

Titus, His Mission

Let me welcome you once again to “It’s a Good Life.” Right now, let me invite you to open your Bible to the book of Titus, and we’re going to look at some things here today that Paul instructed Titus to do, and we can also draw some information about our own life as we look at Titus, the book of Titus.

Right now, let me pray with you. Father, I pray now that You would bless this program, bless the reading of Your Word, and, Lord, I pray that the Word would go forth without hindrance, that You would receive all the honor and glory. I pray for that person listening today, Lord, that person who’s never trusted You. May that person come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ even today. And I pray, Lord, for that person who has trusted you. May that person, Lord, who’s trusted You live for You, serve You, and have the testimony that is pleasing to You. May each of us, Lord, strive daily to serve You more. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Well, in the book of Titus, we read something of Paul the apostle as he is instructing Titus here. Paul had left Titus in Crete to set things in order in the Christian church. We see this in verse 5. It says, *For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee.*

In the churches that God has established, there is to be certain things that’s to be done in order. Everything is to be done in order. God is not the author of confusion, and He’s left us His Word to guide and direct us in these matters. And in Titus, we’re reading how Paul was instructing Titus to do certain things to help the churches.

Now, Paul says in so many words, “Do the following to set things in order.” And we pick up here in Titus 2:1. Paul tells Titus, *But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.* Well, what is sound doctrine? Sound doctrine is solid teaching, solid preaching of the Word of God, nothing left out, no sugar coating. Just tell it like it is. Don’t be afraid to tell people the way God has said it in His Word.

In Titus 2:2, he goes on to say, “Teach this, Titus.” *That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.* Well, as we look at these words that Paul has instructed Titus about here, that the aged men are to do certain things,

First, they are to be sober. This means not fanciful or speculative, not to speculate or guess about salvation. And they are to be serious about the things of God. You know, we’re to do the same thing today. We’re not to be speculative. We’re not to be fanciful. We don’t speculate or guess about salvation. We know that salvation is of the Lord, and we’re to be serious about the things of God. We’re not to make light of the things of God. When we do that, we’re making fun of God and we should never do that. That’s blaspheming God Himself.

Well, Paul goes on to tell Titus about these older people. Now, this does not necessarily mean... “the aged men” does not necessarily mean that they are really old people. It simply means... now, they could be old people, but I believe it’s speaking of those who have, you know, they’ve been in the Word of God and they’ve learned the things of God and now they’re getting further instructions here.

They've been saved for maybe some time, and Paul says that they're to be sober, first of all, and then grave. You know, the Christian life is not all fun and games, but it is an awesome responsibility to God. Do you know that we're ambassadors for God? We are to represent and we are representing God. When people see a saved person, they are actually seeing an ambassador, someone who is representing the God of Heaven, and what an awesome responsibility that is and what a great privilege it is to be able to represent God, the Creator of all things, the Savior of mankind. That is, the Savior of those who will trust Jesus as Savior.

And then Paul goes on to use the word "temperate." We're to restrain ourselves from wild behavior and attitude. That goes along with being grave, but it carries it a little bit further. We're to restrain ourselves from this behavior that is unbecoming to a Christian, and we're not to have the wrong attitudes as we go through this life as we serve God.

Well, Paul goes on to say that, to be sound in faith, he says, know how you got saved and who saved you. In other words, there's to be no doubt. I believe that one of the greatest hindrances to the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, of people giving out the plan of salvation to other people in this world, one of the greatest hindrances to this is for that person who's giving it out not being sure themselves of their own salvation. People get so wrapped up in worrying about their own salvation that they're not able to tell other people how to go to Heaven. Know for sure that you're saved, that you've trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior. Get it settled in your mind and in your heart, and then serve God, taking the plan of salvation to people of this world so that they, too, will be in Heaven one day with you.

Paul goes on to say, and he uses the word "charity." Now, we know this word means love,

and it carries a little bit further here. This is impartial love. Everybody is to be loved the same. Jesus makes no difference who you are and who I am. All need Christ and all Christians need the love of other Christians. We should make no difference in the person who's in the ghetto, the person who's on the street, the person who is homeless, the person who has a million dollars in the bank. We should make no difference in those people. If they've never trusted Jesus Christ, they need salvation. And all Christians need the love of other Christians. We need to love our brothers and sisters. People make mistakes even as Christians, but we shouldn't put them down. We should help raise them up. We should help them regain the fellowship if they've gotten out of the will of God, regain that fellowship with our Lord and Savior, because if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, according to I John 1:9. We need to share that with our brothers and sisters in Christ so that they can be serving God and telling other people about Jesus Christ.

And notice, Paul uses the word "patience." This is not losing control when provoked, staying calm. This may be one of the hardest things for Christians, is not losing control because, you know, we're still human, and when somebody does something wrong to us, the normal thing is for us to lash out. But Paul tells Titus that we're not to do that. We're to stay calm and do the things that God wants us to do. Maintain the Christian testimony.

Well, if we read on here, in verse 15, what was Titus supposed to do with the things Paul said he was to teach? Paul says in verse 15: *These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*

You see, I believe that the inferior behavior of Christians today is like the behavior of the

Christians Paul had left Titus to correct. Titus had a real challenge as he sought to plant sound doctrinally stable churches. Well, I believe the challenge today is not only to plant sound and doctrinally stable churches but to find one, as well. The challenge today is not unlike the challenge Titus faced in Crete.

What Christians must be taught today is found in II Corinthians 5:17. Paul says there, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Paul does not say in II Corinthians 5:17 to try and adapt biblical teaching to the behavior of Christians on the customs and culture of their previous environment, in other words their previous unsaved life. The environment surrounding Christians today will not change as long as Christians give into the ungodly environment of the world. In other words, we're not to be like the world. We're not to look like the world. We're not to smell like the world. We're to be different because we are Christians.

If this country is ever going to change and be a Christian country, then Christians need to stand up and be Christians. Every one of us needs to have that Christian testimony because we are new creatures in Christ. Old things are to be passed away. We're to get away from those things because all things are become new in Jesus Christ.

Well, Paul continues in Titus Chapter 3, and I'd like to read down through verse 4 here. In Titus 3:1 Paul says to Titus: *Put them...* This is the people of the church at Crete, and he's speaking to us as well here. *Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work...* Put things in order, he's saying. *²To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle,*

shewing all meekness unto all men. ³For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. He says the people that we're to reach today, we were just like them at one time, but now we've changed because we've trusted Jesus as our Savior.

Paul goes on to say in verse 4: *But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared.* We received Jesus Christ through His kindness and love, the love of God in our Savior Jesus Christ.

But notice, it appeared to all men, to man it appeared. And in Titus 3:5, we're reminded that it's *not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; ⁶Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; ⁷That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸This is a faithful saying...* Paul goes on to say... *and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works...* That's a good testimony... *These things are good and profitable,* Paul says, *unto men.*

Now, Paul seems to end this epistle by leaving Titus and us with the following in verse 14. He says: *And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.* Do what God wants you to do, he's saying here. Have that great testimony, that testimony of God. Show the people of this world that your works be not unfruitful, not to be saved but because you are saved, and you will lead people to Christ.

Verse 15 goes on to say: *All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.*

Do you love God today? If you've never trusted Him, why not do so. Ask Him to come into your heart. And if you do know Him, live for Him and let Him lead you through this life.

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Until next time, this is Doug Anderson reminding you it's a good life living for the Lord. May the Lord bless you richly is our prayer.