the importance of the "*so that*" in v.5, 8, 10!

1. this does NOT mean that they won't have any bad words to abuse the Christian. They will!

2. they still may slander >> but let it be groundless and baseless.

3. they still may revile and ridicule >> but let it be without any substance or proof.

4. THE POINT >> "The critic is to have NO LEGITIMATE ground for accusation.

CONCL-

Concluding Illustration

- Matthew Henry tells a story of a great man in Queen Elizabeth's time, who retired from public life in his latter days, and gave himself up to serious thought. His former youthful companions came to visit him, and told him he was becoming depressed: "No," he replied, "I am *serious*; for all are serious around about me. God is serious in observing us,—Christ is serious in interceding for us,—the Spirit is serious in preserving us—the truths of God are serious." ***shouldn't you be serious?***
- *Ryle said: Our enemies are serious in their endeavors to ruin us,—poor lost sinners are serious in hell, —and why then should not you and I be serious too?*
 - So men: find younger men & invest in them!