

Titus Intro Study - Titus 1:1-5

Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, 3 but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;
4 To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.
5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.

Background

A) Titus is part of the collection of Paul's letters known as "the Pastoral Epistles or Letters."

B) This is because I Timothy, Titus, and II Timothy deal with Paul's admonitions to his co-workers on

- (1) How to deal with false teachers,
- (2) How to establish leadership in local churches, and
- (3) How to encourage godliness.

Church leadership is a main focus of the letter to Titus

A) Titus's mission is to set in order the things that are lacking and to appoint other elders in every town (1:5).

B) Paul says V.9 the Elders need to "hold fast or firmly to the message he has been taught ... [to] encourage others by sound doctrine"

C) But Paul is going to make it very clear that it is not enough that a leader is sound in his doctrine - but they must live in accordance with it.

D) Their belief is to MARK their behavior.

"When the message of the gospel comes unglued from godliness, faith shatters." RKH

A) Throughout the book of Titus Paul will keep bringing us back to the focus of the gospel

B) We see it in the opening verses - Paul mentions the hope of eternal life that is according to the Word and comes through preaching

C) We see the gospel clearly in Chapter 3 -

3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

8 This is a faithful saying, and these things **I want you to affirm constantly,**

D) Keep these truths ever before them -

1) the heart of the leader has to be continually fixed to the gospel- Here is the reason

V.8b that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

In Chapter 2 here is the result of the Gospel: This is what it does in us

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Paul, is teaching that the doctrine that rightly teaches the good news of Christ does not minimize the requirements of godly living

A) True doctrine of the gospel becomes precisely the motivation and foundation for such a life.

B) Life must conform to doctrine.

C)The message is the same for leaders and servants, parents and children, male and female, young and old:

D)Grace should produce godliness.

So Titus was to set in order the things that were lacking -

A)And big part of that was going to be in choosing and training elders.

B)This was no easy task considering the Reputation of the People of Crete:

C)Notice v.12 - Testimony from one of their own prophets ¹²One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans *are* always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³This testimony is true.

D)Paul is like - I have met a lot of people from Crete - this is true.

Reputation of New Yorkers - an attitude - opinionated - Loud and Proud

A)Or a Philadelphia sports fan - most Critical fans in sports -

B)they boo and talk smack on their own players

D)A person from NY or Philly would be - This is true - You know it -

The Reputation of the Cretans - they are liars - so they can't be trusted

A)They are **mean people** who will rip you to shreds - (evil beast)

B)And they are **lazy people** who just want to sit around and eat and drink all day and be critical of everyone around them.

C)Can you imagine - being a Pastoral candidate for that Church ? - WOW!!!

Silverton - PODUNCT town

A)Grew up in OC - first night - Dog comes home - half it's face blown off - "where am I"

B)Hippie - Woman - Police Man - Ok

C)As bad as that was - Titus had it worse

The Cretans were as bad as they came -Not the easiest place to minister. -

A)The Gospel of Jesus seeks to invade the Most difficult of places

B)How did the gospel get there?: We will see this in our study of the book of Acts -

C)Day of Pentecost - Jewish people from all over the Middle East to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Pentecost -

1)One of three mandatory Jewish feast

After the HS falls - a crowd gathers outside of where the Apostles and 120 followers of Jesus are meeting in an upper room

A)Peter stands up and preaches in Acts two

B)The passage mentions - 16 different people groups from 16 different regions in the middle east

C)One of those people groups that heard and responded to the gospel that day were people from the Island of Crete

D)Took the gospel back home - and God worked in that place!

E)Amazing how that happens - God does a work in your life - affects your whole family - friend group

The Gospel is the Power of God unto Salvation for anyone who believes

A)The Gospel is the Light of God - shine in the darkest of places - darkest of hearts

B)We can't forget that! - No place too hard and too dark!

C)So Titus is sent to establish this church and the leadership of this church

Another thing we are going to see in Titus is the idea of Generational Church

A)Paul also gives general instructions to five distinct groups of believers: **older men (2:2), older women (2:3), younger women (2:4-5), younger men (2:6-8) and slaves (2:9-10).**

B)Reminder: The body of Christ is made up of a variety of people - not just one group.

C)Popular today for Church leaders to target one group - Young people

1)Or influential people

D)One demographic - upper middle class -

That is not the way of Jesus

A)This church like our church was made of young and old - men and women

B)The mention of slaves -

1)The people who were on the lowest rung on the social ladder on the Island of Crete

C)Everyone is welcome - everyone has a place in the body of Christ and everyone can be used by the Lord

That is going to be a focus of this study - to reveal to us the kind of people that God wants to use in building his church and reaching the world

A)What does God look for in leaders ?

B)And we are going to take these principles and we will definitely look to apply this in the context of the Church

C)Our belief that **God is going to call some of you** into aspects of leadership here at CV

D)Beginning - birth in your heart - a calling to go and plant a church - call you into full time ministry.

But note this: many of the principles that we are going to see in this short letter - can be used for you to serve in your home

A)Your business - in your friendship groups

B)We will bring that application as well.

C)Close tonight this introduction - Titus, the Man

Titus was one of Paul's most trusted co-workers.

A)This is evidenced by the fact that Paul sent him to the trouble spots of Corinth and Crete.

B)He was a full Gentile (Timothy was only half-Greek), converted under Paul's preaching.

C)He is mentioned often in Paul's letters

D)In Galatians 2 - He was with Paul at the very start of Paul's ministry.

E)Acts 15 He accompanied Paul and Barnabas to the all-important Jerusalem Council,

1)Important meeting

But we are told the most about him in four passages in the book of 2 Corinthians - Insights for us

A)#1 Titus brought rest to others

¹³ I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia. 2 Corinthians 2:12-13

B)When Titus is around he sets your heart at ease

1)He is so focused on Jesus - leaves your heart at rest

C)There are some believers that I am around - who do the opposite

1)They are so focused on other things - they leave I am stressed out - frustrated

#2 Titus was one who brought comfort

Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus. 2 Corinthians 7:6

A)Downcast = disheartened or discouraged

B)Titus was a great encourager - Barnabas - son of encouragement -

C)That was Titus - great kind of person to be - People are encouraged by your presence

#3 Titus was committed to helping others become complete in Christ

⁶ So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. ⁷ But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also. 2 Corinthians 8:6-7

A)This is a great combination - brings rest - brings comfort

B) But he is not going to let you just stew in your despair or trouble -

1) Point you to Jesus and encourage you in the areas you need to grow

C) Walking with you - teaching sharing - living - that is what we call Making disciples

#4 Titus had an earnest heart and care for people

¹⁶ But thanks *be* to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus. ¹⁷ For he not only accepted the exhortation, but being more diligent, **he went** to you of his own accord.

2 Corinthians 8:16-17

Earnest Care - Compassion plus action

A) Titus didn't just CARE - he moved

B) He went to you of his own accord - no one had to instruct him to do that.

C) Deacons Vs Elders - Deacons have a mind toward the practical things -

1) Chairs set up - bathroom cleaned - cars parked

D) Elders see the needs in people and are drawn to help meet those needs.

#5 Titus was a man of integrity

I urged Titus, and sent our brother with *him*. **Did Titus take advantage of you?** Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did *we* not *walk* in the same steps? 2

Corinthians 12:17-18

Did Titus take advantage of you? - No

A) He is the kind of guy who can be trusted - he has your best interest at heart.

B) May all of us be seeking through this study to become a little more like Titus

C) Men and women who

1. Bring rest to others
2. Comfort others
3. Committed to helping others become complete in Christ
4. Earnest heart and care for people -
5. Integrity

Here that Description that sounds a lot like Jesus

If we become those type of men and women

- Calvary Vista will be a better place
- Our community will be impacted
- Our neighborhoods will be impacted
- Our families will be impacted