
Titus Chapter 2:1-10

Welcome and encourage

Good morning, I hope you rested well. We had such a full day yesterday. Today we will start the day by feeding on the word of God.

Let me read a verse from Titus and then I will pray for us

Read Titus 2:11-12 aloud

Brief introduction

Gladly for us Titus 2 :1-10 is not a complex passage... And we have been over this section now several times which makes our task a great deal easier this morning. By and large this passage is not hard to understand, however this does not mean that it will be easy to live and some parts may feel hard to accept. There are two types of difficult passages when we read scripture, those that are hard to understand and those, for various reasons, that are hard to accept. This passage may well fall into the second category for some of us.

This is a very practical passage, there is no problem with application here, we all say we love it when the bible writers get practical..do we, really? There is less wriggle room for us as the mirror of scripture is held up to our lives. Our frameworks may be rattled!

Now as we have studied Titus we have all become aware of the potential danger in how I teach this passage or any passage like it that is full of application.

If I teach it in a way that is against the thrust / melodic line of the whole book, then I am not teaching it faithfully.

How would I do that with this passage?

Well, let me answer this question by reminding us of the two contexts that surround this passage.

Context 1.The danger to the Cretan church

1:10-16..we are given a pretty clear about the society outside the church but Paul also directs our attention to the dangers within the church ...the presence of 1:10 *"many who are insubordinate in the church, empty talkers and deceivers, esp those of the circumcision party, who are upsetting whole families"*

Crete itself was a very pagan culture..pirates! violent, greedy, lazy and dishonest without self - control in any area of human appetite.. *"beasts"* v12 tells us....but this is not the real danger for the cretan church..it is the false teachers who are **in** the church, offering up a particular solution to the pressures of the culture that are the real threat...and the solution they are offering up is the law, circumcision... their response to the pressure to conform of the culture is to set up barriers and laws. This sounds like a mixture of jewish/ christian legalism that burdened much of the early church.

They are saying, this is the answer to how we live as christians in a pagan culture..this is what will make us godly..the law, rules, strict boundaries, high walls which may explain *"the quarrels about the law"* 3:9...perhaps they were fights about which law, or how strict /loose they should be.

Now anyone that has been around churches for any period of time, or who knows anything of church history knows just how common this reaction is to godless cultures.

Fear of contamination or pressure from the culture around us or a sense of weakness or threat often sends the church into this response. In order to distinguish ourselves from the outside world we set up external rules to protect ourselves and our children and to indicate we are different.

Paul's loud and resounding answer is to say **The law is powerless** or in the language of this book "unprofitable and worthless" in terms of making us godly.

This is because it cannot change the heart. It is utterly powerless to capture and transform our affections...it can only deal with external behaviours and not produce deep, real change that leads to godliness. It usually only lasts one generation in a church or a family.

It is the gospel that not only **saves us**, it is the gospel that makes us godly, **transforms/ trains us**, it is sound doctrine (not false doctrine) that accords with good works, that bear the fruit of godliness.

There is the first context ...the nature of danger to the Cretan church

Now suddenly this book takes on a whole new relevance doesn't it? How do we **do** church, how do we live in society, how do we stay holy and godly in an increasingly ungodly and hostile society in such a way that we will reach people with eternal life?

Now here is the danger for me as teacher. If I were to teach this passage as a list of rules, does and don't, not in this context of the danger and the solution, which is the gospel then I have not been faithful to the text and more seriously not been faithful to the gospel and preached Christ crucified.

Context 2 The grace of God

Now the second context, as I've been hinting which surrounds this passage, is immediately after it in 2:11-14 and of course, as we heard Irena teach, it was there in the very introduction and will be expanded for us by Titus in ch 3...the grace of God.

The grace of God is woven throughout the whole book and its particular purpose in Titus is explaining how the gospel transforms us...changes us, trains us.

That is the main thrust of the gospel passages...not so much doctrinal correctness but implications of the gospel.

These instructions to his church are in fact what it looks like to live a cross-shaped life. The church is meant to be a community of **contrast gripped by the gospel of grace.**

Not just a group of people who gather on Sunday whose lives are basically the same as everybody else's except we don't seem to mind singing aloud together and smiling a little bit more warmly than other people!

These instructions are not just extra things we add on to look a little more holy than other people! No, they flow out of the very nature of the gospel and from the one who is at the centre of the gospel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul very intentionally and carefully weaves the three ingredients of the danger, the gospel and its implications together to show us how and why this transformation comes and how radical it is in contrast to the communities we live in.

When we separate the gospel from the implications...we have either legalism or license which both create worldly kind of Christianity which produce death not life and growth.

How important it is to read in context in order to understand a passage according the spirit in which Paul intends it to be read and understood.

So now to the passage 2:1-10 itself

See how Paul has structured this passage.

Notice it begins with a command to Titus v 1, and what follows are commands to others in the church which are interrupted by another command to Titus in v7 and if we look down to end of ch 2 and the whole section which really belongs together, we find a third and even stronger command to Titus(v15)

A sort of sandwich.

Then throughout v2-10 there are 5 different groups to whom Paul spells out what accords with sound doctrine...really to every group in the church.

To three of these groups, he adds a reason for the particular teaching v 5 to the younger wives, to Titus v8 to the slaves v10..so that's.

We should ask why these three different groups? (They are the longer instructions and perhaps the harder ones).

It's important and good to reflect on the wisdom of Paul in how and why he orders the list as he does and why these three are encouraged with a reason.

Now lets tackle these different groups in the following order.

Pastor

Men

Slaves

Women

1. A Shepherd and the life giving truth v1, v7,

I think it is very easy to miss the fact that around these very practical instructions to the whole church in v2-10 Paul begins with an instruction for pastor of the church and sort of sandwiches the instructions in between the work of the pastor.

What did Paul command Titus to do?

What is the key task of the shepherd in relation to the truth of God?

V1 “but as for you teach what accords with sound doctrine”

In contrast to the many who teach false truth, Titus is to teach

Sound doctrine

He is to teach the truth that will bring eternal life to people and transform them from ungodly to godly people...the gospel

Sound=healthy(medical) and is a beautiful adjective to describe what truth of God does in a church, in a life....it brings health, growth and life. This is in contrast to the teaching of the false teachers in Ch 1. .brings spiritual sickness and death, or in 1 Timothy, gangrene. ..disease

Our shepherds are not just to teach doctrine...they must teach **the health giving** doctrine...apostolic doctrine passed down from Paul to Titus. But as well as teaching it, because of those who are *insubordinate..or rebellious* to the gospel, out of control...not under the control of the gospel, they need to be able to rebuke those who do not teach it.

But there is more here:-

They are not just to teach sound doctrine but what **accords** with sound doctrine, the implications of the sound teaching for our lives

Guarding the people of God, surrounding it, is the teacher who is protecting the sheep with the sound and health giving truth of God,

v7 How are they to do it?

7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, 8 and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

Titus not just meant to teach but teach in such a way that he shows or demonstrates integrity, dignity and sound speech

Why? V8 so that an opponent may be put to shame.

The pastor is not give the opponents who are many, any excuse (except the offence of the gospel itself) to speak evil about the ministry.

Life and teaching must not be in conflict.

Where does the sandwich end- though it is not in my passage ..last instruction to

Titus v15

15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Concerning the sound doctrine...he is to teach with authority--positively (exhort) and negatively-(rebuke)

Why, so strong..what is at stake? Eternal life is at stake! The church is at stake.God's plan for the spread of the gospel through whole world is to create small, medium and large congregations that teach and adorn the good news of eternal life

.This would be done by each congregation being ordered which meant being led by pastors who could teach sound doctrine, defend v1:9 against false teaching and teach it so that others receive eternal life and are transformed by it.

This is God's great plan, it might seem remarkably simple, plain not grand...but it is his plan none the less for how the gospel will spread so it is no wonder that the church is often under such attack, it has been since its birth!

Nothing satan wants more than to crush churches and compromise their testimony and one of his key strategies is through pastors whose lives bring shame to the gospel.

We all know the scandal that is brought to the name of Christ when a pastor, leader's life does not adorn the gospel..it can create a huge ripple of unbelief and cynecism..in the community, in the church, let alone, his family and kids. The shame is greater than that of just the person, it is brought on the gospel itself.

Paul says v8 " so that the opponent may have nothing evil to say about "us"..the apostle Paul not just Titus and the apostolic gospel!

Let's pray for our pastors and never ourselves be the means by which satan attacks the church for to do so is to obstruct the purposes of God in the world

Now all this is quite wonderful...yes, let's get our leaders into shape, make sure they're doing their job but thank heavens this is not for us. I mean it's only the church leaders who are called to live godly lives that commend the gospel of Christ

Right?

Clearly Wrong.

Our passage directs us to the rest of the church.

2. A church whose people adorn the gospel v2-10

It's very clear from Paul that the task of ensuring the precious doctrine of God is passed on to others has been given it to all of us.

No group is left out..everyone is included..whole church

There are 3 groups he specifically addresses and I will take longer with the women for obvious reasons and deal with the men first

1.Older Men.

2 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness

Older men 45 plus are to be sober minded, restrained and self controlled in thinking and in life...sound in faith...the Faith ..holding to the apostolic gospel but here ...the emphasis seems to be on steady and wise movement in the same direction,...not indulgence, selfishness or foolishness.

This is the picture of someone who in under the impact of the gospel in all ways in their life also in contrast to the false teachers who were not.

Paul is laying out a very different vision for our senior years to the one our current generation is promoting...self- indulgence, zealous about travel or a lifestyle which aspires to as much ease as possible. " me time"

In contrast, older men are to model dignity, wisdom and serves as a source of strength and stability to their families and their churches

2.Younger men v6-Likewise, urge the young men to be self controlled

Again the refrain of self- control..more strongly **urged**... so for younger men living in a culture out of control (Crete...excess of mouth, violence and rage and appetite) the fruit of the gospel in a younger man in radical contrast to culture is to be self controlled..mind you...self control...not mum control,parent control, girlfriend control or wife control.This is a healthy, self -control that comes from within and from understanding the implications of Christ's redemption/justification...it is a liberty and restraint that can only come from the gospel. Not the control that comes from fear or guilt or anxiety, that would be the law at work not the gospel . I encourage you to pray for the young men you know who are surrounded by a culture that teaches them to indulge themselves in every way, sexually, materially.

3.Slaves v9

9 Slaves are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

Before I comment on what Paul directs Titus to teach the slaves, notice, he saves it for last...why? It follows Paul's' reminder to Titus to also live under the gospel before he calls to slaves to do so. Perhaps it is to remind the slaves they were not alone in living under the implications of the gospel? Remember Paul has called himself a slave of Christ in the introduction.

How are they to adorn the gospel?

He calls them to be submissive to their own masters...demonstrated by honesty, hard work, good speech..also demonstrating radically and visibly...good faith I think

this is so...lovely...for the slaves he has a positive reason..unlike the earlier negatives.."They may adorn the doctrine of God our savior"

The word adorn means, to beautify..it is the word for makeup

..slaves..you will make beautiful the gospel, you will decorate by how you live...huge dignity.

Time does not permit me to make a lengthy comment on slavery however,

I think we can fairly apply these instructions today to those of us who are employed/workers (if you are employers..I direct you to Colossians 4 and Ephesians 6)

So those of us that are employees.... Are to demonstratably show all good faith in the workplace...there is no leaving the faith at the door of the office or school or hospital.. but instead by honesty, integrity.....co-operative behaviour and trustworthiness Christian employees should shine in workplace..working hard for the good of the business and the organization.

This little phrase *adorn the doctrine* really sums up much of what Paul is saying in this whole book...we are to live in a way that **adorns the gospel**-shows it true beauty..and this includes at work so that others may be drawn to Christ.

We all know that even though folk who are outside the church often have no intention of believing or submitting to Christ...rightly expect Christians to and are very quick to point out any disparity. We must not give them just cause to scoff at Christ.

Some time ago I was at the pool and while I was changing I was part of a conversation where one of the women described a very wealthy businessman as "scum"...he had treated her daughter appallingly, when she named him..it was a christian man who was on record for saying " I leave my faith at the door of the office" well, he had and the effect of his behaviour was to taint the gospel for this woman.

The precious gospel is ours....we can either live in ways that tarnishes the gospel or makes it appear as it is ..beautiful.

Now to the midsection v3--5 where Paul addresses the women.

4.Women

What does adorning of the gospel look like for women? For us?

What is the shape of life that the cross makes on our lives? We are not left to guess.

wTo groups

Older women

Younger women

Older women....what is the good work we are called to because of the gospel that trains us ?

3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,

2 Negatives

2Positives

Not slanderers or slaves to much wine!

The men were not alone! In this society and in the church, older (and by the way younger women v5!) were not self controlled-so Paul calls the older women not to gossip, not to have tongues that were out of control. Not to be a person whose speech is ruled by impulse and not wisdom.

Nor to not be alcoholics- Not addicts to wine or to gossip....great warnings ..as we get older we may excuse behaviour...difficulties of aging may tempt us in these ways esp, but like the older men, we are to be “under the gospel in all aspects of our life”.

2 Positives

-To be reverent in behaviour.. that is,the kind of behaviour that befits a holy person ..a women who belong to the Holy God.

-To teach what is good to younger women so as to train them ..both informal and formal teaching...what is good... that is,the gospel and its implications to younger women.

The word **training** here implies bringing someone to their senses, it has urging and advising in mind...Paul is urging the older women who have first learnt to be trained by the gospel themselves to then urge/ train younger women to love their husbands and their children.

Now I want to ask older women here and I include myself in this category and it happened somewhere in my mid 40's...how do you think about this stage of your life? Often we have new found freedom to make choices that you do not have when you are younger (not always I know) but what has God given you to do uniquely as an older women, it is this, to teach what is good and so train younger women.

Does this factor in your plans for the next 10-40 years God may give you.... That this is the particular role God has called you alone to do? I know for many of you it does

but I wonder if we have grasped just how highly God esteems this role? Notice Paul is not telling Titus, the pastor to do this but older women.

I include older women who may not have been married and had children....God has given this to you as well....some of the women who taught me most about what is good and about the grace of God and loving my husband and children were godly, single, older women.

Some of you may feel so overwhelmed by failure that you have nothing to teach...this is not true.

What qualifies us to this is not our own so- called successes but the gospel....it is the liberating, redeeming, forgiving, cleansing grace of God to us esp in our families and marriages that trains, enables us to teach younger women.I will explore more of how this works later I promise.

Now to the younger women.

What is the radical good work God calls you to?

To be in training.

What for?

V4 so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands So that the word of God may not be reviled

Trained to love their husbands and children...yes this takes training, sometimes it can feel like a bootcamp! There are seasons in which we are tempted to run from

the training and what God has to teach us in it...but if we choose to marry and have children we are choosing this life and this training if we want to be adorning the sound doctrine of God in our families.

To be self- controlled, pure, working at home, kind, submissive to their own husbands

Simple eh?

But not easy.

Again, the self control....in contrast both to the false teachers and the immoral sexual and drinking excesses of their peers in the culture...who by socialising and partying were neglecting their homes and families, married Christian women must not neglect their homes.

We have already seen the importance of homes ..the homes of the leaders...where faith is nurtured so no false teacher gets a foothold as was happening in 1:11

The homes of Christians-are to be places where faith is nurtured and modelled by life, love, grace and forgiveness,purity, self- control so that for the children, the christian faith is not a source of bitterness and mockery because of the gap between what is taught and what is lived.

Homes are not to be neglected....not the cleaning but the people!

Why?

v5 so that the word of God may not be reviled which includes inside homes where we pass on the faith to our children by teaching and living.

So amazing that God's radical plan for the salvation and transformation of the world also focuses on the most crazy, messy, pain -filled, guilt -inducing context of all, that is, homes and families!

Astounding but it is just like God to do things this way.

Nothing brings you to your knees like marriage and parenting! Nothing gives us more joy or pain, fear or despair than our families. We either become controlling, anxiety -driven woman or we cling to the grace of God to be able to do it....I say this from personal testimony - I confess that the greatest temptation in the years of my sons' adolescence was fear! Faith or fear!

We must not let fear which drives so much behaviour (nagging, anxiety, coveting other people's families and marriages, manipulation ,out of control anger,) drive our children away from Christ. Our children need to see the grace of God operating in our lives in repentance and forgiveness of each other in the family (not perfectionism) but the kind of love for Christ that drives us to make radically different choices for ourselves and to have totally different ambitions for them.What our children need from us is the gospel not legalism.

On the other hand it is perfectly possible for us to neglect our families, escaping the test of faith and grace they are, by seeking fulfilment in other areas.

See what Paul says v5

Younger women who are married and have families *are to be working at home...*

Paul is not here speaking about whether we work outside or inside the home, in those days the homes were the place where most economy occurred and so women

worked to help provide for the family at home and should still today care for the good of the family and this may involve working outside the home.

Proverbs 31 women who " looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness." V28

But Paul does say here make is clear that a married women must not neglect her family for any reason, whether it be work, hobbies, idleness, internet, other relationships or ministries

He also acknowledges the high dignity of this role and its challenges...he knows it's hard work and will need the wisdom and training of older women who have done this- so if you are a younger mum, seek it out from them.

The world is getting more outspoken and more strange about gender and roles and children and the shape of families and marriage....we do not take our cues from the culture, we take them from the grace of God which has trained us.

As shameful as it is for a pastor to have a life that brings disgrace to the gospel...so to is it for a Christian home to be loveless.

Younger women who are not married what is there here for you?-plenty-you still need to learn to love others, to be kind, pure and self controlled, in contrast to the selfish, empty impure vanity that has become the model for so much that is called womanhood today.

And of course, there is this command regarding submission v5

Be submissive to their own husbands.

but not just submissive but kind, to love.

Wives are to submit to their husbands, not to all men notice, just their own husbands (Glad I only have one!)...Bible does not share the world's view of this word, that it means inferiority....Christ submitted to the Father, Spirit submitted to the Father and the son... all people are to submit to the Trinity and wives have a particular call to submit to their husbands... allowing and helping them and assisting them to lead and love the family, not following the pattern of Eve who overthrew the role her creator had given her and submitted instead to the serpent but instead following the pattern of Christ her Saviour.

The idea of submitting does not just go to behaviour but to the heart and the attitude.... it comes out of love. No one (not your husbands, pastors, not me) can make you want to do this joyfully. Only Christ, and his grace and his call to live a life shaped by the cross can do this work in us, I mean that...it's only when you understand what Christ has done for you and why he has done it, that can you let go of your rights and become a loving servant of others including your husband and children.

We don't take the shape of our relationship from the world but from Christ. It is meant to be radically different from the world.

I need to add because of the misapplication and abuse of this text by some sinful men, groups, you're not being called to submit to abuse, addiction, immorality or anything that calls you to be disobedient to God your Lord.

Time will not allow me to say any more, but as an older women, I would be glad to speak with any of you about this further.

Now after all this, can you see why we need to keep this in the context of the grace of God?

I want to finish by asking.

How does the Gospel Trains us?

Paul writes 2:11

For the grace of God has appeared training us to renounce all ungodliness and worldly passion and to live self controlled upright and godly lives.

Try and bear with me while I go over this because this is the real heart of what God is telling us in this book.

How are we to do this?

Where resources come from?

Imagine the older men in Crete, newly converted, in the midst of Cretan society, self indulgent seeking to obey this radical call. Or the younger women being told to give themselves expensively to the good of their families and marriages?

How can they possibly do this?

How can we possibly do this?

By the Grace of God

I know we have now all worked on this particular passage very thoroughly but praise God we have also read what follows straight after in v11.

V11 For the grace of GOd has appeared!

You see

we do not believe in a gospel that -

Just gives advice

Just points the way

Just sets out rules

We don't have a God who calls out instructions from afar.

No we believe in a gospel that delivers AND transforms!

In a God who does not just speak but acts..to rescue us, to redeem us..by a Saviour who did what we could never do, obey God, be godly, who saved us and washed us and renewed us by His spirit

We believe in a gospel that has written in huge headlines -

"BUT GOD"

3:4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of our God and saviour appeared He saved us !

This is such a favourite phrase for Paul.

Ephesians 22: 4,13

But God!

Everything is hopeless, dark, .. In Crete, South Africa, Canada

Hopeless!

BUT GOD

Set amidst all the darkness of the news we read every day, which lays out all the problems, so heartbreaking and terrible, that we cannot solve-

the gospel says

BUT GOD

The grace of GOD HAS appeared..like the sun in the sky casting away the night...not in a small hidden corner but as dramatic as the dawn of the new sun after a long dark winter night.

And this grace does not just rescue us,

It transforms us!

We are made into new people!

Not outside in but inside out as the transforming grace of God makes its way through all the muck and doubt and brokenness and disbelief in our hearts.

Making us into godly people.

Astounding!

This is the real heart of this book of Titus.

How the grace of GOd, faithfully taught will create a new people ...for God's own possession to shine in a dark world.

How having a saviour who gave himself, gave up his rights, his statu,his glory, His **LIFE** to save us, to rescue us from death and judgment

He now calls us to be like him-

To give up our rights so that we shine in this dark world,to take up our cross and follow him and be the means by which others see the grace of God at work.

I know that in the context of marriages and families this wonderful truth can be hard to believe.

Because these are the places of our greatest heartache, sorrows, grief and shame.

Our sense of failure can be so strong it makes us hide from Christ and his people.

We think our family, our marriage is too messed up to be a place where God's glory can be seen.

How can God possibly use such a story of failure or pain?

BUT GOD!

This is to forget that God is in the business of redemption, transforming exactly this kind of situation.

The very failure can be the means by which God's glory may shine so brightly, making it so evident that it has been all his grace, all his power and all his mercy.

But we need to understand that we don't just start by grace we go on by grace, drawing on the huge ocean of his mercy and power not once, not twice but minute by minute, day by day to fill our tiny, leaky, empty buckets. We will never outgrow our need for his grace.

When we realize our emptiness and weakness and powerlessness, we turn to Christ to fill our empty hands and hearts with HIS grace so then we can give out His grace To our husbands, parents, bosses, children, workmates and friends.

His grace can transform the darkest, darkest places, hate- filled families, hate- filled cities into places where there is expensive, costly love, undeserved kindness, forgiveness and repentance.

Places where the cross slowly shapes every part of our lives into shining trophies of his grace.

May the Lord open the eyes of our hearts to his riches to us in Christ and so transform our lives into the shape of the cross.

So that living like Christ we may adorn the gospel of our lord Jesus Christ

To the praise of His glorious Grace.

Amen

How does it motivate us to change in the ways Paul has instructed?

I mean honestly, in the cultures we now live in, Vancouver, much of this all looks so implausible. SO ridiculous and medieval and weak.

It does , without the cross of Christ

Remember the phrase I used...

The cross shaped life. How the cross shapes us into radically different women.

Guilt doesn't do it.

Cross does

Paul has not been writing to create a well behaved middle class 1960' S family!

He has been writing to show them how the gospel transforms each area of life. And he does it by showing them how beautiful and powerful grace is.

He has done This by showing us way the gospel works

Religion says "I'm good , therefore God is kind to me

Gospel says " I'm bad , but God is kind to me"

Religion says " I act, therefore God responds " prosperity gospel and good works are in effect attempts to manipulate God into doing what I want Him to do.

Gospel says " God acts there fore I receive" I have no power or need to manipulate him..GRACE

I know how hard we find it to believe it. TO bring the gospel to bear on our every day struggles in our families. To believe that everything we need has been given to us in Christ. That I have in Christ, the whole, deep, full, merciful , undeserved ongoing love of God.

THE bucket. My bucket depletes and leaks ...no resources to change and love where there will be no return.

But I have another bucket. Full of the grace of God and God keeps pouring his grace into the bucket, it never empties.

By drawing on the bucket of the grace of God....it is fed by an ocean

MEans we are free to love others, serve others, not strive to create an identity or to gain appreciation.

The fruit of anger and bitterness and shame and failure, pretence and blame and coveting means we don't believe the gospel in regards to our families.

IT reveals we don't believe God has enough grace for me to give to others.

WE ask, don't we-

How can God possibly use someone like me or my family where there is so much pain and disappointment?

But surely the very thing that Paul has been at pains to tell us is, our God is a Saviour, a deliverer of people who do not in any way deserve deliverance.

foolish, disobedient, slaves to passions, hating and being hated!!

Hatred

The gospel of Christ can transform hate -filled families, marriages, children

What Christ has done is not just rescue us from something little...advice or a helping hand when it is a little difficult but death and he creates something new for himself when he does it " a people for his own possession zealous for good works" for him!

And He brings radical rebirth with the gift of his indwelling Holy Spirit for the sheer joy of having us for Himself

Titus has been directing us to set our sights not on other people but back to the cross that delivers us from the very things that break our families and forward to the joy and glory of Christ return..to Christ Himself.

Raise our horizons! Where we put our faces/faith Change our audiences..not fear but love...so our love from Christ and for Christ we are freed to love and serve others (for Christ's sake) and stand the pressures of the world but also to sacrificially shine in the darkest of places

SO the answer to how the gospel trains us is not just one answer, it does so in many ways.May the Lord open the eyes of all our Hearts to his riches to us in Christ and so transform our lives into the shape of the cross. So that living like Christ , we may be trophies of his grace, shining in the world and adorning the gospel

Amen

