

## ***The Kind of People the Church Needs***

Titus 2:11-14

### **I. INTRODUCTION: 1, 2**

1. **3** I join with the announcements already made and express my personal appreciation for your presence and for your interest in the things that bring us together.
2. As we open the pages of inspiration we need to be reminded of the fact that we make our appeal to this sacred volume and it alone.
  - A. The Bible teaches our faith should not stand in the wisdom of men but in God's power (1 Cor. 2:5).
  - B. As a gospel preacher I have the sacred obligation to "Preach the word!" (2 Tim. 4:2), not pop psychology, not the traditions of men, not my own wisdom (**1 Pet. 4:11**: "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.").
3. I want to talk to you about The Kind of People the Church Needs.
  - A. And as we make these points from the sacred pages of God's book, I hope each of us will examine our own lives in light of the mirror of God's word (**Jas. 1:25**: "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.").
  - B. What kind of people should we be? What kind of people does the church need? That's what I'd like to explore in this lesson (**2 Pet. 3:10-12**: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?").

### **II. DISCUSSION:**

#### **I. 4 Rich Toward God:**

- A. First of all, we need people who the Bible describes as being rich toward God.
  - (1) Not everybody is rich toward God, you know.
  - (2) The apostle Paul said in his writings, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." (2 Cor. 8:9)
- B. By the way, the Lord is looking for people that are rich!
  - (1) But before you jump to a wrong conclusion about that the Bible does not necessarily teach that being rich involves monetary possessions.
  - (2) In Luke chapter 12 Jesus gave the story of the rich farmer.
    - (a) The reason Jesus gave this story is because so many people think a man's life is measured by the value of his material possessions.
    - (b) The man in this story decided to tear down his barns to build bigger ones and in doing so he left God completely out of his plans.
    - (c) He thought he had it made in the shade and would just kick back and relax.
    - (d) As a result of his attitude the Lord rebuked him by saying, **Lk. 12:20-21**: "...Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"<sup>21</sup> So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

(e) In verse 15 He said, *“Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”*

- C. The Lord is looking for individuals that recognize the fallacy of in trusting in material possessions.
  - (1) You see, material possessions have a way of making us concerned about things that don't really matter and at the same time cause us to neglect the things that do.
  - (2) Material possessions only endure for a short time and then they're gone (1994 Honda Accord).
  - (3) That's why it's so important that we consider our soul and the saving of it.
  - (4) The Lord is looking for individuals to work in His vineyard that recognize and appreciate this concept; those whose emphasis in life is the spiritual and not the material.

***But that's not all the church needs, it needs people who are...***

2. **5** Rich In Good Works:

- A. As you think about **The Kind of People The Church Needs** the church also needs people who are rich in good works.
- B. The Bible places emphasis on individual Christians doing good works.
  - (1) For example, Paul charged those that would be rich: **1 Tim. 6:17-19:** *“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”*
  - (2) Too few people want to take the time and spend the funds to be involved in good works.
- C. Individual church members are called upon to do good unto all men especially those who are members of the household of faith (**Gal. 6:10:** *“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”*).
  - (1) In Titus 2:14 Paul is talking to the preacher Titus about Christ said, *“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous (Zealous of what, Paul?) of good works.”*
  - (2) The church needs people who see the value of that which can be seen in several passages.
  - (3) For example, in Matthew 5:13-16 Jesus said in His Sermon of the Mount, *“<sup>13</sup>Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. <sup>14</sup>Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. <sup>16</sup>Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*
  - (4) The Bible emphasizes the importance of being the salt and light of the world.
  - (5) We need to be rich toward God in setting that good example for our fellow man. We are the world's Bible!
  - (6) Too many people want to “pass the buck” so to speak of doing good works themselves and throw their responsibility on to somebody else (Matt. 25:31-46).
  - (7) That's not going to cut it! The Lord needs people who are rich toward God and in good works.

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3. **6** Adorn the Gospel: Number three, the church needs people who adorn the gospel.

- A. The word “*adorn*” simply carries with it the idea of making the gospel attractive.
  - (1) When people see you and your life do they think of the gospel as being adorned?
  - (2) Or do they frown because your life isn’t what it should be?
  - (3) In Titus 2:10 we have the words of the apostle Paul again when he said, “*Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.*”
- B. You see, the failure of Christians to make the teaching of the Lord look attractive prevents a lot of people from obeying the gospel (Matt. 5:13-16; **2 Cor. 3:2**: “*You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;*”).
  - (1) Adorning the gospel is a lot like putting up decorations in your house or putting garnish on the dinner plate; an adornment dresses something up, it makes it look attractive.
  - (2) We need to do the same thing with the gospel.
  - (3) When people see the gospel adorned it has an impact because they see that it’s well managed, orderly, and properly demonstrated in your life.
  - (4) Paul said in Philippians 1:27, “*Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.*”
- C. When people see you do they see the gospel being adorned?
  - (1) Are people motivated to become a Christian because they see what the gospel has done for you? Or do they shy away from it?
  - (2) The church needs people that see the need of putting our best foot forward when we go out into the world and talk to folks about the gospel.

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#### 4. **7** Have Convictions:

- A. Whenever you think about The Kind of People The Church Needs the church also needs people that have convictions.
  - (1) Are you a member of the church because of convenience or conviction?
  - (2) Somebody said one time, “I’m a member of the church of Christ because it’s close to where I live.” Really? Is that the only reason?
  - (3) You know, so many today are wishy-washy and weak as pond water. They are not cut from the same cloth as John the Baptist! **Matt 11:7**: “*As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?’*”
  - (4) If they had lived in the time of Joshua they would have been among those that the Bible says, “*had a melting heart*” (Josh. 14:8).
  - (5) They don’t have the courage and conviction to stand! Knees made of Jello!
- B. Christianity is not designed for weaklings – it’s designed for those people who are strong!
  - (1) Paul said in **1 Corinthians 16:13**, “*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*”
  - (2) **Ephesians 6:10-11** says, “<sup>10</sup>*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*”
  - (3) **1 Cor. 15:1-2**: “*Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain.*”

- C. Every member of this church needs to have real convictions as to the truth and the courage to stand up for it. We must never cave in to error or give in to the pressure to compromise with the world.

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5. **8 Committed:** Number five, we need people that not only have convictions but who are committed.
- A. When you became a Christian you became committed to the gospel, that is, you pledged to be what God wants you to be (Rom. 6:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:7; **Eph. 4:1**: *"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,"*).
- B. You know, the word "Christian" is tossed around in all kinds of ways in our society today – everybody's a Christian, right?
- (1) Well, not necessarily. The name "Christian" means we have completely devoted our life to Christ like in **Acts 11:26** where the Bible says, *"And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."*
- (a) Thayer: "1) to transact business, especially to manage public affairs; 2) to give a response to those consulting an oracle; 3) to assume or take to oneself a name from one's public business."
- (b) It's the concept from which we get names like Baker, Shoemaker, Cooper, etc. The name describes "one's public business."
- (2) Peter said in 1 Peter 4:16, *"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."*
- C. You know, becoming a Christian is a lot like getting married (**Rom. 7:4**: *"Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another — to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God."*).
- (1) When you got married you became totally committed to your spouse.
- (2) Likewise, when you put Christ on in baptism you became totally committed to Him!
- (3) From that day forward you are no longer your own.
- (4) In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Paul said, *"<sup>19</sup>What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*
- (5) That means you belong to Christ. A failure to make a total commitment will cause you to become a weak member of the church.
- D. This church needs people that are convicted, totally committed, and strong!

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6. **9 Uncompromising:** But as you think about kinds of people the church needs the church also needs people that are uncompromising.
- A. The Bible gives many examples of people who were uncompromising.
- (1) Moses: When he dealt with Pharaoh.
- (a) He told Pharaoh to let the people go and Pharaoh offered several compromises.
- (b) He said, "Go ahead but you can't take your cattle.
- (c) Or, go ahead but you can't take your wives and children."

- (d) When he said that do you know how Moses responded? “Well, that’s not quite what I had in mind but okay.” No!
  - (e) I take you this time to **Exodus 10:24-26** where the Bible records these words: *“<sup>24</sup>And Pharaoh called unto Moses, and said, Go ye, serve the Lord; only let your flocks and your herds be stayed: let your little ones also go with you. <sup>25</sup>And Moses said, Thou must give us also sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice unto the Lord our God. <sup>26</sup>Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not an hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the Lord our God; and we know not with what we must serve the Lord, until we come thither.”*
  - (f) I like that statement. Moses was uncompromising when he said, “None of us shall be left behind!”
- (2) Daniel and his three friends (Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego):
- (a) Refused the king’s food (**Dan 1:8**: *“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”*).
  - (b) Refused to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar’s image (**Dan. 3:16**: *“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.’”*).
  - (c) Daniel kept praying to Jehovah when the law of the land forbade it (**Dan. 6:7**: *“All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.”*; **Dan. 6:10**: *“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.”*).
- (3) Jesus refused to rescue Himself (**Matt. 26:53-54**: *“Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?”*).
- B Do you have that same uncompromising spirit as Moses when comes to serving God or would you have said, “Well, something is better than nothing.” Would you have refused the king’s food? Would you have bowed down to Nebuchadnezzar’s image or suspended praying for a month? Would you have called for twelve legions of angels?
- C. I also like the example of the apostle Paul when it comes to having an uncompromising spirit.
- (1) The Bible says there were those who were trying to bind certain elements of the Law of Moses on Christians like circumcision and it says in Galatians chapter 2 verses 4 through 5, *“<sup>4</sup>And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: “To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.””*
  - (2) These people were trying to bring error into the church and Paul said, “We’re not going to put up with it – not for a single hour!”
- D. That’s a different spirit than what is manifested by many today.
- (1) Compromise is the order of the day but the church needs people who are uncompromising.
  - (2) I’m not talking about being pig-headed but when it comes to truth and error we need people who are uncompromising in their disposition toward such things.
  - (3) Am I not talking to all of us when I say we need people who are uncompromising in their spirit?

- E. The Scriptures place emphasis on being a people who are unwilling under any circumstances to compromise truth for error!
- F. This church needs people who will not cave in to false teaching or the politically correct rubbish society is forcing down our throats. We must stand up for what the Bible teaches!

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7. **10 Steadfast, Unmovable, and Always Abounding in the Work of the Lord:** When you make a list of the kind of people the church needs the church needs people that are steadfast and unmovable.
  - A. In I Corinthians 15:58 Paul said when he wrote the Corinthians, “*Therefore (He’s making a conclusion from what he’s been writing about), my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*” I’d like to emphasize those words.
    - (1) First, he said we need people who are steadfast. In other words, they’ve got their feet firmly anchored on the ground.
      - (a) They know whereof they speak. They know what they believe and why they believe it, because they have read this sacred book and studied its pages.
      - (b) They’re grounded and settled and do not intend to be moved away from the hope of the gospel (**Col. 1:23**: “*if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.*”).
    - (2) Secondly, we need people who are unmovable who are not going to be moved away from the truth no matter what (There’s plenty around today to shake us from the faith! Evolution, PC).
      - (a) Just like the Psalmist described in Psalm 1:1-3 where it says, “*1Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*”
      - (b) Let me ask you a question – Is that the kind of person you are? That’s the kind of people the church needs, by the way – people that are unmovable.
      - (c) That is, there’s no pry bar strong enough to pull them away from what they believe!
    - (3) Then he said we need people who are, not only steadfast and unmovable, but always abounding in the work of the Lord.
      - (a) I want to emphasize that word always. Always abounding!
      - (b) Not just on Sunday or Wednesday night. The church needs people that live, breathe, eat, and sleep Christianity 24/7 (**2 Cor. 12:15**: “*And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.*”).
    - (4) People who understand their labor is not in vain. A lot of the labor we do in this life is in vain, right. But the work that we’re called upon to do in the Lord is not only profitable for the here and the now but will endure thru all eternity! **Jn. 4:35**: “*Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest?’ Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!*”

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8. **11 Faithful:** Finally, the church needs people who are faithful.

- A. When Paul wrote to the church in Colossians in Colossians chapter 1 do you know how he described those people? Colossians 1:2-5 says, *“<sup>2</sup>To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, <sup>4</sup>Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, <sup>5</sup>For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.”*
- B. You can’t read that passage and not be impressed with the importance of faithfulness.
- C. The church needs people that are faithful – people that can be depend upon, people that are so faithful that if you don’t come to services they are concerned enough to find out why (not nosy, but truly concerned for your spiritual welfare!).
  - (1) Something major has to happen for them to not have been here.
  - (2) Faithful people are hard to come by these days but this church needs faithful brethren.
- D. The Bible calls upon us to be faithful like in Revelation 2:10 where it says, *“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”*
  - (1) Paul said, *“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”* (1 Cor. 4:2)
  - (2) Does that describe you? If not, it should! Faithful is a big word. It’s just one word but it describes everything that’s required of us. It’s a comprehensive term.
  - (3) We sometimes sing the song **Can The Lord Depend On You** and that’s a good question to ask. Am I faithful? Am I one who the Lord can truly depend on?

### III. CONCLUSION: 12

- 1. It all begins with me. If everyone in this church was like me what kind of church would it be?
- 2. These are the kind of people the church needs: People that are...
  - A. Rich Toward God;
  - B. Rich In Good Works;
  - C. Adorn the Gospel;
  - D. Have Convictions;
  - E. Committed;
  - F. Uncompromising;
  - G. Steadfast, Unmovable, & Always Abounding in the Work of the Lord;
  - H. Faithful.
- 3. Invitation

Adapted from a sermon by Ryan Thomas.