

“HEALTH ~ By the Book ~ Titus 1: 10 – 2: 8” [11.4.07]

Write down the names of 3 people who have helped you / mentored you / who have attempted to make your life better!

Life is better because of these good people who took time to invest in you!

Let's PRAY [Father, thank you for the good people who showed Jesus]

(1) of my 1<sup>st</sup> mentors was my older brother Scott; I learned many things from him ☺

- Taught me how to run properly ~ didn't get made fun of athletically after that!
- Took me to my 1<sup>st</sup> day of High School ~ he was a Sr. & I was a freshman
- Took me on my 1<sup>st</sup> date ~ lot of fun double dating with your big brother ☺
  - I didn't realize @ the time; subtly placed me under his protective wing!
- Captain of a pretty stout football team [great hands & foot speed]
  - Received early scholarships offers to play ball in college
- Last game of the regular season ~ (2) point conversion (snapped his knee)
  - (Turning point) all sports athletic banquet - - Most Dedicated Trophy
- Scotty said, “be a good boy – study hard – God has big plans for you!”

You know what?

I believed him & it changed the course direction of my life!

Today, Titus describes (2) different kinds of mentors:

- Mentors who want to harm you spiritually
- &
- Mentors who want to help you spiritually

Titus emphasizes...

Be cautious who you allow to mentor / influence you [eternal implications]

#### I. Unhealthy Mentors

A. (R) Titus 1: 10 – 14 or p. 916 in pew Bible

B. Unhealthy mentors on the isle of Crete were false teachers

- These unhealthy mentors were trying to persuade the Cretan converts of (2) things:
  - # 1 That they were missing a vital piece of the story of Jesus; to be really wise they needed all the Jewish myths / long allegories taught by Rabbis'.

- # 2 They taught that grace was not enough (to be really good) they needed to adopt all the rules & regulations required by laws of Judaism.

Eternally dangerous who you allow in your ear!

False teacher are easy to spot:

- Their teaching brings attention to themselves ~ rather than Jesus!
- They ask you to do things that are counter to scripture
  - Emphasize feelings – emotions over the authority of scripture  
I encountered a unhealthy mentor early in ministry...
  - 1<sup>st</sup> ministry ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> week there; church scheduled a beach trip with Sr. High Students; brought a successful youth pastor [large church]
  - Nice man; students liked him – he was an encouragement to me
  - His teaching time was nice [fluffy] no real substance [scripture]
  - Room mates; I knelt down beside my bed to pray; he teased me unmerciful; do you think God hears better from the floor; don't you seem righteous tonight?
    - Result – I stopped praying on my knees  
[lost a lot of intimacy with God]
    - Titus says, be cautious who you allow to mentor / influence you!

C. (R) Titus 1: 15 [liberating verse]

- Jesus says...in Luke 11: 37 – 41
  - When a person is pure in heart & mind = all things are pure!
    - Inner purity produces out purity = 100% rule

D. (R) Titus 1: 16

- Litmus TEST for mentor [Healthy or Unhealthy]
  - [Bottom line] Does the person's actions reflect the Book (Bible)
    - Is there a fundamental dichotomy between what they say & who they actually are?
    - If their actions don't consistently reflect the Bible ~ RUN!

NOW the text becomes very practical; Titus says that if you are in Christ; you have the ability to mentor / influence another for eternity

II. Healthy Mentors

A. (R) Titus 2: 1

- The truth = the infallible word of God is always validated by changed lives!
  - This is his [Titus] challenge:

- All of us are mentors [influencing others] for either their good or harm
  - [don't neglect] @ least (6) eyes are upon us @ all times
  - Here are individual marching orders for each of us...

B. (R) Titus 2: 2 = (older men)

- As we grow older - - change can become harder to accept; life can become less fulfilling; less satisfying; e-z to become a creature of habit.
- Healthy mentors in this category should exhibit a greater love for God; a greater love and patience for the people of God!
  - Godly older mentors bring strength - - stability - - and wisdom to a church and should be cherished!

Papa Clifford was this for me;

- My big buddy - - protector
- Took me to all my sporting events; not a great driver!
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade; driving to H.S. football game - - he ran thru a (4) way stop sign and the driver we almost ran over {threw us an ugly gesture}
  - I said, "Papa - - did you see that? That man threw us the bird."
  - Without missing a beat he said, "Was it dead" ☺
  - Early 20s we learned a family secret; my little granny 4'10 had once been married for a few months & then divorced [abusive relationship]
  - My mom had grown up in a single parent home until age 4 until my papa came along; he adopted my mom.
    - Brother & me were told he was not our biological grandpa; he was so much more;
    - Papa was the spiritual leader of our entire family; much closer than blood!

C. (R) Titus 2: 3 = (older women)

- [What it looks like] in my house = Becky's mentor
  - Lila practices the very presence of God
- Ladies; (2) very special opportunities
  - Hearts of God - - is a one on one mentoring program where women are prayerfully matched up for a six month commitment; invaluable life change opportunity available this morning!
  - Teen MOPS – where moms deliver God's love unconditionally to young mothers of every background imaginable; life change available today!

D. (R) Titus 2: 4 – 5 = (younger women)

- Titus exhorts the older women to use their mouths [conversation] in a positive manner instead of slander; teach the younger women what is good!

- Remind the younger women that their homes are their special domain; that there is nothing more important than loving their husbands and children!

E. (R) Titus 2: 6 = (younger men)

- Titus instruction to young men is summarized in (1) statement
  - Exercise self control
  - Healthy Mentors = Big Brothers & Big Sisters
  - [insert] Statistics

F. (R) Titus 2: 7 – 8

- Titus goes from “preaching to meddling” 😊
- Pastor’s show yourself as an example!
  - Titus was to confront the false teachers not only with spiritual words but most importantly with a spiritual life that reflected God’s word!
  - I’m convinced the verbal & the visual example of living out what you say and teach is the most vital aspect of effective spiritual leadership.

If you are in Christ - - you have an unbelievable potential to either help or harm another person for eternity!

[Insert] Dale Galloway story!

So what can you do today? Howard Hendricks challenges...

“Every disciple needs (3) types of relationships in your life; you need a Paul who can mentor and challenge you. You need a Barnabas who can come alongside and encourage you; and you need a Titus or Esther that you can pour your life into.

- Find someone to mentor you to challenge you in godly ways
- Make a godly friend someone that authentically encourages you
- Invest in someone that needs a godly mentor; loves and encourages