

# *The Book of Titus*

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# Introduction

## **Pastoral Epistles**

The Book of Titus, written by the Apostle Paul, to another young Pastor called Titus. We will see a resemblance to the Epistles of 1&2 Timothy, for they too were written to a young Pastor. These three books make up what are called the Pastoral Epistles.

## **62AD / Chronologically**

This book was written around 62-64AD. The book of Titus chronologically fits between 1 Timothy, and 2 Timothy. So it is right after his imprisonment in Rome, and sometime before his final imprisonment before Nero that we just studied in 2 Timothy. This Book of Titus is the next to last epistle written by Paul

## **young protégé**

Titus like Timothy was a young protégé of the Apostle Paul, maybe even coming to the saving knowledge of Christ through Paul's ministry.

## **Map - Slide**

Titus is ministering in the area of Crete. Crete is one of the largest islands in the Mediterranean Sea, it was and is a beautiful mountainous area.

## **Church started Acts 2**

The church most likely got its start on the Day of Pentecost, as Crete were present when Peter was preaching and the Holy Spirit descended and many people were saved (Acts 2:11)

## **Slide**

Crete was a tough place, we are told in verse 12 of chapter one that the people were very carnal: *(Titus 1:12 NKJV) One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."* *(Titus 1:13 NKJV) This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,*

## **Greek Culture / Titus Greek / God will take you, then send you**

They were of the Greek cultural, so all the Greek lifestyles and myths would be prevalent in this region, and creeping into the church. Titus himself was a Greek, not a Jew, so he was well aware of the culture he ministered in. God will do that, he will call you out of a place, teach you, then send you back to that very same place to lead others out.

## **Titus well-prepared / Acts 15 / Charity to Jerusalem / Church Corinth**

Besides being a Greek and understanding the culture, Titus was well prepared to serve in such an area. Titus was with Paul (Galatians 2) at the infamous Acts 15 counsel on circumcision. It was at that counsel where the Apostles, lead by the Holy Spirit, said that the Gentiles did not have to be circumcised to become followers of Christ. A decision that Titus, being a Greek, was very pleased with. Titus was also instrumental in helping raise money for the church in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8), It was from Corinth that he was sent on to the island of Crete where he is when this letter arrives, so he ministered with Paul at the church in Corinth.

## **Quite the Resume / God prepares you**

This young minister has quite the resume. He is present in the revolutionizing decision on circumcision regarding the Gentiles, that they are free in Christ, free from the rituals. Then he ministers with Paul in Corinth dealing with a very carnal church, he is center for a church giving and offering effort to help the those in need, and then on to take the pastorate at the church in Crete. Crete a very carnal place, and Titus was prepared by his ministry in Corinth. It is wonderful how the Lord prepares us for ministry and we really never realize it at the time..

### **Well Trained / Continual Oppositions/ Paul encourage – hold fast – set leaders**

Titus was well trained, but here in the church of Crete he faced continual opposition by ungodly men within the church. Paul writes him to encourage and instruct him to hold fast to the Word, and to establish leaders within the church who can co-labor with him to combat the poison within the church from these ungodly men, and that everybody in the Church will do good works.

### **Leader Creates Leaders**

This is applicable for us because remember, a true leader does not create followers, but a true leader creates other leaders..

### **Doctrine not explained or defended / Application to everyday**

I might note, this epistle doesn't focus on explaining or defending doctrine, but the application of doctrine. This is a good point for us, our understanding of doctrine and theology has to be translated and applied into our everyday living.

### **Repetative / V-by-V / right on time / The Bible going through Us**

Some of the things we will read and study are repetitive of what we just studied in timothy 1&2, but don't drift away on me, for as we know verse-by-verse teaching is always right on time, and exactly where God wants us to be at in His word. So continue to study to show thyself approved, and remember, "We are going through the Bible and the Bible is going through us."

### **Theme of the Book of Titus: - slide**

*(Titus 1:5 NKJV) 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;*

*(Titus 3:8 NKJV) This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.*

### **Outline of the Book of Titus: - slide**

Essentials for a Sound Church

Sound Leaders – Chapter 1

Sound Members – Chapter 2

Sound Witness to the World – Chapter 3

# Chapter 1

Detailed Outline of Chapter 1:

## Sound Leaders – Chapter 1

- **Introduction 1:1-4**
  - For the Furtherance of the Faith – 1;1
  - The Truth Produces Godliness – 1:1
  - The Hope of Age Abiding Life – 1:2
  - The Manifestation of the Word through Preaching – 1:3
- **Appoint Leaders and Overseers in the Church – 1:5-9**
- **Leaders Watch out for the Insubordinate in the Church – 1:10-16**

## Introduction 1:1-4

**(Titus 1:1 NKJV) 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,**

### **Furtherance / God's People will go further / Kingdom expanded**

*according to the faith* - better translated "*for the furtherance of the faith*". Paul says I am a servant, an Apostle, for the furtherance of the faith of God's elect. That God's people will go further and do better, that the kingdom would expand and people deepened in their heart to Him. We can all relate to this whether it is our family members, friends, or church brethren, we want to see them grow deeper and go further in their walk.

I have a heart for the lost, but I know to truly reach them, I want to see you deepened, and go further in your walk, for you corporately will reach more than I can ever reach individually. Also, I want to see you be all that God has for you to be.

### **the truth produces godliness / Learn & apply & become like Him**

*and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness*, - let me simply that statement, it means "the truth produces godliness." Learn the truths of God, apply them to your lives, and you will become more like Him daily. It truly is that simple.

**(Titus 1:2 NKJV) in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,**

### **Eternal Life / Age abiding / duration & Quality**

The Greek word for eternal life means "age abiding life", it means more than just duration, but also the quality of life. Hope of eternal life, is not just heaven future, but here and now. Eternal life begins now, then goes on into heaven.

### **John 17 - slide**

What is eternal life, Jesus told us in John 17, that they might know God.

*(John 17:3 NKJV) "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

### **Eternal life is knowing Him / Closer I walk / the further I walk**

Eternal life is knowing Him. The closer I walk with Him today, the more I taste of heaven, the further away I am from Him, the more hellish my day will be. Eternal life isn't someday out there, but walking with Him today, and that is what we are doing right now.

### **We have hope because He can't lie**

*which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, - We have this hope because God can not fail, he can not lie, therefore He said that all who will believe will have eternal life.*

### **Before Time / Blown it since clock started ticking**

He said it before time began, so it doesn't matter how bad you have blown it since the clock started ticking, all who know him will have eternal life. We will see later in this chapter that there is a difference between professing Him and knowing Him. But for those that know Him, He says I determined eternal life for you before I even started to create the heavens and earth, you eternal life is secured in me.

### **(Titus 1:3 NKJV) but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior**

*(1 Corinthians 1:21 NKJV) For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.*

### **Spend Your Evening Studying the Word / but Eternal Life is to Know Him**

To spend your evening and Sunday's to study the Word of God, people think you are crazy, but we know that eternal life is to know Him, that is why we come to know more about Him.

### **Manifest – means to show clearly / God reaches into your heart / He was in my house**

The Word manifest means to make apparent, to show clearly. The word is manifested through preaching. Amazing how you can listen to a Bible Study and just feel like God is reaching right into your heart and dealing with the very thing I am facing or struggling with. Someone will come to visit a church, and on the way home say to whoever brought them, you told him I was coming didn't ya. We use to always joke and say he must have been in my house last night.

### **The Study of the Word Wonderful / Mid-week Needed**

There is something about the preaching and teaching of the word that is incomparably wonderful. I'll be honest, I was worried about teaching 2 studies a week and working full-time, didn't know how it could happen; but the Lord spoke to me and said don't worry about, when the time comes I will take care of it. What He had laid on my heart was we are a Bible Studying church, seven days between studies is too long, we need that mid-week manna. Last week I was going to cancel the midweek because of the tournedos and after talking to Gerald about it you would have thought I was considering committing the unpardonable sin.

### **Word never independent of Him / Why people need to come to church**

God will manifest His word through preaching: God will never give His word, independent of Himself, so He shows Himself clearly through the teaching of the Word. This is the verse that is use when people say I don't need to go to church to know God's Word. I show them this verse and explain what happens through the preaching of the Word.

### **(Titus 1:4 NKJV) To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.**

### **A true Son / Wonderful words when you are struggling**

*To Titus, a true son in our common faith – ahh to hear these words from your spiritual father, how wonderful they must have been to Titus. We need to do this more often, we need to call or write a beloved brethren and refresh them words of encouragement. Not preach to them, or give them a Bible study on perseverance, just call and tell them you are a true son in the faith to the Most High God, you bless me and make me so proud just to know you.*

### **Grace, mercy, and peace / the world isn't use to Grace**

*Grace, mercy, and peace - Paul's interface with the world; every where he went and everybody he encountered, he wanted to leave them with grace, mercy and peace. I like that, in the 7/11, at*

work, at the local business. I have to tell ya, I worked this guy this week. He was so mean, and the meaner he got, the nicer I was. I complimented him on his job performance, and told him I appreciated him, he didn't know what to do because I'm sure he is use to people not liking him because he is so mean. He didn't know how to handle the compliment, probably because no one ever gives him one..... Grace, mercy, and peace

### **Appoint Leaders and Overseers in the Church – 1:5-9**

**(Titus 1:5 NKJV) 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;**

#### **Left you / like minded / Furtherance of the Gospel**

*For this reason I left you in Crete – Titus, my like-minded son, I left you in Crete for the furtherance of the gospel, so that the people there may be taken further in the Lord, and grow deeper in Christ.*

#### **Set in Order**

*set in order the things that are lacking* - there was some disorder in the church and Titus needed to set things right.

#### **Elders / Appointed / Shepherd Leads**

So first is the establishment of elders in the church. Elders were the leaders who could teach and counsel the congregation.

Do you notice that the elders were appointed not elected. It is not based on popular vote or who has the most dominating personality. Church leaders are to be appointed, not elected. You see, if they are elected, then they have to maintain that favor with their electors. So when their electors don't like what they are saying, they elect someone else. The resultant is the sheep are leading the shepherd. The shepherd should be in direct leading form the Lord on where God wants the church to go. When people elect a pastor, then he is under pressure to preach and teach on the things they like to hear, and he quits teaching the word.

**(Titus 1:6 NKJV) if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.**

#### **Blameless**

Blameless - means can they withstand a 60 Minutes investigative story. That people can't say look what he is doing in the church and look at what he is doing at home.

*(1 Thessalonians 5:22 NKJV) Abstain from every form of evil.*

#### **Husband / Children**

*husband of one wife* - he has quit being a player, and is a one woman man,

*having faithful children* - The leader must establish authority at home before he can lead in the church.

#### **Reinhold Messnier**

Funny story, Italian mountaineer Reinhold Messnier, who was the first man to scale Mt Everest without oxygen, and conquered every mountain over 26,000 feet in the world broke his leg after falling off a wall surrounding his home in Italy. He was climbing the wall around his home after he had locked himself out of the house. So here is a man who is conquered every mountain in the world, but breaks his leg in his home. That seems to be the way it goes so often; there are so many men who are skilled and respected at their workplace, they are the go-to man, if he can't fix it we are doomed, but at home they get no respect and bumble through trying to lead their homes. You must get your home in order first, before you serve anywhere else. If you are

involved in ministry and things aren't right at the home, then back out of ministry, take a leave of absence, your family, your spouse and kids have to be your first priority, you have to make sure your kids are grounded in the Lord

**(Titus 1:7 NKJV) For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,**

### **Bishops / behind the scene / all these are qualities of godly men & woman**

Secondly the establishment of bishops. A bishop was a helper around the church, doing whatever needed to be done. They are the behind the scene workers of the church, but ever so vital. For us, the qualities of both the elder and bishop, are characteristics of a godly man or woman of God, and things we should desire.

### **Faithful / manages doesn't own / Pastors destruct when forget this**

*as a steward of God, not self-willed.* – the helpers in the church we to just be faithful with whatever the Lord had them doing. A steward doesn't own, he just manages what has been given to him. All ministers in the church are just managers of God's church, God owns the building and the people. Ministers and Pastors start to destruct when they forget they don't own, they just manage what God has given them. When I minister starts thinking these are my people, this is my ministry, he will implode that ministry, because he will be striving to gain or maintain.

### **Some indicators**

Some indicators of this are being self-willed and quick tempered, which will lead to being judgmental of the people. Anger - you can't angry in the ministry; you can't get angry with the people

**(Titus 1:8 NKJV) but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,**

### **Crete was a wretched place**

Crete was a wretched place, so public sleeping areas were very immoral and dangerous. The church was to take in traveling Christians to bless them and protect them.

### **Martha Mentality**

A spiritual man or woman is to be hospitable. The question is why aren't more people hospitable. I believe it is the Martha Mentality. Do you mean the Mary and Martha story from Luke 10 where Mary is sitting at Jesus' feet and Martha is doing all the work, no not really. I mean the Martha Stewart mentality. The mentality that when someone comes over the house has to be spotless; the meal has to be a 7 course, 5 star meal. What happens is it becomes so much work that people say I can't do this again, or it will be a long time before I do that again.

### **Truly hospitable people / Easy to please / It is the fellowship**

I find that truly hospitable people are the ones who don't really go to much effort when people come over. They don't vacuum before you come figuring you're just gona get dirty, so might as well wait until you leave. When they say help yourself, that means the cokes are in the refrigerator and the glasses are in the paper cups are on the counter. Honestly, when I go over to someone's home, and they are nervous and uncomfortable, worried about pleasing everyone, then I start to get uncomfortable and nervous. It is easy to please me, all I want, is to be with you. I don't come for the food, I have a job, I could go out to eat and buy what I want. But your fellowship, your friendship, I can't get that at a restaurant.

### **Key to Hospitality is keep it simple**

The key to hospitality is to keep it simple. Subway, spaghetti, I'm happy. Hospitality isn't to be difficult or burdensome, just relax, keep it simple and enjoy the fellowship.

**The story of Zacchaeus sums it up. - slide**

*(Luke 19:5 NKJV) And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."*

*(Luke 19:6 NKJV) So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.*

### **Lover of what is Good**

*a lover of what is good* - PG-13 is no longer pure and innocent. I took my adopted son to a PG-13 movie the other day and started to squirm in my chair and became embarrassed. It might have been PG-13, but it wasn't a good thing.

**(Titus 1:9 NKJV) holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.**

**Back to 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, holdfast to sound doctrine. –**

**slide**

*(2 Timothy 1:13 NKJV) Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*

**slide**

*(1 Thessalonians 5:21 NKJV) Test all things; hold fast what is good.*

*(1 Thessalonians 5:22 NKJV) Abstain from every form of evil.*

### **Holdfast / Commune with Him**

Hold fast to what is good, hold on to this word, make it a very part of your being, let the Word be your very breath. God will not give His word apart from Himself, this word isn't for knowledge, it is for communion with our Creator. When we commune with Him, we know and fall deeper in love with Him, and become more like Him.

### **Exhort & Convict / Eleazar / 2 Samuel 23:9**

It is through the Sound Doctrine, this Word that we can exhort and convict those who contradict. Back in 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel, David's boy Eleazar, which means "God is my help" went to battle for David, he was know as one of the mighty men of David. The Philistine's came up against Israel and it says that Eleazar clave to his sword, and the Lord gave him a great victory. The word for clave there in verse 10 was used in its day for permanent glue, it is the same word used in Genesis 2 for the husband and wife cleaving together, the two becoming one. Eleazr's hand and sword became one, the sword became an extension of Eleazar, and the Lord gave him a great victory over his enemy.

*(2 Samuel 23:9 KJV) And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away:*

*(2 Samuel 23:10 KJV) He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil.*

### **Heb 4:12 / Eph 6**

The same applies to all of us, we are to clave to our sword as we battle in this life.

*(Hebrews 4:12 NKJV) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

*(Ephesians 6:17 NKJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

### **Bible Falling Apart / Leaders get into the word**

You a Bible that is falling apart, usually belongs to someone who isn't.

That is what a godly, spiritual leader does, gets into the Word. Folks it has to be non-negotiable part of your week

### **Leaders watch out for the Insubordinate in the Church – 1:10-16**

**(Titus 1:10 NKJV) For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,**

### **Only way to fend off babblers / the Word**

The only way to fend off the insubordinate and babblers is through the word. Be like Eleazar, become one with your sword, your word, and battle them.

### **Rule Keepers / Bondage makers**

*especially those of the circumcision* - the circumcision are the rule keepers, those that put burdens on you, and inflicts pain. They put bondage on you all in the name of religion.

You need to be in the word and have sound doctrine to withstand them. Why? Because the Word is freeing, it liberates me from trying to figure out what is best for me. I can just trust that if God said to do it, or not to do it, then it is the right thing to, and I am assured that His blessings will follow His word.

**(Titus 1:11 NKJV) whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.**

They do it for their personal gain. I wonder how many ministries would continue if there was no money coming in, how many ministers would go get a tentmaking job in order to support themselves so they can still minister. I wonder how many ministers would keep ministering if there ministry dropped to just a few people.

**(Titus 1:12 NKJV) One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."**

**(Titus 1:13 NKJV) This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,**

**(Titus 1:14 NKJV) not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.**

### **Creeping Around / making up rules**

These guys are creeping around causing problems, telling lies. They make up their own commandments, turn from the faith, and turn others from the faith. Rebuke them Paul says to Titus.

### **Identify them**

Today Paul would be accused of judging them, but what he really is doing them is identifying them by their lifestyle. Paul goes on to say in verse 15:

**(Titus 1:15 NKJV) To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.**

**(Titus 1:16 NKJV) They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.**

Jesus said you will know them by their fruit, not just their words. **slide**

*(Matthew 7:17 NKJV) "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.*

*(Matthew 7:18 NKJV) "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.*

*(Matthew 7:19 NKJV) "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

**(Matthew 7:20 NKJV) "Therefore by their fruits you will know them.**

*(Matthew 7:21 NKJV) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*

We are not to judge, but we are to identify them, we are to be fruit inspectors.

So Titus, chapter 1, part of the Pastoral Epistles, teachings and calling for all those who desire to be godly spiritual leaders in their homes, churches, and the world.

# Chapter 2

## **Furtherance of the gospel, / truth will produce godliness**

Paul is writing his young protégé Titus who he left to minister in Crete. As we studied in chapter one, Paul, the servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, is writing to Titus for the furtherance of the gospel, so that the truth will be known and produce godliness in those who will receive the truth, for godliness is produced through the truth.

## **Age Abiding Life**

This gospel and truth gives us age abiding life which isn't just duration of life, but quality of life.

What is eternal life?

*(John 17:3 NKJV) "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

## **We know Him / preaching of the Word / Word is manifested**

We know Him and we know His truths through the preaching of the Word; for the Word is manifested, made clear, through the preaching of the Word. I am not just talking about understanding the Scriptures, but that we see Jesus Christ more clearly every time we read and study his word, because God will never give His Word, independent of Himself.

## **this is why I left you in Crete**

Paul says Titus, this is why I left you in Crete, for the furtherance of the gospel, to show clearly the Son, and the truth that is in the Son

## **well-prepared for this ministry**

Titus you have been prepared for this ministry. You have been my disciple, you were with me when major decision concerning church doctrine were made, you co-labored with me in a very carnal church in Corinth, you spearheaded the effort to raise funds for those suffering in Jerusalem, and you are a Greek, ministering to Greeks. You have been well-prepared for this ministry God has placed you in.

## **establish order**

Now Titus, along with the preaching and teaching of the word, I want you to establish order in the church. A healthy church has to have order, therefore appoint, not elect, elders and bishops to help run and minister to the church. Titus, raise up leaders, not followers. Raise up leaders that will take your sound teaching, will hold fast to them, that the teachings will become a part of their very being, and these leaders will go and teach and correct others in the church.

## **insubordinate who will speak the Christianise**

Paul says Titus this will be necessary for there in your church, and every church to come, there will be insubordinate who will speak the Christianise, but their lifestyles will deny their words. Titus the teaching of the word and solid leaders are essential for a sound church.

## **Theme of the Book of Titus: - slide**

*(Titus 1:5 NKJV) 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;*

*(Titus 3:8 NKJV) This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.*

## **Outline of the Book of Titus: - slide**

Essentials for a Sound Church

Sound Leaders – Chapter 1

Sound Members – Chapter 2

Sound Witness to the World – Chapter 3

Detailed Outline of Chapter 2: - slide

Sound Members – Chapter 2

- **Sound Qualities of the Older Men – 2:1-2**
- **Sound Qualities of the Older Woman / Younger Woman – 2: 3-5**
- **The Sound Pattern for All Believers – 2:6-8**
- **Sound Qualities In the Workplace – 2:9-10**
- **Staying Sound - Looking for the Blessed Hope – 2:11-15**

**Sound Qualities of the Older Men – 2:1-2**

**(Titus 2:1 NKJV) But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:**

**prescription for a healthy spiritual life**

*sound doctrine* – healthy, incorrupt, wholesome; The prescription for a healthy spiritual life Titus is the Word. In a world that is sick, in a world that many are living on deathbed, the remedy is always one thing, the Word of God. Gang, if you have friends whose lives are ill from ravages of sin and the flesh, the only medicine that will make them healthy is this Word of God, for it is the breath of Life.

**No Doctrinal Teaching**

It is interesting after Paul makes this statement to Titus, speak healthy doctrine, that he immediately starts to instruct on how the men and woman in the church are to live. After saying Titus speak and teach sound doctrine, I would have expected Paul to start going over doctrinal issues such as sanctification, justification, eschatology, Calvinism, and armianism. Instead, this is how men and woman in the church should be living.

**doctrine will always translate into duty**

Why, because doctrine will always translate into duty. As we mentioned in the last study, Paul will not defend doctrine in this epistle, instead he calls for the application of doctrine into everyday life. Titus was with Paul in Corinth, he was with Paul as Paul taught on very key doctrinal issues. Paul is confident that Titus is teaching sound doctrine to the church in Crete; Paul is emphasizing that the church in Crete apply the teachings that they have heard.

**They Profess to Know God**

We ended chapter one with:

*(Titus 1:16 NKJV) They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.*

**Quote it, Cant' Live it / O-I-A**

Paul was saying hey these guys talk the Christianise, they can quote all the Scripture, but it is not translating over into their everyday life. Titus, and every pastor and Bible teacher to come, whether you teach 3 year olds, or 103 year old, sound teaching that produces a sound church must have three elements to it: O – I - A

Observation – this is what the Scripture says.

Interpretation – this is what the Scripture means.

Application – this is how you are to apply it to your life.

Many people will get the Observation and the Interpretation, but will not apply it into their everyday life, therefore they can quote it, but never live it. There is preaching out there that gives the Observation and lays on the Application heavily, but people have no chance to live it, cause they can't understand what it means, therefore they are trying to apply something that hasn't reached their heart, and started a heart change, therefore it is powerless because the Word of God hasn't been shown clearly to them as we studied last week.

**(Titus 2:2 NKJV) that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;**

### **the context as a whole is not to be foolish / Forever Young**

Let me sum all these together; it is not just talking about being drunk, but the context as a whole is not to be foolish. The warning here is for older men not to fall to the mindset of the world, forever young. Especially now we live in a very youthful culture, there is a pressure to stay young and look young. I saw a 20/20 special a while back that was on older men, and the hundred fold increase of them having cosmetic surgery so they can stay looking young.

### **Mid-Life Crisis / Bimbo**

How sad it is when men go through a mid-life crisis and fall into the snares of the devil. They trade the wife of their youth in for some, Bimbo (excuse me if that is politically correct). Older men, or any man, run to the arms of the wife of your youth.

*(Proverbs 5:15 NKJV) Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well.*

*(Proverbs 5:16 NKJV) Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets?*

*(Proverbs 5:17 NKJV) Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you.*

*(Proverbs 5:18 NKJV) Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth.*

*(Proverbs 5:19 NKJV) As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.*

*(Proverbs 5:20 NKJV) For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?*

### **Embarrassed / Flirting / Good Shape**

I am embarrassed when I watch older men try to flirt with younger woman, I use to see it all the time at the gym. As the man walked away feeling rather coy, I would see the girls turn to each other and laugh behind his back. The comb-overs, and the sports cars, it is embarrassing. The clock is ticking, we can slow it down, but we can't stop it. Men be realistic with yourself, you are getting older. I heard a study the other day: when asked, 69% of this of men surveyed said they thought they were in good physical shape. A doctor performed health check on these same men and reported by health standards only 13% of them were actually in good shape. Ego's are so deceiving.

### **Rotting Flesh**

I remember my friend Pastor Ted, he would call me and say what are you doing, I'd say I just finished working out, and he would say, rotting flesh. Now you know what I am saying, I'm saying we should let ourselves go or anything like that:

*(1 Timothy 4:8 NKJV) For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.*

### **Embrace it / Use the Wisdom**

But, older men, accept age, embrace it with power. I am embarrassed to think of some of the things I said and did as a young Christian, I wouldn't want to go back ten years for all the money in the world. I cherish the wisdom I have gained over the years, and now I want to share that wisdom with all I can. Older men, don't be foolish with the blessing of maturity, go and give it out for the furtherance of the Kingdom.

### **Looking Forward**

*in patience* – this is waiting and looking forward. Keep focused on the Lords soon return, or that you will be seeing Him soon due to circumstances, and you will live soberly, reverently, and sound in the faith.

I read a wonderful story the other day. A older man who was struggling through life, had been divorced for 14 years, watched the Jesus Video, and surrendered his life to Christ. His wife was an active member in the church that sent him the video, he started to attend that church. And

shortly thereafter, at 80 years old he and his former wife remarried. The same pastor who performed that wedding ceremony was called to this mans death bed, and the pastor was asked to perform his going-home service. Ahh death where is your sting.

### **Sound Qualities of the Older Woman / Younger Woman – 2: 3-5**

**(Titus 2:3 NKJV) the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;**

Now a list of things older woman should be.

#### **diabolos**

*not slanderers* – KJV says false accusers. Interesting word here, it is the same word used for devil: diabolos, dee-ab'-ol-os;. Satan:--false accuser, devil, slanderer.

*(Revelation 12:10 KJV) ..... for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

#### **kategoros**

Accuser means - kategoros, kat-ay'-gor-os; against one in the assembly, i.e. a complainant at law; spec. Satan:--accuser. It is where we get our word category, catagorize.

#### **Categorizing**

Slanders, are pawns in Satan hands. They categorize people into categories. Well since she dresses like this she must be a.....since he drives that car he must be.....Once a person falls in a sin, they are put in this category for life, no matter how repented, no matter how powerful their rebound was, they are put in that category for life.

#### **Robs that person**

The Lord says don't do it, every time you slander someone, you are doing the work of Satan. I have told you this story before, but I remember a couple at the church I went to in the south, and they were awesome. Their kids were awesome, I use to love being around them, they always lifted me up, I always walked away feeling good. One day I talking about how great they were, and this lady said yea it is too bad that she cheated on him. I said what? Ohh yea years ago, but he forgave her. That person didn't just do a misjustice to them, but a great disservice to me. For from that point on, when I would see them, that thought always went through my mind. Their sin was washed away, God was doing a great work through them, their kids were living examples, yet a person, let Satan use them as a pawn, to put them in a category.

#### **Don't tip the Bottle**

Paul says they should be sober, maybe because a few tips of the bottle gets the tongue a little too loose.

#### **Too much Time**

Maybe Paul says this about older woman because they have too much time on their hands, I don't know, the kids are gone and they sit around with nothing else to do but peck, peck, peck. Verse four says this is what they should be doing, investing in the younger girls in the church.

**(Titus 2:4 NKJV) that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,**

**(Titus 2:5 NKJV) to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.**

### **Teaching the Younger Woman**

Let the older woman in the church gather the younger woman to themselves and say here are something's I've learned in my marriage. Do this and do that, don't do this and don't do that, and watch how blessed your marriage will be, watch your kids grow in the Lord.

*homemakers, ....., that the word of God may not be blasphemed* – A note for you wives; woman are more spiritual than men, so woman will be more desirous of seeking the things of God, but woman, you have to have that balance in that you maintain your home also. There are husbands who are not at Bible Studies because they have to clean the house, do laundry, take care of the kids, along with maintain the house. It not only lets the unsaved blaspheme God (when they can see it), but it will cause the husband to have resentment towards the Bible Studies and their wives. So ladies a balance is important. As for you single gals, enjoy this time of singleness, because when you are married, you can't let your house and laundry go for days, and get around to it when its convenient, it will never be convenient once you are married, and you will never have to the freedom you have today. Don't waste your singleness being depressed that you are not married, enjoy and maximize this season in your life.

### **Great Woman's Bible Study**

Ladies, verses 3-5 would make a great woman's Bible study. Take this list and have heart to heart discussions on them. Share the Word, and share victories and failures, and glean from each other.

### **Pray for Older to Come to this Church**

I ask you to pray with me, I have been praying for older people to come to this church to help us out. To bring those years of wisdom from walking with the Lord, and share them with us, pass them on to us. Spiritual mothers and fathers. I desire that all of our marriage counseling and preparation be done be godly couple who have decades of wisdom that they can share with young couples. So please put that on your prayer list.

### **The Sound Pattern for All Believers – 2:6-8**

**(Titus 2:6 NKJV) Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded,**  
**(Titus 2:7 NKJV) in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,**  
**(Titus 2:8 NKJV) sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.**

### **Tupos /mark from a Die**

For young men, and all, be a pattern. We have discussed this before in our studies in Timothy. The word for pattern is "tupos". It is an image made after being struck. A die that was used to make copies, a blueprint that would be used to make exact copies.

### **Jesus our Master Blueprint**

Our master blueprint is Jesus Christ. We are to pattern our lives after Him; and it is through our lives that we are to be an expressed image of Him. Jesus in the flesh was the image of God. If people wanted to know who God was, all they had to do was look at Jesus.

*(Colossians 1:15 NKJV) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

### **Jesus dwelt among the people**

By looking at Jesus they could come to that place of knowing God so intimately, that they would know that God Himself was dwelling among them.

*(John 1:14 NKJV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

## **Eden – Delight / The Garden Sanctuary / Christ in You**

As I mentioned in Genesis, “Eden” meant delight, it wasn’t delightful because it was a beautiful garden of floral and vegetation, but it was delightful because it was where man and God dwelt together in communion and fellowship, as they would walk in the cool of the day. The Garden was a sanctuary where Adam would fellowship with his creator. Today that garden, that place of delight, is Christ in you.

In the Old Testament, the tabernacle was the sanctuary. Build it according to this pattern so that people may come and fellowship with me.

*(Exodus 25:8 NKJV) "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.*

*(Exodus 25:9 NKJV) "According to all that I show you, that is, **the pattern** of the tabernacle and **the pattern** of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.*

Today, that sanctuary and tabernacle, that place of man meeting with his Creator, is a mans very own heart.

*(1 Corinthians 3:16 NKJV) Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

Today if people want to know who God is, they should be able to look at Christians and say that is a reflection of God. Grace, mercy, peace, and love. I know more of who God is by looking at His people. And may they open their hearts up to Him, and allow Him to dwell among them.

## **Sound Qualities In the Workplace – 2:9-10**

**(Titus 2:9 NKJV) Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,**

**(Titus 2:10 NKJV) not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.**

### **Don't talk Back**

*not answering back* – Workers, don't talk back to your boss. Talking back is disrespectful to them, and it is a poor pattern. If the moment is heated, walk away and let things cool off, and say boss may I speak to you please. Then you can tell him, in the pattern of God, of what is bothering you. You may not get your way, but you will have told him or her what you felt is important, and you would have been a good example.

### **Don't Steal**

*not pilfering* – this means not stealing. Its not just talking the Enron stuff, but paper clips and pens. I'll tell you another big one, long-distance calls. It is stealing, unless you have been given the ok to make personal long distance calls, it is stealing. Whatever you are making that call for, you can't expect God to bless it, for it is going against His word.

### **Adorn**

*that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.* – adorn means to decorate, like we decorate a Christmas Tree. The application isn't to display ourselves, but here it says to display the doctrine of God, our Savior. Bosses and Co-workers should say man there is something about these people who profess to be Christians. Our actions and work ethics should attract people to our God, we should make people desire to know Him.

I think it is important to note this – for you to succeed, your company must succeed. The better my company does, the longer I should be employed. I can't help what my co-workers are doing, but I can help what I do. And who knows, God may keep your company afloat, in business, just to provide for you. And should your company go out of business, or you should be laid off, then you who have worked hard and be a good witness can take comfort and peace in the fact – that you did your best, you were faithful,, therefore being laid off was part of god's will to do something in my life.

## **Staying Sound - Looking for the Blessed Hope – 2:11-15**

**(Titus 2:11 NKJV) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,**

### **The Word Became Man**

*(John 1:14 NKJV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

2000 years ago Jesus walked this earth to bring all men into His arms of love. A God who got His hands dirty to create mankind in the Garden, and some 4000 years later those same hands would be pierced with a nail so that salvation would appear, be made available to all men.

**(Titus 2:12 NKJV) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,**

### **Once we Embrace / Crazy World / Verse 13**

Once we embrace this grace, this salvation, we must be those who deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. How can we do it, how can we live in this world with all the lures and temptations to draw us away. How do we stay loving and patient in such a carnal, perverse, crazy world? Verse 13 tells us how.

**(Titus 2:13 NKJV) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**

**(Titus 2:14 NKJV) 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.**

### **Nothing is more Impacting**

Nothing has as powerful impact on anyone's life, then living in the expectancy that Jesus is coming back at any moment.

*(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

*(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

### **It will effect every area of your life**

If you really believe that Jesus is coming back soon, it will effect every area of your life. Your entertainment, who you hang out with, your free time, your family.

### **Without a vision the people perish**

The beauty of this is that it keeps you focused, it keeps you from thinking that this is just another day, another day to grind it out. Rather it keeps you focused that time is short, if he doesn't return today, He is going to return tomorrow. The finish line is near, I just need to hang on today, be pure today.

*(Proverbs 29:18 KJV) Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*

**(Titus 2:15 NKJV) Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.**

Titus, and those of you hearing this, it won't be easy, but speak these things; it doesn't matter if they like you or not, you speak it with authority, and you will live it in power.

# Chapter 3

## **Furtherance of the gospel, / truth will produce godliness**

Paul is writing his young protégé Titus who he left to minister in Crete. As we studied in chapter one, Paul, the servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, is writing to Titus for the furtherance of the gospel, so that the truth will be known and produce godliness in those who will receive the truth, for godliness is produced through the truth.

## **Age Abiding Life**

This gospel and truth gives us age abiding life which isn't just duration of life, but quality of life.

What is eternal life?

*(John 17:3 NKJV) "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

## **We know Him / preaching of the Word / Word is manifested**

We know Him and we know His truths through the preaching of the Word; for the Word is manifested, made clear, through the preaching of the Word. I am not just talking about understanding the Scriptures, but that we see Jesus Christ more clearly every time we read and study his word, because God will never give His Word, independent of Himself.

## **this is why I left you in Crete**

Paul says Titus, this is why I left you in Crete, for the furtherance of the gospel, to show clearly the Son, and the truth that is in the Son

## **well-prepared for this ministry**

Titus you have been prepared for this ministry. You have been my disciple, you were with me when major decision concerning church doctrine were made, you co-labored with me in a very carnal church in Corinth, you spearheaded the effort to raise funds for those suffering in Jerusalem, and you are a Greek, ministering to Greeks. You have been well-prepared for this ministry God has placed you in.

## **establish order**

Now Titus, along with the preaching and teaching of the word, I want you to establish order in the church. A healthy church has to have order, therefore appoint, not elect, elders and bishops to help run and minister to the church. Titus, raise up leaders, not followers. Raise up leaders that will take your sound teaching, will hold fast to them, that the teachings will become a part of their very being, and these leaders will go and teach and correct others in the church.

## **insubordinate who will speak the Christianise**

Paul says Titus this will be necessary for there in your church, and every church to come, there will be insubordinate who will speak the Christianise, but their lifestyles will deny their words. Titus the teaching of the word and solid leaders are essential for a sound church.

## **Chapter 2 / Doctrine to Duty / Older men – young ladies / Patterns**

Then in chapter 2 the call for all to put their doctrine to duty, their faith in action, to apply what they have learned into everyday practical Christian living. That older men be sober, that younger men be examples, that older woman be wise and teach the younger women, that younger woman keep their house and love their husbands, that workers be excellent on the job. That all believers are to be patterns of Jesus Christ that others can follow.

## **Blessed Hope**

And we do this by staying focused, looking forward to the blessed hope, the soon appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ. That every are of our lives be impacted by the fact that He is coming, if not today, tomorrow. That we live purified lives.

## **Zealous for good works**

And that we will be zealous for good works. Determined and excited to serve Christ by being obedient to His word, and serving and loving those around us. Which leads us into chapter 3.

### **Theme of the Book of Titus:**

*(Titus 1:5 NKJV) 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;*

*(Titus 3:8 NKJV) This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.*

### **Outline of the Book of Titus:**

- Essentials for a Sound Church
- Sound Leaders – Chapter 1
- Sound Members – Chapter 2
- Sound Witness to the World – Chapter 3

### **Detailed Outline of Chapter 3:**

- Sound Witness to the World – Chapter 3
  - Relationship with Civil Government & Community - 3:1
  - Relationship with Fellow Man – 3:2-8
  - Relationship with Problem People - 3:9-10
  - Final Messages & Farewell – 3:12-15

Every church needs to be and should be impacting the world around them. We should be a sound witness to the world.

Concerning the church, Dick Halverson, former chaplain of the US Senate said: "In the beginning the church was a fellowship of men and women centering on the living Christ. Then the church moved to Greece where it became a philosophy. Then it moved to Rome where it became an institution. Next, it moved to Europe where it became a culture. And finally, it moved to America where it became an enterprise."

If you were to define the church, what would you say? People could answer in many ways: "The church is a building," "The church is a denomination," or perhaps, "The church is an outdated institution." But Paul described "the church of God":

*(Titus 2:14 NKJV) 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.*

*(1 Corinthians 1:2 NIV) To the church of God in Corinth, to those **sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy**, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--their Lord and ours:*

as "you who have been called by God to be **his own holy people**" (1 Corinthians 1:2).

The church isn't a name, place, or set of rules...the church is a group of people set apart and sanctified by God.

And that church, just for the very fact that they are set apart by God, will impact their community and world.

## **1.) Relationship with Civil Government & Community - 3:1**

**(Titus 3:1 NKJV) Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,**

### **Obedience part of Witness / Taxes – Trash / Speeding**

Part of our witness is to obey the Laws of the Land. We are to pay our taxes, pay for cable, not trash the roadside, etc, and to obey the speed limits, the State Troopers have a joke about Christians, they call them the flying fish because of the fish symbol on the rear of the car. Of course the immediate response I hear from Christians is that is why I don't have one on my car. No, no, in all cases be subject to the rulers and authorities. Why?

*(Romans 13:1 NKJV) Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

*(Romans 13:2 NKJV) Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.*

### **God's Authority / God's Law Supercedes / Obedience in all areas**

You see you reject God's authority when you reject man's authority. Obviously if the day comes in this land where the Law is contrary to the word of God, then always, God's Word is the supreme authority. But for us here today, that is not the issue, the issue is obedience in every area of your life, including the little stuff.

*(Matthew 25:21 NKJV) "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

### **2 things / God can trust you / obedience brings joy**

Two things you will see here in this verse, 1.) if God can trust you with the little stuff, then He knows He can trust you with more – so that means more of the Lord. 2.) obeying allows you to enter into the joy of the Lord.

### **Pillar in Community / We lead people / Church has to be different**

The church is to be the Pillar and Ground of truth in its community, the church is to be more important than good schools, elected officials, even health and rescue workers (as great and needed as all those are), for the church has the blessed gift of leading people into the arms of Jesus. But if the church lives no different than the world, than the world see no difference in the church, therefore no need for the church.

### **Context of Community / Go Volunteer**

*ready for every good work*, -I believe, in the context, this means ready to do good works in your community. As I said the church should be impacting its community, a church that doesn't reach out to its community, I wonder about.

### **Another Reason to be Active**

But let me give you another reason be active in your community, for you. Get out and serve your community, and watch the blessing flow in your life. I met a man the other night who was on Zoloff for seven years, he said he had to go on it because he was depressed. He said it really made a difference, I could see and feel the difference. But he said, I got involved in serving in the community as a volunteer, and he said I haven't had to take Zoloff for three years now.

## **2.) Relationship with Fellow Man – 3:2-8**

How we relate to people in our community and world is vital to our sound witness to the world. How we relate to them, is how they will believe God is, for we are a pattern of Jesus Christ.

**(Titus 3:2 NKJV) to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.**

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

### **Remember their condition / deceived by satan**

We are called to be gentle and loving with our fellow man. We must remember their spiritual condition, and why they are doing what they are doing; because they are deceived by Satan.

### **Deceived / want to be free / truly a slave**

*deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures* - Deceived and serving various lusts - People say they don't want to be Christians because they don't want to be slaves. Truly it is the unbeliever that is the slave; before we were slaves our sin lead us around by the nose, it dictated our lives of what we would and would not do.

### **Finding the right master / A master who would leave his throne**

The point of life isn't finding freedom, but finding the right master. A master who would leave His throne, have His beard plucked out, His face beaten beyond recognition, His back shredded by a whip embedded with bits of pottery and bones, then his raw back laid upon a splinter filled tree. A splintered filled tree that He would slide he raw back up and down against as He would have to push His body up in order to get a grasp of air. All the while having to push the full weight of His body up on the nails pierced through His ankles. Crucifixion was a slow form of suffocation, because the body would sag on the outstretched arms cutting off air to the lungs, so the person would have to push up on the nails to straighten their body to get a breath of air.

### **6 hours / Why? / to free man / Love and Hatred**

Six hours, six hours....Why, to free man from the enslavement of various lusts, envy, be hateful, and hating others. Christian, we always talk about the love demonstrated on the Cross, but never forget that the Cross was the demonstration of love and the hatred of God. For God hates sin, and the ravages sin has upon a life. Sin was judged that day, not to make it free to live in it, but free to escape the enslavement of it.

The Master who freed us is now seated at the Right hand of the Father,

### **Remember from where you came**

The Lord reminds us, remember how you were where they are at. Don't ever forget where you came from, or you will never be able to bring them where you are at. We are a forgiven people, therefore we should be forgiving of others.

**(Titus 3:4 NKJV) But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,**

**(Titus 3:5 NKJV) 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,**

**(Titus 3:6 NKJV) whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,**

### **Not our works / Fig Leaves / Mark 11**

*not by works of righteousness which we have done* - It is not about us, our righteousness, but about what He has done for us, in place of us. Man can not cover his sin, they are nothing but Fig Leaves. In Mark 11 Jesus cursed the fig tree for not producing fruit. The leaves were there, but figs to satisfy the hunger of Christ. Our own works and efforts will never satisfy the requirement for sin, it will only leave us cursed.

*(Mark 11:12 NKJV) Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry.*

*(Mark 11:13 NKJV) And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.*

*(Mark 11:14 NKJV) In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it*

### **Renewing of HS / Nicodemus**

*renewing of the Holy Spirit* - In John 3:3, Nicodemus comes to the Lord and asks what must a man do to be saved, and Jesus said unless one is born again he can not enter the kingdom of God. It is important to note who Jesus is saying this too. Nicodemus was one of the most

respected religious leaders of that day. He was a religious ruler of the Jews we are told in the Scripture, Secular historians tell us he was one of the three wealthiest men in Jerusalem. Secular historians tells us that to study under Nicodemus was a greatest honor (like going to Harvard Law School), he was the leading theologian of his day, one of the most knowledgeable in the OT Scriptures, and it was he that Jesus made the statement to, you must be born again.

### **No Confusion / Not your standing or status / must be born again**

Jesus says this to this man, so there can be no confusion, it is not you religious involvement, your reputation in the community, your social status, your knowledge of doctrine and Scriptures, it is nothing in and of yourself, it has to be all God, you must be born again.

Only God can cover your sin. All the way back in the garden He covered Adam and Eves sin, until the perfect covering, Jesus Christ, who covers us with a robe of righteousness.

*(Genesis 3:21 NKJV) Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*

### **White as Snow**

Only God can wash you, and make you white as snow:

*(Isaiah 1:18 NIV) "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.*

### **(Titus 3:7 NKJV) that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

Justified - Just if I had Never Sinned. That is the theology of justification, God looks at you as if you have never sinned, He looks at you and sees purity.

Grace - God's Riches, at Christ's Expense. It is all by grace, unearned favored nothing to do with our discipline, dedication, or devotion, but His unmerited favor.

*heirs according to the hope of eternal life. -*

*(John 17:3 NKJV) "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

### **Heirs of the Father / Age Abiding**

We are heirs to the riches of the Father. The Greek word for eternal life means "age abiding life", it means more than just duration, but also the quality of life. Hope of eternal life, is not just heaven future, but here and now. Eternal life begins now, then goes on into heaven.

*(Ephesians 1:3 KJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

### **Whoever gets the Son – gets it all**

You've heard the story, but it is worth repeating. A wealthy man was an avid art collector; his collection was worth millions and millions of dollars. His favorite painting though was of his beloved son whom he had lost at too early of age. The painting of his son was done by a common artist, a no name. It had no value outside the fathers home, yet it was the centerpiece of the fathers art collection. It rested over the fireplace in the center of the room, and it sat among the greats, like Picasso, Rembrandt, and Davincci. When the father died, having no heir to leave his estate to, his will stated that his entire art collection was to be auctioned off, and all monies to go to charity.

He auction day came, and art collectors and investors traveled long and far to come to such and auction, an auction like none before. The room was filled to overflowing, and all sat in excitement and anticipation waiting for a chance at a rare treasure. The auctioneer came out, greeted the bidders, and presented the first piece of art work, the painting of the son. The bidders eyes rolled

and said what's this, we came for the masterpieces, but the auctioneer said it was the fathers directions that this be the first one presented. Who will open the bid he said. Others were like come on lets get to the good stuff, but finally some man said, 25 dollars, the room chuckled, and the auctioneer said do I hear 30, so some entertained, and said 35, and 40, while others said hurry up lets get to the good stuff. The final bid was 50 dollars, do I hear 55, silence, going once, going twice, sold to the man in the back for 50 dollars.

Everyone clapped all right now the good stuff. But the staff started to breakdown the auction room. People said whooo, wait a minute, how about the rest? The masterpieces, the greats! The Auctioneer said that is it, there are no more, for the fathers directions were that whoever would get the son, would get it all. Every other piece of art would go to whoever would take the son, for whoever got the son, got it all.

So too it is for us, those who believe, those who have taken the Son, for the Father says that whoever takes the Son, gets it all.

### **The Blessed Assurance**

*according to the hope of eternal life.* - It is the hope, the blessed assurance that some day we will see Him face to face. It is this assurance that makes us live focused on Him, that His appearing could be at any moment. It leads us to a purifying life.

### **Francis Jane Crosby – 1820-1915 / blind / father died/ her child died**

When Francis Jane Crosby was only six weeks old, she was taken to a doctor to treat an inflammation in her eyes caused by a cold. The normal doctor was out of town and the substitute gave her a faulty treatment that blinded her within days. She was blind for the rest of her life. When Francis was just a year old, her father died and her mother had to hire herself out as a maid to provide for the family. The girl was able to attend a school for blind children and afterwards taught there. When she was 29 a cholera epidemic killed more than half of the children in the school. After she married, her only child died in infancy.

### **Happy / Loved Jesus / 8500 poems and songs /**

Yet, in spite of these tragedies, Francis Jane was always a cheerful, happy person, free from the bitterness that so easily besets humans. When only eight years old, she wrote a poem that revealed a lot about the spunky little girl, who climbed trees and played practical jokes in spite of her blindness:

Oh what a happy child I am, although I cannot see!  
I am resolved that in this world, contented I will be!  
How many blessings I enjoy that other people don't!  
So weep or sigh because I'm blind I cannot--nor I won't!

Francis had a natural talent for writing poems and was often asked to recite her poetry. Eventually, her writing brought her national recognition and she was invited to visit presidents and generals and other notable dignitaries. She even was asked to play at President Grant's funeral. When she finally died in 1915, just 6 weeks shy of her 95th birthday, Francis had written over 8,500 poems and songs.

Most importantly, Francis - better known as "Fanny" - loved Jesus Christ. Fanny's love for her Savior became the inspiration for her thousands of songs and poems, many of which are still sung in churches every weekend today. Many beloved hymns bear the name Fanny Crosby, including "To God be the glory, great things He hath done," "I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice," and "Blessed Assurance."

### **Blessed Assurance /**

When a preacher once sympathetically remarked that it was a pity God had not given her sight, Fanny replied, "Do you know that if at birth I had been able to make one petition, it would have

been that I should be born blind?" The preacher asked her why. "Because" she said, "When I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior!"

### **This is my Story**

Focusing on Jesus and seeing the good in God's plans for her, Fanny reached millions of people around the world. Children in church and soldiers on the battlefield alike have been touched by her words. May we, like Fanny Crosby, rejoice in the goodness of our God in every situation, that like her we can sing, "This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior, all the day long..."

Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

#### Chorus

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior, all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

#### Chorus

Perfect submission, all is at rest  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

#### Chorus

**(Titus 3:8 NKJV) This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.**

The Theme of the Book:

### **Affirm Justified by Grace**

*This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly* - Affirm what constantly?, that we are justified by grace according to His mercy, not our righteousness, our works, its all Him. We need to affirm this constantly, this blessed assurance, constantly to each others, to our family, to our kids. How do you affirm it constantly, by speaking it and hearing over and over and over again. It is what you know well, that will have the greatest effects on your life, what you know a little, will have little effect on your life. So affirm these things constantly.

### **Affirm Good Works**

*maintain good works* - Affirm what constantly?, you have to maintain your house, your car, your health, and so too you have to maintain good works, it doesn't just happen, you have to purpose that it is something you will do.

## **3.) Relationship with Problem People - 3:9-10**

How we deal with problem people is vital to our sound witness to the world. The church is to be the Pillar and Ground of Truth in the community; if the community, the world around us, sees that we wink an eye at sin, we lose our witness to the world.

**(Titus 3:9 NKJV) But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.**

#### **Keep main thing – Main Thing / Older men – Young Ladies / False Teachers**

Avoid disputes and strivings, keep the main thing the main thing. Stay away from the things that really don't matter. Keep teaching the things that matter; that older men be sober, that younger men be examples, that older woman be wise and teach the younger women, that younger woman keep their house and love their husbands, that workers be excellent on the job.

#### **Stay away theology arguments**

Stay away from arguments over baptism, smoking, body piercing, and unsolvable doctrinal debates; the false teachers were trying to draw people into these debates over doctrine. Do the main things, and you'll find that the other things will take care of themselves.

#### **Best theology is being with Jesus**

For this sound witness, don't worry about arguing doctrine and theology, the best theology lesson is your life, all the smart theologians challenged how the disciple could live and teach in such boldness, being uneducated and untrained, but the answer was clear to the religious that they couldn't deny, the disciples had been with Jesus.

*(Acts 4:13 NKJV) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*

**(Titus 3:10 NKJV) Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,**

Here is an important key, stay away from a person who just wants to debate and argue over doctrine or personal opinions. The reason they want to argue is because they don't want to repent.....see verse 11

**(Titus 3:11 NKJV) knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.**

#### **Warped – Support their Sin**

Warped means not straight. These people are sinning and already condemn themselves. We don't have to deal with them, argue with them, they are arguing with you because they know they are wrong, and are trying to get people to support their sin.

#### **strategy of Satan**

This is a strategy of Satan; you see if he can get you tied up in debates with a person who is causing division in the church then he has not only nullified that person's witness through their personal sin, he has now nullified your witness, because you could be reaching people who really do want to hear about God love and grace, but your time is wasted on a person who won't listen.

You can't argue with a fool, don't waste your time, after the second time let it go, don't let them consume your time. You won't convince them, let God deal with them.

#### **Take sides / Leave church / Dating**

Divisive people want others to take side, chose who you agree with. Watch out for them. Let me just add here two of the most common areas this happens in the church. One is when someone wants to leave the church, so rather than just leave, they blast the pastor, the worship

team, or this ministry or that ministry; whereas if they just said we feel God calling us to go somewhere else, then there would be no division. Secondly, dating. I see it all the time, a couple dates, it doesn't work out, and then a war begins. Gossip and backbiting, as one or both tries to get others to rally to their side, and chose who they will be friends with. They tear the other down, people in the church picks side, and then the unity is gone, and Satan is victorious inside the church again. If someone is doing either of these, then reject them, and see that they are in sin.

#### **4.) Final Messages & Farewell – 3:12-15**

**(Titus 3:12 NKJV) When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.**

**(Titus 3:13 NKJV) Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing.**

Zenas the lawyer. Paul calls for a lawyer, I wonder if Paul had a sense that he was going to be imprisoned soon by Ceasar Nero?

**(Titus 3:14 NKJV) And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.**

Here I think is a Biblical example of how the church is to support missionaries. The missionaries would not be fundraisers, then should be out in the harvest, bringing in the fruit.

**(Titus 3:15 NKJV) All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.**

Paul ends here with grace, for grace is where we began this epistle, and where we end, for it is all about Grace. God's riches at Christ's expense. For whoever gets the Son, gets it all.

For whoever takes the Son, gets it all. This Blessed Hope, someday we will see Him face to face.