

Titus 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

Analysis

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine—the adversative δέ (de, but) contrasts Titus's ministry with false teachers. λάλει (lalei, speak/keep speaking) is present imperative: continuous action. τὰ πρέπει (ta prepei, things which befit/are appropriate to) indicates harmony between teaching content and life application. ὑγιαινούσῃ διδασκαλίᾳ (hygiainousē didaskalia, sound/healthy teaching) uses medical metaphor: doctrine produces health or disease.

Chapter 2 shifts from elder qualifications (1:5-9) and false teacher refutation (1:10-16) to congregational instruction: aged men (2:2), aged women (2:3-4a), young women (2:4b-5), young men (2:6-8), servants/slaves (2:9-10). Sound doctrine isn't abstract theology but life-shaping truth producing godliness in every demographic. The chapter climaxes in the theological basis: grace teaches godliness (2:11-14).

Historical Context

Against Gnostic tendencies separating spirit and matter, Paul insists doctrine shapes daily life. Against Judaizing legalism making external conformity primary, Paul roots ethics in grace-transformed hearts. The household codes (Haustafeln) in Colossians 3:18-4:1, Ephesians 5:22-6:9, and 1 Peter 2:18-3:7 share similar structure, adapted to first-century family and economic structures.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Does your teaching and preaching connect doctrinal truth to practical living, or do you separate theology from life?
2. How does "sound doctrine" function as spiritual health food versus the junk food of false teaching in your diet?
3. What demographic group in your church most needs targeted, specific application of gospel truth?

Interlinear Text

Σὺ	δὲ	λάλει	α	πρέπει	τῇ	ὑγιαίνούσῃ
thou	But	speak	the things which	become	G3588	sound
G4771	G1161	G2980	G3739	G4241		G5198

διδασκαλία

doctrine

G1319

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 1:13 (Parallel theme): Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 6:3 (Parallel theme): If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

Titus 1:9 (Parallel theme): Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

1 Timothy 1:10 (Parallel theme): For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

Titus 3:8 (Parallel theme): This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

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