

MINISTERING TO OLDER BELIEVERS

Paul instructed Titus on the unfinished church business that needed straightening-out in Crete (1:5).

Paul commanded Titus to use sound doctrine to straighten out the following five groups within the Church.

- 2:2- Older men
- 2:3 – Older women
- 2:4-5 – Younger women
- 2:6-8 – Younger men
- 2:9-10 - Slaves (modern employees)

The Greek word used for older men is **presbutes** and the Greek word for older women is **presbutis**.

**This lesson will study 7 points regarding sound doctrine
necessary to straighten out older men and older women of the church of Crete (2:2-4a).**

1. The older men are instructed to be reverent in their behavior in the following four homiletical categories (2:2).

- Sober (nephaliōs) – temperance as free from intoxicants.
- Serious (semnos) – grave, honest because of self-respect in conduct.
- Sensible (sophron) - self-restraint over lusts of flesh and mind.
- Sound doctrines (hugiainō didaskalia) – three areas: in faith (te pistis) and in love (te agape) and in perseverance (te hupomone).

2. The older women are instructed also to be reverent in behavior (hosautos hieroprepes en katastema) in the following four categories (2:3-4a).

- Tattle-taler (me diabolos) – not malicious gossip.
- Tee-totaler (mede douloo polus oinos) – nor enslaved to much wine.
- Teacher (kalodidaskalos) – teaching what is good.
- Trainer (sophronizo/ p.a.subj/ sound judgment) – that they may encouraged the younger women.

3. The human aging process is part of Adam's original sin (AOS) (Gen.2:17; Rom.5:12).

Adam lived 930 years after his fall. No ages are recorded prior to AOS in the Bible.

Adam's fall (AOS) recorded his first birthday. "So all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died." (Gen.5:5)

4. Human aging is transmitted genetically to all cells of the human race contaminated by AOS except the female ovum prior to fertilization (example is Virgin birth of Jesus Christ / Luke 1:34-35).

AOS and old sin-nature (OSN) are transmitted genetically by the male (Y) chromosome and carried by the female in pregnancy (Psa.51: 5). These are identified with the flesh in the Bible (Rom.7:14; 13:14).

5. There are two DNA internal clocks set by God in human race (Job 14:1-5).

- Somatic cell DNA of the body.
- Psuchic cell DNA of the soul.

The body is a disposable aging package. Paul talks about the different bodies associated with creation (1 Cor.15:35-42). He mentions different kinds of flesh bodies (15:39 / men, beasts, birds, and fish).

- Paul explains that the somatic cell clock deals with mortality (birth to death) with an aging process.
- Paul also explains that the psuchic cell clock deals with immortality (regeneration, eternal life of soul to resurrection body).

“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.” (2 Cor.4: 16)

There is an aging process prior to birth as well as prior to death.

6. In every biblical civilization, God sets the limits of the aging process as part of the plan of God.

“Since his days are determined, the number of his months is with Thee, and his limits Thou hast set so that he cannot pass.” (Job 14:5)

- **Ante-diluvian civilization** extended from fall of Adam to Noah Flood. The DNA clock averaged 912 years – oldest being Methuselah (969 years) (2 Pet.2:5).
- **Post-diluvian civilization** extends from Noah flood to Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The DNA clock averages 70-80 (Psa.90:10) and extends to 120 years (Gen.6:3).
- **Millenium civilization** extends from Second Coming to Great White Throne Judgment (Rev.20). The DNA clock is described in Isa.65: 20 – “No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred shall be thought accursed.”

7. A believer’s longevity and quality of life can also be associated with spiritual growth maturity in certain areas of plan of God (Ps.37:25).

Let me share three examples.

- Obeying and honoring parents (Eph.6: 1-3; Ex.20: 12).
- Wisdom that leads to obeying and honoring God) Job 12:12; 32:6-7; Prov.3:1-2; Ps.91:16)
- Spiritual maturity that leads to fear of God (Prov.3:5-8; 10:27; 14:27; 19:23).

It is possible for spiritual mature believers to experience soul vigor and blessings of great ministry in their old age. [Grandma Moses was still painting at age of 100; George Bernard Shaw was still writing at age of 93; Simeon and Anna were still serving the temple in their 80s; Caleb was still conquering mountains at age of 85.]

“And Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life; and he was gathered to his people.” (Gen.25: 8)

Mark Twain gave this point on aging, “age is a case of mind over matter; if you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.”

MEMORY LANE IS A GOOD PLACE TO VISIT BUT NOT TO LIVE!