Titus 1:1-4

Announcements:

- *Discipleship Ministry - **Pastor Tim** on stage for this… (5 minutes max, ideally 3 minutes ish)*
- *Veteran's Day - Wednesday this week - can we honor now? Please stand…*
- *Election Results - Give a **pastoral response**… (a shock to Texans!)*
  - *He removes kings and raises up kings… (Daniel 2:21) - Daniel served through…*
  - *Stone without hands crushed; kingdom which shall never be destroyed… (Dan. 2:34; 44)*
    - *Political power is temporary… God's sovereignty is not…*
  - *Be steadfast; immoveable; abounding in the work; knowing not in vain… (1 Cor. 15:58)*
  - *More details about specifics and concerns… (see **letter** on table in the foyer)*
- *New Here Lunch & Creative Mtg - Both **after 3rd service next Sunday**…*
- *Check out new "Event" TV's - Will do away with printed flyers soon (**still a struggle** :)*

Please open to the **Book of Titus** ***(Need a Bible?)***

- Back in our *normal flow of expositional teachings*, good Sunday… *fresh book!*
- **3 chapters, 46 verses**: *Sound doctrine; godly living; christian practice for older/younger; church leadership; good works; gospel grace; glorious hope!* ***(owner's manual for a healthy church)***
- *Main theme*: **Set in Order** - ***Crete had a notorious reputation...***
  - *Titus 1:12 - "**Cretans** are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."* ***= True! (hahaha)***
  - Into *a culture of deception*; the *Gospel of truth* of a God who never lies ***(still the same!)***

Message Title: Transforming Truth ***(verses 1-5)***

- ***(all on one slide)***
- **Leads to Godliness** *(v. 1)*
- **Stands on Promises** *(v. 2)*
- **Speaks through Preaching** *(v. 3)*
- **Establishes a Family** *(v. 4)*
- **Straightens the Crooked** *(v. 5)*

Information alone is not enough; we're looking for ***transformation***. ***(seeds = planted/watered!)***

Read Verses 1-4 *(**one long sentence** in the Greek)*

- **PRAY**

Leads to Godliness ***(verse 1)***

*V. 1 - **Paul***

- **A sermon in itself!** *Saul of Tarsus/Apostle Paul (Road to Damascus; three years in Arabia)*
- **Saul and Paul** *(from **shong to shawn,** hahaha - we still know it's you… hahaha)*
- *(likely had **both names from birth**) **Paulos** - "small or little" (possible theological humility?)*
- *Acts 9:15-16 - "...he is **a chosen vessel of Mine** to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake..."*

*V. 1 - A **bondservant** of God and an **apostle** of Jesus Christ*

- **Doulos** - *"slave or bondservant; one who gives himself to the will/service of another **(Heb: 'eved)"** - **sometimes forced; but often a slave by choice… (Ex. 21 out of love for master)***
- ***Doulos***, ***submitted*** but also… ***honored…*** *(title of **Moses**, **David**, and the **prophets**)*
- *Psalm 84:10, NLT - "A single day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else! I **would rather be a gatekeeper in the house of my God** than live the good life in the homes of the wicked…" (written by **temple gatekeepers**; the sons of Korah)*
- **Apostolos** - *"a delegate or messenger; one sent forth with orders (official and broad usages)"*
    - In the **authority of the one sending**… ***of… Iesous Christos (official usage)***
- Notice, **the order matters!** ***Humility before authority***. *(Paul himself had been transformed)*

*V. 1 - According to the **faith of God's elect***

- **Pistis** and ***Eklektos*** (from *eklegomai*: *to **choose out** unto oneself or for a purpose*)
- ***Faith and Election***. **Both are part of the equation**. ***Sovereignty and responsibility***.
- ***Elect*** = mostly used of **God's people as a whole *(church/Israel)***, but the *same word family* is ***used of individuals in certain contexts***: ***the Twelve, Paul, and Christ himself…***
    - Election is *rooted in grace, not worthiness (foolish, weak, base things of the world)*
    - *Deut. 7:7–8 - **Israel not chosen** because (they were least!); because of **sovereign love***
- *The **groom** proposes; the **bride** responds. Wanna, know if you're part of the elect?* **Respond!**
    - ***Picture the gates of heaven***.
    - *Over the outside it reads, "Whosoever will may come" (Rev. 22:17).*
    - *Once you walk through "Chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4).*

*V. 1 - And the **acknowledgment of the truth***

- ***Epignosis** - "complete, correct, precise knowledge ('epi' intensifies thoroughness)"*
- *Not just mere facts*; but **personal experience** *(rooted in fulness of truth)*
- ***Aletheia** - "objectively: of a truth; in reality, fact, or certainty | subjectively: free from pretence; falsehood, or deceit **(Heb: 'emet:** 'firm, stable, reliable')"*
    - **Something solid to stand on!** *(in a world full of **squish** and **deception**…)*
    - ***The Gospel*** is **a battle ground for the Truth**. ***Narratives/ideologies….***
- *John 17:17 - "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." **Jesus is the way, the TRUTH…***
- *2 Tim 2:24-26 - "A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, **if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth**, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will…"* - ***ENEMY!***

*V. 1 - Which **accords with godliness***

- ***Eusebeia** - "godliness; reverent devotion; piety towards God" (all over **1st Timothy**…)*
    - Idea in the OT = ***"fear the Lord"***
- *Titus 1:16 - "They profess to know God, **but in works they deny Him**, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work…" - **false confession** if no godliness…*
- It's ***one thing to know the truth***, but ***another to live it!*** ***(medical school/operating room)***
    - *The worst would be a **pulmonologist that steps out to smoke a cigarette!***
- *James 1:22 - "But be **doers of the word, and not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves."*
- *Titus 2:11-12 - "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age…**"* - **Grace is our teacher** *(**not earning**, but **responding!**)*

Godliness is a fruit of sanctification; it doesn't happen over night…

- ***But not just how you live "out there" … how's your heart "in here" !***

Stands on Promises ***(verse 2)***

V. 2 - In ***hope of eternal life***

- ***Hope (Elpis)*** - **Not wishful thinking** *("I hope this is our year (team)" | **election** results…)*
- *Not like that*. The *hope of the Christian* is **rock solid confidence**… ***(Christ the Solid Rock!)***
- **People need hope in this life!** ***Are you struggling…? Being let down by this world…?***
- *Hebrews 6:19-20, NIV - "We have this **hope as an anchor for the soul**, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf…" - **doesn't stop the waves** from coming; but **keeps the boat from drifting**…*
- ***Aionios + Zoe** = "never to cease; everlasting" + "absolute fulness of life which belongs to God" (not: bios)*
- ***Eternal life*** = **Both quality & quantity**. Jesus defines it as ***knowing the true God (John 17:3).***
- *1 Peter 1:3-4 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has **begotten us again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you…" - **Does not fade away…** (not like old milk left out…)*
- *Titus 3:5-7 - "...according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs **according to the hope of eternal life.**" - the **whole letter is wrapped** in a **blessed hope**. (here, 2:13, and 3:7)*

V. 2 - Which God, ***who cannot lie***

- ***Apseudes** - "un-lying; without falsehood; truthful" - not just something; **contrary to who He is!***
- *Numbers 23:19, NASB - "**God is not a man, that He would lie**, Nor a son of man, that He would change His mind; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" - even **Balaam**, hired to curse, had to admit this…)*
- **Contrast with Crete;** ***Kretizo** means "**to Cretanize,**" to **"lie or deceive"** (out of reputation)*
  - **Goes back to the Garden…** ***Serpent… Father of lies…***
- ***"Trust me"*** - may not mean much from a *cringy salesman*, *mischievous child/teenager*, or *crooked politician*; But with ***the hope of God*** it is not like that. **Flying by instruments!**
- **This is hard for some folks**. ***Been let down so many times…*** heart is bitter or skeptical.
  - ***Allow God to remove that heart of stone… (Ez 36) (He is not like them or those…)***

V. 2 - Promised ***before time began***

- **Eternal life was always the plan!**
- ***Tree of Life*** in *the beginning* and *in the end!* ***(Gen. 2:9; Rev. 22:2) - The means of accessing?***
- *2 Timothy 1:9-10 - "[God]... who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus **before time began, but has now been revealed** by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ."*

More than ever, *in these last days*, people need this *truth and hope of eternal life*…

Speaks through Preaching ***(verse 3)***

V. 3 - But has ***in due time***

- ***Idios Kairos*** = at **just the right time!** ***Pax Romana, Lingua Franca, etc…***
- ***Kairos*** is *not just clock time* (***chronos***), but **in the right season or moment**!
    - ***Galatians 4*** calls it the ***"fullness of time"*** *(will quote in a moment...)*

V. 3 - Manifested His word ***through preaching***

- ***Phaneroo*** *= "to make manifest or visible; to reveal what has been hidden or unknown; to bring to light…"* - the *hope of eternal life* was *made known to mankind!* ***Through…***
- ***Kerygma*** *= "that which is proclaimed by a herald or public crier…"* ***- no edits; just declaring!***
- *Romans 10:17 - "faith comes by hearing, and* ***hearing by the word of God.****"* ***- all of us!*** ***(Nate)***
    - **People gotta hear**. And *God's Word is never void; always accomplishing (Isaiah 55)*
- *Romans 10:14-15 - "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?* ***And how shall they hear without a preacher****? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!'"*
    - **Stirring evangelism** at Selah Hills right now… *I pray many of you have beautiful feet :)*
- *2 Cor. 4:5-6 - "****For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord****, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ…"* ***- not us, but God… Power in that!*** ***(don't need to strive/enhance)***

V. 3 - Which was ***committed to me***

- *Silly analogy:* **A baby sitter** has been ***entrusted with something very precious!*** ***(GOSPEL)***
- ***Pisteuo*** ***(entrusted)*** - same root as ***"faith."*** *A great treasure in an earthen vessel (2 Cor. 4:7).*

V. 3 - ***According to the commandment*** *of God our Savior*

- *2 Timothy 1:11-12 - "[The Gospel] …to which* ***I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles****. For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day…"*
- Special sense, **Paul, as an Apostle**, was ***under orders***, but ***generally applies to you and I***
- ***Great Commission:*** *"Go, preach… make disciples… baptizing… teaching them all…with you"*
- ***Soter*** *- "saviour, deliverer; preserver (often assigned to deities, princes, kings, persons of influence)"* ***- In the ultimate, no president, country, politician, parent, or pastor can do this…***
    - **Only found in a right relationship with God.**

Establishes a Family ***(verse 4)***

V. 4 - To ***Titus***

- A **Greek believer**, ***never circumcised*** *(Gal. 2:3)*
- Paul's ministry companion ***serving in Corinth*** *(2 Cor. 7–8).*
- **Difficult ministry places.** ***What else do we know about this lil bro!?***

V. 4 - A ***true son in our common faith***

- ***Gnesios*** *- "true, genuine, sincere, authentic; legitimately born"* ***- He fully belongs!***
- ***Son*** ***(teknon)*** has **spiritual connections to Paul** ***(Timothy too)***. ***Spiritual father!***
    - ***Do you have anyone?*** *Me:* ***Chris (young adults)****; and* ***Seth (associate pastor)***
- ***Koinos = Common.*** ***(not ordinary, but shared by all)*** ***(related to Koinonia)***
    - **A Family!** ***(even stronger than biological or geographical…)***
- *Jude 3 - "Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you* ***concerning our common salvation****… for* ***the faith which was once for all*** *delivered to the saints…"* ***- Koinos***
    - ***Paul*** ***was a Hebrew of Hebrews;*** ***Timothy*** ***has a blend.*** ***Titus*** ***was a Greek***
    - *Eph 2:14, NLT - "For Christ himself has brought peace to us.* ***He united Jews and Gentiles into one people*** *when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us…" - and that wall was VERY hostile in the first century…*
- ***Now, connecting all these dots…***
- *Galatians 4:4-7, ESV - "But when the* ***fullness of time*** *had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive* ***adoption as sons****. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God…" We all cry out the same; you are not a mere guest, but a child!* ***Belonging!***

V. 4 - ***Grace****, mercy, and* ***peace***
- ***(Charis & Eirene (Chen & Shalom)) =*** **Greek and Jewish!**
    - ***Some MSS:*** ***mercy*** ***(chesed = loving kindness))***
    - ***Grace and peace*** **-** ***Always in that order!***
- Mirrors **numbers 6 Aaronic blessing:**
- *Numbers 6:24-26 - "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and* ***be gracious to you****; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you,* ***and give you peace.****"*

All this flows…

V. 4 - From God the Father ***and*** *the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.*
- Father called ***"Savior"*** in v. 3, Jesus called ***"Savior"*** in v. 4. **Both = divinity**
- *Titus 2:13, NIV - "...while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great* ***God and Savior****, Jesus Christ…"*

Now just ***a quick sneak peak*** ***at verse 5*** ***for context purposes…***

Straightens the Crooked ***(verse 5)***

V. 5 - ***For this reason*** *I left you in* ***Crete***
- ***For this reason*** = *now getting to the* ***main purpose of the letter***
- *I left you in* ***Crete*** ***(images: map; modern; ancient)*** **- largest of the Greek islands.**
    - Some Cretans initially heard the Gospel ***at Pentecost*** ***(Acts 2:11)***
- ***Left*** ***(Apoleipo)*** *= left behind; deserted, hahaha, but not abandoned…* ***stationed!***
    - ***This was not an easy place to minister…*** *(vv. 10-12 in a couple weeks)*
    - Like Titus on Crete - *you feel "****left****" somewhere difficult?* ***Not stranded.*** ***Stationed!***
    - Also, implies **Paul was there at some point** with Titus… ***(not recorded in Acts)***

V. 5 - That you should ***set in order*** *the things that are lacking*

- ***Set in order*** - **main theme of the whole book**
- ***Epidiorthoo*** *- "to set straight; set in order" (+* ***Leipo****: "lagging, lacking; wanting; failing")*
    - ***Orthodontist, orthopedic*** ***(straightens teeth and bones!)***
- ***Lacking*** ***(Leipo) -*** *Not just fixing* what is broken, but ***completing what is unfinished.***
    - **Conversion is just the beginning**, friends.
- *Ecc. 1:14-15 - "I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.* ***What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be numbered…*** *" - (life "****under the sun,****" =* ***apart from God****) =* ***broken; crooked.***
- *Isaiah 40:3-5 - "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low;* ***the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth****; the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." (fulfilled in* ***John the Baptist*** *preparing the way for Jesus,* ***Luke 3:4–6****)*
    - ***Ecclesiastes*** is right that **you can't straighten it yourself.**
    - ***But Isaiah*** is right that **God can**. ***No one is beyond His reach!***
- *2 Tim. 3:16-17, NLT - "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives.* ***It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right****. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work…"*
    - ***"Correction"*** = ***epanorthosis***, same *orthos root*. ***Scripture is God's straightening tool***. - If you will allow it. **Pride/flesh hates it**. It takes ***humility & teachability…***

V. 5 - And ***appoint elders in every city*** *as I commanded you…*

- This is **one of the other means** God uses… *Sheep need shepherds to help them…*
- *How does God straighten a church to be healthy?* Through *a plurality of godly, qualified leaders*.
    - ***(more on this next week…)***

Closing:

But for now, can we do a little church and self inventory over these next few weeks?

- *What is crooked; what is lacking?* ***Church, home, private life…***
- ***Braces take time***. **So does sanctification**. *Don't despise the process*…
- Allow *yourself* and our *shared community of faith* to be ***transformed by the truth***
- **God is still setting things in order** here, and He invites every member into that work.
- *Phil 1:6 - "...being confident of this very thing, that* ***He who has begun a good work in you will complete it*** *until the day of Jesus Christ…"*

Crete, an *island known for lies and debauchery*, received the **transforming truth** of a God who never lies. If the gospel could transform the island of Crete… **it can transform anyone**. ***- Respond…***

PRAY