

Best Deals of the Season For Older Women

Free Time?

by Carolyn Mahaney

If you're like me—middle aged or older—this *girl talk* week is for you. We're going to suggest some great deals for “older” women (Titus 2:3-5).

I have two dear, long-time friends—Betsy and Nancy—who are fellow “older” women; each of us is a grandmother with only one or two children still at home. Once a month we try to meet for fellowship, and I treasure these times.

We often talk about how different our life is now than when our children were small. We aren't interrupted all day with needs, requests, demands. We can start a task and finish it. We can talk in complete sentences. We can think one thought at a time. We can expect our day to go pretty much as we planned.

We might have more free time. But it's not free. It is a gift from God, purchased by our Savior and we must use our time for His glory.

So we try to use this season to pray more.

We each feel a responsibility to pray more, particularly for our families. My father's mother had fifty grandchildren and she prayed for each of them, by name, every day. I want to follow her example. And so, each day, I seek God on behalf of my husband, daughters and son, my sons-in-law, my grandsons and my granddaughters.

We also want to study Scripture more.

A few weeks ago we covered this in detail. And I want to encourage all of us to:

Become a Theologian
Use This Time profitably, and
Go to the School of the Word

[See Best Deals of the Season: For Single Women]

My friends and I love to talk about how God is answering our prayers and teaching us through His Word. We are so grateful for this season, and these best of deals!

Service Over Self

by Carolyn Mahaney

Popular wisdom would say that once you reach mid-life, it is a time to consider yourself. *You've been giving so much for so long, they say, it's time to take care of you!* But this flies in the face of God's plan. The middle and later years of our lives are not for self but to serve. So let's do something truly radical and shocking in the eyes of the world, ladies—instead of focusing on ourselves, let's serve more!

And let's begin with our families. Although their needs may be different, our family should still receive our first and best service.

Are you married? The demands of children can sometimes sap life from a marriage. We can be tempted to settle in and become comfortable in our routines, instead of pursuing romance, friendship, and growth in godliness together. But we should prize our husbands more than ever in this changing season.

Are you a mother? Our children still need us, even when they are grown. And while our role will certainly be different, we can still serve them in many ways—not the least of which is to pray for them. Let's consider how we can encourage, serve and be available for our kids.

Are you a grandmother? I probably don't need to convince you to be involved in your grandchildren's lives. But can I encourage you to be strategic? Set a godly example they can follow. Pray for them. Encourage them to obey their parents. Babysit. Ask their your kids how you can best come alongside and support their parenting efforts.

By the grace of God, let us use this season to serve our family and so follow the example of our Savior who “came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45)

Join the WOTT

by Carolyn Mahaney

In addition to serving our family, there are many other ways in which God wants us to use our gifts and talents in our middle and later years. But again, we must be careful to look to Scripture, and not the worldly culture, as our guide. We must ask questions such as:

- * In what ways is God calling me to serve in this season?
- * How can I use my skills and talents to strengthen the church?
- * Who is God calling me to befriend, mentor, or evangelize?

When we begin with biblical goals and values, our role and purpose for this sometimes-confusing season become clear—and exciting!

There's one opportunity I want to encourage all of us to seize, and that is the Titus 2 mandate to train the younger women in the virtues of biblical womanhood.

In Titus 2:3-5, Paul gives us “older women” a job description: we are to display godly character “and so teach the younger women” to love their families, care for their homes, be pure, self-controlled, and submissive to their own husbands.

We've got a job to do ladies! And this isn't just a task for a select few. Titus 2 is clear—if you are an older woman with godly character, this assignment is for you!

The younger women need our help. And so many of them are desperate for the counsel, advice, encouragement and care of a godly older woman. We must fulfill this vital task of passing on the qualities of biblical womanhood to the next generation.

Thirty years ago, Elisabeth Elliot issued a call to older women, or, as she calls them, “WOTT: Women of Titus Two”:

I think of the vast number of older women today....what a pool of energy and power for God they might be. We live longer now than we did forty years ago. There's more mobility, more money around, more leisure, more health and strength. Resources, which if put at God's disposal, might bless younger women. But there are also many more ways to spend those resources, so we find it very easy to occupy ourselves selfishly. Where are the women, single or married, willing to hear God's call to spiritual motherhood, taking spiritual daughters under their wings to school them?

Are you willing to hear God's call to spiritual motherhood? Ask the Lord today: who is a young woman you can take under your wing and teach the beauty of biblical womanhood.*

* Copyright 2009 Girl Talk Blog

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

Permissions: You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you do not alter the wording in any way and do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction. For web posting, please link directly to this document on our website. Any exceptions to the above must be approved by the Girl Talk Blog. Please do not host audio, video, and text files on alternate websites.

Please include the following statement on any distributed copy:

By Carolyn Mahaney, Nicole Whitacre, Kristin Chesemore & Janelle Bradshaw. Copyright 2009 Girl Talk Blog. www.girltalkhome.com