Words certainly are inadequate to describe Christ's attributes, abilities, intellect, and accomplishments. He was, and is, breathtaking yet calming, all-powerful but gentle, unsearchably wise though humble, and awe-inspiring while completely approachable. Perfection defines Him, intrigue surrounds Him, and eternity is in Him. He is boundless love, everlasting joy, and the Prince of Peace.

Dutch Sheets

First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, Georgia
PRAYER STUDY # 481

TITUS PART TWO

Duties of the Older and Younger

OLDER MEN

2 *But as for you, teach the things which are in agreement with sound doctrine [which produces men and women of good character whose lifestyle identifies them as true Christians].* **2** *Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in steadfastness [Christlike in character].*

The number one thing of importance to the early Church was the apostles' doctrine. The foundation of this doctrine is found in the words of Peter in Acts 2:38: *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* In accordance with that doctrine, the apostles taught all ages how they were to live the Christian faith in action.

First, Paul deals with the senior citizens starting with the older men. They were to be *temperate*, which comes from a Greek word that means *sober*, and not given to overindulgence in wine. The must be *dignified* or *serious*. According to Barclay, the Greek word used for dignified is not describing a person who is a gloomy killjoy, but one who realizes

that humans are mortal and will one day will meet their maker and have fellowship with Him. They must be *sensible* or *wise*, having learned from their reckless decisions of their youth.

Older men also must be *sound in faith.* The experiences of life and the years of growing old should have strengthened their faith instead of lessened it. They must walk in love instead of criticism and fault-finding and intolerance. They must be steadfast in their walk with Christ.

OLDER WOMEN

3 *Older women similarly are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor addicted to much wine, teaching what is right and good,*

In the early Church one of the most honorable positions was that of the older women who brought tenderness and compassion, sympathy and understanding, and hospitality and selfless love to the younger of both sexes. They were the praying grandmothers who lived lives to be imitated. They were to be encouragers and not gossipers. Their experience in life was to teach and guide with patience and to speak positive words to people.

YOUNGER WOMEN

4 *so that they may encourage the young women to tenderly love their husbands and their children,* **5** *to be sensible, pure, makers of a home [where God is honored], good-natured, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.*

The younger women were to be devoted to their husbands and children, to be thoughtful and pure in

thought and action, to run their households well, and to be obedient to their husbands.

In Greek culture in ancient times women were treated as second-class citizens who had their own rooms in a house and seldom interacted with males, except their husbands. They did not even eat a meal in their homes with the male members of the household, never attended a public meeting, and seldom were found on the streets and then never alone. Because of these traditions, a woman, who had lost a husband, had a very difficult time making a living on her own and often was forced into prostitution. Christianity redeemed women and brought them to an equal status with men.

YOUNG MEN

6 *In a similar way urge the young men to be sensible and self-controlled and to behave wisely [taking life seriously].* ***7*** *And in all things show yourself to be an example of good works, with purity in doctrine [having the strictest regard for integrity and truth], dignified,* ***8*** *sound and beyond reproach in instruction, so that the opponent [of the faith] will be shamed, having nothing bad to say about us.*

The Christian religion calls young men to make wise choices and to have self-control. They are to be examples in living the Christian life, especially to others their age and younger. They are to be pure in doctrine and sound in instruction, which means that they must insure that what they are taught is scripturally sound. That way those Christians who oppose them will be ashamed.

BOND SLAVES

9 *Urge bond-servants to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be pleasing and not talk back,* ***10*** *not stealing [things, regardless of value], but proving themselves trustworthy, so that in every respect they will adorn and do credit to the teaching of God our Savior.*

Bond-slaves by the very definition of what a bond-slave is are to obey their masters in all things. They legally have no rights whatsoever, although the scriptures do elevate them to a position in Christ that is equal to their masters. Nevertheless, they are to react to their masters as if they were serving the Lord. They should not talk-back, not steal, and should be trustworthy, living what they have been taught from the Word of God.

ALL HUMANS

11 *For the [remarkable, undeserved] grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.* ***12*** *It teaches us to reject ungodliness and worldly (immoral) desires, and to live sensible, upright, and godly lives [lives with a purpose that reflect spiritual maturity] in this present age,* ***13*** *awaiting and confidently expecting the [fulfillment of our] blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,* ***14*** *who [willingly] gave Himself [to be crucified] on our behalf to redeem us and purchase our freedom from all wickedness, and to purify for Himself a chosen and very special people to be His own possession, who are enthusiastic for doing what is good.*

15 *Tell them these things. Encourage and rebuke with full authority. Let no one disregard or despise you [conduct yourself and your teaching so as to*

command respect].

Salvation, on the basis of faith in Christ and what He did for us on the Cross, is for all humans who will accept and receive regardless of sex, nationality, or social class. If we live godly lives and abstain from worldly lust, we can walk out the Christian faith. This walking out is made possible by the miracle that Jesus works in us to change from sinful man to redeemed believer. The Blessed Hope is the Second Coming of Jesus. Barclay says, "When a royal visit is expected, everything is cleaned and decorated and made fit for royal eyes to see. Christians are men and women who are always prepared for the coming of the King of kings."

The word translated here *chosen and very special,* and in other translations as *peculiar,* refers to the spoils of a battle or war which the conquering king set aside for himself.

Our redemption includes past, present, and future. We are forgiven of past sins, enabled to overcome in this present world, and cleansed by His blood so that we can enter-in to the life to come.

Midnight Cry Lyrics

VERSE 1:
I HEAR THE SOUND
OF A MIGHTY RUSHING WIND
AND IT'S CLOSER NOW
THAN IT'S EVER BEEN
I CAN ALMOST HEAR THE TRUMPET
AS GABRIEL SOUNDS THE CALL
AT THE MIDNIGHT CRY WE'LL BE GOING HOME.

CHORUS:

WHEN JESUS STEPS OUT
ON A CLOUD TO CALL HIS CHILDREN
THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE
TO MEET HIM IN THE AIR
AND THEN THOSE THAT REMAIN
WILL BE QUICKLY CHANGED
AT THE MIDNIGHT CRY (AT THE MIDNIGHT CRY)
WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN

VERSE 2:
I LOOK AROUND ME
I SEE PROPHECIES FULFILLED
AND SIGNS OF THE TIMES THEY'RE APPEARING EVERYWHERE
I CAN ALMOST HEAR THE FATHER
AS HE SAYS
“SON GO GET YOUR CHILDREN.”
AND AT THE MIDNIGHT CRY
THE BRIDE OF CHRIST SHALL RISE.

REPEAT CHORUS + TAG Midnight Cry

TAG :
AND THEN THOSE THAT REMAIN
WILL BE QUICKLY CHANGED
AT THE MIDNIGHT CRY (AT THE MIDNIGHT CRY)
WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN
AT THE MIDNIGHT CRY (AT THE MIDNIGHT CRY)
WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN
WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN.