

Spurgeon's Notes

2:2—Among the heathen, old men often gave themselves up to drunkenness and gluttony. So now this is the teaching that is to be given to aged Christian men. They need faith, love, and patience, as well as the virtues of sobriety, gravity, and temperance. The infirmities of old age often create petulance, so the grace of God is to make the venerable Christian to be full of faith, love, and patience.

2:6—That exhortation is as necessary now as it was in Crete! Young men often know a great deal—or think they do—and they are apt to be intoxicated with the idea of knowing so much and being able to do so much—so that the exhortation to them is to “be sober minded.”

2:14—Our good works, if we have any, spring from a real conversion. Yet more, they also spring from a constant spiritual influence exercised on us from the time of conversion even until the hour of death. We would have no good works if we had no fresh influence day by day. We would not find the grace sufficient to produce fruit today. It is not like the planting of a tree in our hearts, which naturally of itself brings forth fruit. The sap has to come up from the root, Jesus Christ. We are not trees by ourselves, but we are branches attached to the living vine. Good works are the gifts of God, his choice pearls, which he sends down with his grace.