

The Book of Titus

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Chapter 1

Passage: Titus 1:1

Title: According to the Faith

Summary: Paul starts this letter (epistle) with the words “according to the faith”. Today we start our study, our situations, our week, our new year in that base (F-A-I-T-H: For All I Trust Him).

Titus 1:1 (NKJV) ¹ 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,

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² 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.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(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,

Paul begins his letter (we call epistle) in verse 1 saying, “according to the faith”

As I prepare this message, the whole country, the whole state, the whole county, the whole region, is under a wave of the coronavirus (omicron variant). This virus (omicron) is showing itself to be one of the most, possibly will prove out to be the most, contagious virus in the last 100 years on the earth. It is surely not the way anyone thought their yearend rest, fellowship, travels, and celebrations was going to be; as many homebound, tired, fatigue, nausea, and virtual church.

No one really has the answers to all these things of the pandemic, that much is obvious with their continual changing of guidance and the likes; and I know I don't have the answers..... but I do know I have “The Answer” – Faith (F-A-I-T-H) (For All I Trust Him). I am not giving some quip, Christian-cliché, but something I truly believe. Although not what I/any of us wanted for our holiday, but I truly believe this, and have confidence in this, that God is on the throne, even in the midst of this fallen world. Many things I don't understand in a fallen world and a sovereign God, but that is why it is Faith, believing He is a good and sovereign God in even the midst of what I don't understand.

I am not making a prophetic statement, I am not prophesy thus says the Lord, but I feel God is doing something good in the midst of this week and this wave. Natural immunity? – maybe. Herd Immunity that brings this to an end? – possibly. Immunity that prepares the body for the next variant. Well how about, slowing down, family time and closeness, appreciation and thankfulness for family when faced with being separated and isolated from them, appreciation for the assembly of the believers, the gift to serve, the treasure to fellowship, appreciation for health, thankfulness for just the simple things in life that are free – I can say yes to all these.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Genesis 50:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

Calvary Chapel Anne Arundel
Pastor Ray Bollas

What I know and am sure of, that I am sure that I am sure of, in it all and through it all, faith (For All I Trust Him).

I said I am not prophesy, saying thus says the Lord regarding this current world event, but I do know when God speaks to me, and that He has spoken to me clearly, or shown something to me clearly, and if I may, please let me share a "Lesson from the Hunt" (the Lessons from the Hunt is something the Lord laid on my heart to start putting a devotional book and video series that is based on spiritual applications that come forth out of hunting and the outdoors).

It was this past Thursday, I had worked my way pretty deep into the woods up in the mountains of Western Maryland. I had been looking forward to this time of just silence in the midst of the woods, the beauty of the woods and the mountains, the walking in the woods, and as always the excitement of the possibility of the hunt.

It was an afternoon hunt, that I as I walked in was fully planning on hunting until the end (which by Maryland Law is 30 minutes after sunset, so for that day sunset was at 5, thus the latest to stay was 5:30pm).

So I know those woods and the place I was hunting somewhat well, but when the sun goes down and you are in a forest everything can really start to look the same. Just a few weeks prior I had forgot my headlamp that I use to come out in the dark, but I said no worries I know I am heading in the right direction, and after only 5 minutes I said to myself probably not, so I better use the light on my cellphone. In just those 5 minutes of walking without light I was about a quarter mile off my exit point. So that being fresh on my mind, as I walked in Thursday I was making mental notes of fallen trees, rock formations, and the big living trees that stood out from the other trees. Even as I sat in my blind for the next few hours I rehearsed the mental notes I had taken, knowing that I would be coming out in the dark.

And as the afternoon started to pass into the evening, and sun begins to fade, the woods get darker, you can feel and sense the woods coming alive because the animals start to move more when the light dims, and it is truly and exciting time to be out, because you know the deer will be on the move way more than in the broad daylight. But then, I just felt in my mind, and a peace about it, that I was packaging up and coming out at 4:30pm, an hour earlier than planned, and most likely meaning I would miss the best time of hunting, and that I would have to face that continual question from my wife..... Any deer ☺

As I was closing it out, I said Lord was there any Lesson from the Hunt? Did I miss something you were showing me? For nothing really impressed upon me, but nonetheless, as always it was wonderful to sit out in the silence, and just (Psalm 46:10 – to be still and know He is God).

Well I couldn't send Renee a text no deer, because I had no cellphone signal, which also means I had no GPS, that at that moment didn't matter to me because I had enough daylight to walk by sight, using my mental notes I had laid out on the way in.

So where am I going with all this? Almost immediately as I started to hike out, a fog suddenly started moving into the woods. By the time I packed up my hunting blind, hiked out of the woods and made it back to my truck, then secured my gear and packed it in the truck, it was 5:15, and by the time I got in my truck to pull out, I literally could not see further than a couple feet. I drove out of the woods on the gravel road, going just a mile or two an hour. It took me close to an hour to get off the mountain. I have never experience fog in the woods of that thickness, nor experienced how quickly it moved in. It seemed to just come on in its mass in just 5-10 minutes. It was still great visibility when I was unpacking my gear into the car. So like at 5:15, blink, it was near zero visibility.

Let me say this, I always check the weather before going out, always, that is hunting 101, and nowhere was there any weather advisor.

It was the next day as I was spending time with the Lord, asked Him again, was there no Lesson from the Hunt, to which immediately all the pieces came together. No cellphone signal no way to call for help, and no GPS to navigate with in zero visibility, and..... had I gotten a shot at 4:30..... I would have done what I was supposed to do, wait 45 minutes) for the deer to run and not chase it pushing it further away, then I would have started to track it (with my head down, totally focused on the ground follow the signs step by step). If I would have gotten the shot I wanted, at 4:30pm, at 5:15pm I would have looked up and realized I am lost in the woods, who knows how much deeper into the woods (a mile, two). No moon for light, no flashlight that would matter because visibility was near zero, no cell signal no GPS (as even in darkness I can navigate with my handheld GPS), and no cell signal, no calling for help (if a man would be humble enough to do such a thing).

As I hiked in I worked up a sweat, and when you are tracking that produces sweat, dew point rising with the fog, temperature in the mountains dropping, no matches for a fire (hey the truck I said to myself is only 5 miles away)..... it would have been a long night, maybe even a bad night. Needless to say, step into a hole and twist an ankle in the dark, things can really go from bad to worse really quick. Did I mention no cellphone signal?

I am thankful, I was impressed by the Lord to call the hunt at 4:30pm, and am thankful I did not get a shot in the hunt, whether at 430pm, or even 330pm. Who knows how the night would turned out for me.

As I was walking out at 4:30pm, I said to myself, well things didn't go the way I had hoped. The next morning, I said I am glad things didn't turn out the way I had hoped. I was brought to a place, I trust You Lord, I have faith in You, For-All-I-Trust-You.

Maybe the year didn't end as you had hoped, desired it to be, whether it be sickness, or a relation, or some expectation you had, as we close out the past year, and come into this new year, as we start this new study in this epistle, may we start the year with these words of Paul..... "according to the faith" (For-All-I-Trust-Him).

Let us purpose today, that purpose for the year, we so amen (let it be fulfilled, I own that), that everything we face this year, we say in the midst of it, in the going into it, in the coming out of it – Lord, for all I trust You.

(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,

Paul, a bondservant of God..... The Greek word translated "servant" is *doulos*, or bondservant. After six years of service, slaves were set free. But if a slave wanted to remain in his master's service, an earring would be placed in his ear, signifying that he was a slave by choice, he was called a bondservant. Slavery in Israel was used to pay off a person's debts. Often, a slave ended up serving a kind and benevolent master, and lived a better life in his master's house than he could ever achieve on his own. In response, sometimes these freed slaves would forego their liberty to remain in the master's household. Exodus 21 tells us in such cases the slave would go to the door of his master's house, and before the city magistrates, a sharp awl was driven through the lobe of his ear. He was pinned to his master's door. And that pierced ear forever identified that person as a "love-slave," or as Paul puts it in verse 1, a "bondservant."

Paul considered himself a "love-slave" of Jesus. At first he came to Christ because he owed the Lord an enormous debt he could never repay. But the longer he served the more he realized he

could do far better in God's house than he ever could do on his own. Paul was pinned to the door of his kind, benevolent master. What about you? Are you a "bondservant of God"?

I am reminded of Romans 12:1-2, which says to "present" our bodies as living sacrifices. Still being in the Christmas mindset, how easy to see the word "present – as in gift" Lord you gave me an awesome present for Christmas, Your Only Begotten Son born in a manger in Bethlehem..... how about we present (as in a gift) ourselves to God. Lord you gave me this wonderful gift on Christmas, You! As a payment to cleanse me and make me white as snow before You by the washing away of my sin. Now I want today, to give You a gift.....myself.

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.* ² *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

And the wonder of it all, that He would say, oh a gift for Me, I love it, it's the perfect gift, there is no greater gift you could have given me, than you.

Maybe you say, it's a far stretch for me to think myself the great gift to God, but I am reminded of when we were looking for a house years and years ago, it was during the housing market boom, before the housing market kaboom (collapse), and home after home the prices were like crazy, and the realtor was this house is worth this much, the owner will only sell for this amount because the house is worth this much. To which we offered 10% less, and the realtor said no way, you are way too low based on market value, to which I said the value of anything is truly based on one thing only, what is someone willing to pay for it.

I see God's only Begotten Son born in a manger in Bethlehem, perfect, pure, and innocent; then to see Him live perfectly, but still choose the cross, so that I might be rescued from myself and this lost and dying world..... not only speaks the depth of His love for me (John 3:16), but also my/your value and worth. THE VALUE OF ANYTHING IS BASED ON ONE THING ONLY – WHAT SOMEONE IS WILLING TO PAY FOR IT.

You/I are purchased not with silver or gold, but the precious body/blood of God Himself, you are and have been made perfect before Him.

1 Peter 1:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,* ¹⁹ *but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

A favorite worship song of mine, that never seems to grow old to me is "White as Snow"

*White as snow
white as snow Though my sins were as scarlet
Lord I know Lord
I know That I'm clean and forgiven
Through the power of your blood,
Through the wonder of your love,
Through faith in you I know that I can be*

*white as snow
white as snow
white as snow*

When we take communion today, may we say, "Lord here is my gift to You, me". All of me, how could I give You anything less. And I pray you hear Him say, "it's the perfect, priceless, gift". What a way to start off a New Year, saying here is my gift to You – me. But if you are reading this or hearing six weeks from now, six months from now, and you want a new year, you can pray the same and say the same, right now today. Because every day, is a new day with the Lord:

Lamentations 3:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ *They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.* ²⁴ *"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"*

I would like to start this study, this new year off with the remembrance and celebration of communion, and a remembrance of what it took to become the “elect”, chosen and redeemed by God, is beautiful woven through the redemption story, which..... physically began in Bethlehem, when God stepped into our world, and became the God-Man, the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world, the perfect spotless Lamb – the Gift we needed:

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Romans 3:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

The Gospel (Good News), the heart of God, is woven through in the little town of Bethlehem.

Bethlehem played host to the Nativity, an event that the world hardly noticed, yet that changed the destiny of every human creature. As Ralph W. Sockman once phrased it, “The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable.” We imagine a silent night—but remember, the inns were full and celebrants must have roamed the streets. We imagine an obscure town—yet Bethlehem already bore a surprisingly mixed legacy.

The Bible tells us that it was in Bethlehem, for example, that Jacob’s beloved wife, Rachel, was buried. Tragically, she died in childbirth as Joseph’s beloved brother, Benjamin, came into the world.

Genesis 35:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).*

Around another bend of history’s trail lies Ruth, whose story is short but moving. Two widows—Ruth and Naomi, her mother-in-law—left foreign Moab for the small town where Naomi and her husband had lived, the town of Bethlehem. There they prospered and Ruth remarried. In Ruth 4, the people offered their blessing on Ruth and her new husband. They compared her to Rachel and expressed their prayers that her descendants would be great. Those prayers were answered in ways the people could never have dreamed.

Ruth 4:11–12 (NKJV) ¹¹ *And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, “We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. ¹² May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman.”*

Ruth 4:18–22 (NKJV) ¹⁸ *Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; ¹⁹ Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; ²⁰ Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; ²¹ Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; ²² Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.*

Little Bethlehem also provided ancient Israel its most enduring hero. The prophet Samuel had come to town in search of a future king, just as other wise men would do hundreds of years later. The book of 1 Samuel records how the prophet came to the house of Jesse and carefully sized up the young men of the household, one by one. His godly eye finally fell upon David, the shepherd boy, the “least likely to succeed.” Here, Samuel announced, was the raw material of a popular king. Here stood one who was destined to be known as the “man after God’s own heart.” Shepherd to king? The idea was startling.

1 Samuel 17:12 (NKJV) ¹² *Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced in years, in the days of Saul.*

1 Samuel 16:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ *Now the LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons.” ² And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” But the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ ³ Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you.” ⁴ So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, “Do you come peaceably?”*

1 Samuel 16:11–13 (NKJV) ¹¹ *And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all the young men here?” Then he said, “There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here.” ¹² So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And*

the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

In darker times, an aging King David would see Israel's mortal enemy, the Philistines, place a garrison in his beloved Bethlehem. When David longed for water from its well, a squad of his courageous soldiers broke through to steal a drink for him—only to see him pour out the water as a sacrifice before God.

1 Chronicles 11:15–19 (NKJV)¹⁵ Now three of the thirty chief men went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the army of the Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. ¹⁶ David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. ¹⁷ And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" ¹⁸ So the three broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless David would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD. ¹⁹ And he said, "Far be it from me, O my God, that I should do this! Shall I drink the blood of these men *who have put their lives in jeopardy?* For at the risk of their lives they brought it." Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men.

The family tree of Jesus Christ shows all three names: Rachel, Ruth, David. Mother, Moabitess, monarch. We cannot help but see the puzzle pieces, the tantalizing clues to the wonderful legacy that would one day belong to Bethlehem. The greatest clue of all, though, was in plain sight for every Hebrew who searched the Scriptures. In the scrolls of the prophets was written an amazing prediction: "You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past" (Micah 5:2).

Micah 4:8 (NKJV)⁸ *And you, O tower of the flock, The stronghold of the daughter of Zion, To you shall it come, Even the former dominion shall come, The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem."*

Micah 5:2 (NKJV)² *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."*

Bethlehem Ephrathah—two names, two meanings. Bethlehem means "the house of bread." Its Child would later call himself "the Bread of life," and he would say, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven" (John 6:51). What more fitting place than the "house of bread" for such a one to be born?

John 6:51 (NKJV)⁵¹ *I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."*

What about that second name? Ephrathah, a much older name for the town, means "fruitfulness." Ephrath is a verb meaning "to be fruitful." Once again, the Child of Bethlehem would remind us of his first home when he said, "When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples" (John 15:8).

John 15:8 (NKJV)⁸ *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

For those who read the ancient writings and those who thought about the eternal workings of God, the clues were always there—in the history, the names, and the surprising ways of God himself. That Bethlehem, it bore watching. So as the years went by, the rabbis remembered and the scholars kept an eye on the little town. Everyone else passed it by without much notice, so that upon that amazing night, when a peasant and his betrothed wife stole wearily into town, no one could have anticipated that the world would be changed forever.

Perhaps this is the reason we think of Bethlehem as a timeless town, set on an eternally silent and starry night. We know that the local inns had room for anyone and everyone but a king; that not so much as a pillow could be offered to one who would one day give all that he had for them. Yet we cannot bear the innkeepers and tax takers much of a grudge—there is too much joy in the occasion.

For in some forgotten corner of a forgotten town in a forgotten country, the most unforgettable news is suddenly abroad. In the "house of bread," the Bread of life has been served for all humanity. In the town of fruitfulness, someone has come to offer the sweet fruit of heaven. And from the place where there was once a well that a thirsty king coveted, there would spring up a fountain of living water for all people. The one who offered it said, "Those who drink the water I

give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life" (John 4:14).

John 4:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

Why Bethlehem? Why your heart or mine? City and soul, they are equally silent, equally mixed in their histories, equally thirsty. Just as the Child quietly arrived in that town of towns, he longs to be born again in the hearts of every one of us.

Jeremiah, D. (2006). Why the Nativity?: 25 Compelling Reasons We Celebrate the Birth of Jesus (K. S. Olson, Ed.; pp. 43–46). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

The Gospel Through Bethlehem:

- Rachael Dies –
- Boaz Redeems Ruth
- Prayers that were Prophetic
- David Anointed King
- David Pours Out the Offering
- The Watchtower
- Bethlehem-Ephrathah

The Gospel Through Bethlehem:

- Rachael Dies –
 - In what seemed like a place of darkness and loss, was a backdrop of Light that was going to breakthrough and hope that would arise
- Boaz Redeems Ruth
 - Then we move on to the story of Boaz redeeming Ruth and Ruth, an outsider not one of the nations. She was destitute, she was all alone. And yet she would say to her mother-in-law of her deceased husband, "Your God shall be my God." And those words, echoed and run through heaven. And God heard those words and he honored those words of this common woman forgotten and on the outside.
- Prayers that were Prophetic
 - Then we move to the prayer that was lifted up for her as she would marry Boaz. And the story is that kinsman redeemer, that Boaz a picture of Christ came redeemed Ruth. An outsider who was destitute on the outside, looking in and made her his bride. And he cherished her, loved her, and the prayers were lifted up for this couple. That she would be famous in Bethlehem. And so she was, as the lineage to the Messiah would come through this outsider, Ruth. Redeemed by Boaz in love.
- David Anointed King
 - And once again, we see God hears the prayers and cries of his people. Stores them in a bottle and then his timing responds according to his will and the famous and the greatness will come. As Samuel will come into Bethlehem and anoint David, a little shepherd boy, the least likely. But God heard his heart because it was a man who's after God's own heart. And once again, God responds, David is chosen. And the lineage of the Messiah goes through the throne, the king ship here on Earth, as it is in heaven. And the lamb of God was also the King God.
- The Watchtower
 - Then as we've studied and looked before the watch tower, the place five miles from the temple in Jerusalem was where the temple sacrifices, the perfect lambs would be raised and nurtured and then delivered for Passover. So the death, the sting of death, the power of sin, would pass over us and be set free through this King who became the lamb of God to take away the sin of the world
- Bethlehem-Ephrathah
 - And it was there in Bethlehem, Ephraim. Bethlehem means house of bread, Ephraim means fruitfulness. And now all the pieces start to come together. Jesus

Christ saying, "I am the bread of life." And here we hold the communion elements in our hand and the fruitfulness of the vine we hold in our hands with this cup. And only what God could do the bread of life being nourishing bread unto us. Giving us life and to sustain us and says, "We're attached to him. We shall be fruitful."

- David Pours Out the Offering
 - And here we hold the cup of the promise that says just that. And the powerful, most wonderful is the story of David pouring out the drink offering. What was sacrificed he turned into an offering as Jesus would cry, "If anyone thirsts, let him come after me." And here we are today, everything we needed, everything man desires can be found in Bethlehem. All the cries of man being destitute and all the cries of man's heart saying, "Come Lord Jesus. Hear my prayer." We find through the history and the thread through Bethlehem. For everything that we needed for life and godliness as we begin to study this book, the very theme of life and godliness is found in Christ Jesus.

And his human history started in a manger in Bethlehem. Goes to a cross in Golgotha. The Lamb of God who take away the sin of the world. And the perfect fulfillment of this human history, which became God history through Bethlehem, is proof of his deep blow for us. His passion, willing to pour himself out for us. And therefore we can come into this place and claim according to godliness, according to faith, that for all I trust him and he will never leave you nor forsake you even in the midst of whatever you're in the midst of. Let's take this cup and do it in remembrance of him and what he's done and him and what he promises. And that other word we see at the end, 'till he comes and he's coming folks, soon and very soon.

It's because of Gospel we can trust Him, for all I trust Him, because the Gospel proves His faithfulness to us.

Communion

On the night in which He was betrayed

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² 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.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Passage: Titus 1:1-4

Title: God's Word Will Not Return Void – Because God Cannot Lie!

Summary: In our passage today, God reminds us of a wonderful truth that comes with great power, that when we read, hear, and receive His Word.... He promises power comes with it. Why? Because we will read another truth, He wants us to be reminded of as well, God cannot lie.... His good on His Word, every time!

Titus 1:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, ³ but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior; ⁴ To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

Paul is giving a charge to Titus, very much like he gave to Timothy, and I am reminded of the charge (military command) that Paul gave Timothy

2 Timothy 2:3–7 (NKJV) ³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵ And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. ⁷ Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

One of the most fascinating sites to visit in Washington D.C. is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. For 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, a platoon of 30 honor guards protects the tomb through rain, snow, and even hurricanes! It's been guarded every minute of every day since 1937.

A single sentinel takes his post guarding carefully, walking exactly 21 steps then pausing for 21 seconds before turning around and continuing his duty. The number 21 is in reference to the 21 gun salute which is the military's highest honor given to a soldier. When the changing of the guard takes place, the orders are passed from one soldier to the next – "Orders Remain Unchanged."

So too for us as we continue in our new book here in Titus, orders remain unchanged:

2 Timothy 2:3–7 (NKJV) ³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵ And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. ⁷ Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² 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.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(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,

Verse 1 - A Bondservant: I refer you back to last week's study on being a bondservant, a slave of love bonded to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 1 - An Apostle of Jesus Christ: As I pondered Titus 1:1 and Paul saying he was an apostle (sent one) of Jesus Christ, I found great comfort and GREAT POWER in the sent by "Who" — Jesus Christ, the power in who sent Paul, who sends me, is in He Who sends - Jesus Christ, so by faith I receive that and say Lord as you send me to my wife, to my children, I know I have the power for all things You are calling me to do as the father, husband, provider - that word brought me great power this morning. I love the power when I think of Isaiah 52, as it says the bare arm of the Lord; you know what that means, in our illustration, and that is the Lord rolling up His sleeve, because He is displaying and going to show His power!

[Isaiah 52:10 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁰ The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.

Verse 1 - 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.

Verse 1 of God's Elect:— the word elect simply means chosen, and I love it, in that God chose me..... because He wanted me, He wanted you. Again great power in know I am loved and wanted. Election is by vote, and we know from the Cross that it was a unanimous vote (Father-Son-Spirit) to redeem us. The Trinity was in agreement, I want Ray! And I am ever so thankful that the vote was taken before the foundation of the world, haha, before they saw what they were getting (I joke of course). I am thankful I didn't have to campaign before them to get elected, because it could not be convincing in any way; however, truly in a way we did campaign, we simply said to Him, we need a savior, we are hopeless apart from help, and we need You to help us, to which he said, I will take the job! I will be your Savior.

[Ephesians 1:3–6 \(NKJV\)](#) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

[Ephesians 2:4–9 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Verse 1 - and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness: - simply put the statement 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. The "truth" is the spiritual protein to build a spiritual godly body.

[John 8:31–32 \(NKJV\)](#) ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

[John 8:34–36 \(NKJV\)](#) ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

[John 14:6 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

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

Verse 2 – hope of eternal life: 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.

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. 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. The everlasting life, it is a promise. We are going to make it because it isn't based on us but Him to deliver. Live now, He will deliver on His promise. The purpose of life is not to arrive at death safely; it is walking in obedience with Him, and where He takes us.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Verse 2 - which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began: - We have this hope because God cannot fail, he cannot lie, therefore He said that all who will believe will have eternal life. 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

Verse 3 – in due time manifested His Word through preaching: 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.

Verse 3 – committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior: so again the power is in who gave the command, “God our Savior”. He says Paul, further the faith, go set the captives free through the preaching of the Word.

Luke 4:16–19 (NKJV) ¹⁶ So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”

A powerful cross-reference to verse 3, the word became manifest through preaching is in Romans 16:

- Establish – to make firm, determination, resolute
- According to the gospel – this promise to establish us is sealed (signed) in the blood of Christ
- A mystery now made known – God wants us to be firmly established, to go deeper into the things of the Lord, the spiritual things of God.
- Why – for the obedience of faith (according to the faith) *For-All-I-Trust-Him*

- Because – God alone is wise; wisdom is knowledge applied, and the Lord not only teaches us His word, but how to apply it, for He is the Wise God, alone in the greatness of His wisdom, making all the world’s wisdom foolish.
- Glory – glory is majesty, this wisdom flows from His Majesty on High – it is glorious what He pours out unto us
- Through – location is everything, and in our spiritual realm the location declares the source, and the source is Jesus Christ, God Himself, God alone.
- Forever – thus since it is forever, there is no end to the pouring out of all things for godliness, that establishes, because Jesus is eternal and His pouring forth are eternal. So today I can say..... more
- Amen – so be it, it is true, let it be fulfilled, and if we so chose to say to all the above.... I own that!

Romans 16:25–27 (NKJV) ²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began ²⁶ but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—²⁷ to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

In Isaiah 55, God gives a wonderful promise regarding His Word, and that is that it will not return void (empty, of no value), but it will prosper the hearer.

Isaiah 55:8–11 (NKJV) ⁸ “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. ⁹ “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Here is a great challenge, “Read the Bible in a year”. You can do it on the go, or in your home, and use our mobile app “bible tab” that has an easy roughly 3-4 chapters a day, a little from Old Testament, a little from the New Testament, and in a year you will have read the whole Bible – that will be a great year I can guarantee you that, because God Himself guarantees it, because He says His word will not return void/empty.

We as a family had a three-night movie night over Christmas, and each night we watched one of the “Left Behind” movies. In the last of the three, called Tribulation Force, the Christians across the world were all being infected by an unknown virus, but the virus was specific to the Christians as the rest of the world was not being infected. The Christians tried to find a vaccine for it, but it was to no avail. It would later be revealed that the anti-christ was having a deadly virus sprayed on to Bibles (which were in short supply because they were outlawed and confiscated), and that is what was causing the deadly virus to spread. To which we joked about it together, that if there was a virus sprayed on Bibles today, would there be a deadly pandemic spreading through the churches today. We know CCAAC would be wiped out in a week, because every week we say, let’s turn in our Bibles too.....

Here something to ponder and receive; In Egypt, water was pumped to the fields from the Nile. Egypt is a type of the world, the flesh, where things have to be “pumped up.” God said, “I’m taking you to a different land, where water comes down from heaven. You won’t have to set some kind of atmosphere or try to manipulate the situation. Just love Me with all your heart and soul, and I will pour out the rain upon you.” I suggest that in these days the Lord is indeed pouring out His Spirit. It need not be pumped up in our own energy or manipulated through careful strategy. Rather, if we simply love God and let Him pour out His Spirit, He’ll work anywhere and everywhere He’s loved.

Deuteronomy 11:10–14 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For the land which you go to possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden; ¹¹ but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, ¹² a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year. ¹³ And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹⁴ then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.

John 4:11–14 (NKJV) ¹¹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? ¹² Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 4:21–24 (NKJV) ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

I am praying for a revival, and I know a sure pathway to personal revival, is Re-Bible! To read, to re-read, the Bible, and through re-Bible, personal revivals will break forth.

God will manifest His word through preaching and the reading of the word. And know this, God will never give His word, independent of Himself, so He shows Himself clearly through the teaching of the Word. In the Song of Solomon, which is an allegory of Jesus and His Bride, As chapter 2 opens, the shepherd-king says, "I am the rose of Sharon." Jesus identified Himself as the bread of life (John 6:35) and the light of the world (John 8:12). But here, He's speaking of something more than an essential need or provision for life. He is saying, "I'm not just bread and light—I'm something beautiful to behold. I don't only give you the essentials—I bring beauty to your life."

Song of Solomon 2:1 (NKJV) ¹ *I am the rose of Sharon, And the lily of the valleys.*

John 6:35 (NKJV) ³⁵ *And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*

John 8:12 (NKJV) ¹² *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

Song of Solomon 1:3 (NKJV) ³ *Because of the fragrance of your good ointments, Your name is ointment poured forth; Therefore the virgins love you.*

Song of Solomon 1:13 (NKJV) ¹³ *A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me, That lies all night between my breasts.*

Song of Solomon 1:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ *My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blooms In the vineyards of En Gedi.*

But before moving off Song of Solomon, verse 1 and 2 is a must to see, Of the maiden, the king says, "I am a lily and you're like me. As the lily among thorns, I see you and I love the beauty I see in you." A lily is one of the most pollinating flowers in all of botany, and we see the Lord spreading His seed of love into others and they take on His likeness in new life through salvation. But notice also, as man's days are numbered, and darkness falls upon the land, and as we read in Psalm 23 though we walk we the "valley" of the shadow of death.... There in the darkness, the shadows, is a "Lily" in its full bloom, white and vibrant in backdrop of darkness, declaring eternal life that overcomes death and darkness.

Song of Solomon 2:1 (NKJV) ¹ *I am the rose of Sharon, And the lily of the valleys.*

Song of Solomon 2:2 (NKJV) ² *Like a lily among thorns, So is my love among the daughters.*

Psalms 23:4 (NKJV) ⁴ *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

(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.**

Verse 4 -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.

Surely Titus would say, well maybe the same faith for salvation, but I am no apostle Paul, do you know how far off the faith I am compared to you Paul, please don't even put me in the same sentence.

I am reminded when I was first saved, and struggling, and I was like Lord I don't understand how is it I am in this place again, I so want to please you and serve You, how did I fail again? To which He answered me, I heard His voice (I was at a church concert and I can tell you where I sat, the lighting, and every detail as it was so vivid the moment), and the Lord said, "it is because You are immature". He didn't say it in a belittle way, a sharp angry way, but He said it in love to me.... You are immature in the faith, you have a lot of growing to do, and I walked away in power in knowing that as long as I walked with Him, continued on in His Word, he was going to grow me in the faith. And 30 years after that concert, that word, we still have work to do, but my how faithful He has been to me as these 30 years growing me in spiritual maturity.

Faith must be tested to be faith, otherwise it is an exercise in sight not faith. I love the verse in Job that says when I am tested, I will come forth as gold. The intent of what is being said is that all the dross, impurity, will be burned away in the testing and the pure gold will come forth. Testing of the Lord is God's purifying process, as He doesn't want to leave us in the state which we came in of as we left the world and came into the personal relationship with Him.

Job 23:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.*

I am reminded of when I left the Space Center, stepped out in faith and went to Bible College because I felt the leading of the Lord, a calling, to teach His Word. It was glorious, wonderful experience of my life going to the Calvary Chapel Bible College. After graduation I had all kinds of opportunities out West in California where Bible College was, but the Lord laid it on my heart to head East young man (there were plenty of churches in California already). So what happened next I truly wasn't ready for, as I was expecting all kinds of doors to open for me on the East Coast as they had on the West Coast, but it turned out to be completely opposite. Ministry didn't open the way I had thought, I knew the Lord had said get a job to support yourself, but no jobs opened and I went into a long period of unemployment, and thus what was joy and excitement, and great expectations turned into hard times, and then as the months wore on turned into questions of what the Lord was doing, where was He. And one day, it was the perfect forming of all the pieces, I literally said (in a harsh and bitter way), I'm done Lord, I just want a job, and go back to a routine life of work, going to church, and such. I wasn't quitting my faith, not tempted in anyone to exercise some sin of the flesh, but simply saying this cost to serve You is too much, I cant take it, I'm out. One of the immediate lessons I saw at that moment was.... Giving the right circumstances, that even in my faith, I could curse Him by challenging His goodness. I saw it, and said please forgive me Lord, let Your will be done.

Next thing I did was go for a walk. It was intense moment, a low moment, but still yet a strong moment because God showed me something that would be for a lifetime, and that was to have compassion and empathy when that brother or sister has that crisis moment with the Lord, to not pile on more burden upon them, but to reach a hand down to lift them up and out, then to walk beside them. But back to my walk that day, as I crossed over the catwalk over the sand dune there on the beach, I felt the Lord impress me to head north, but I rarely liked walking that way because the pier was north (about a mile) and it meant lots of people which I purposely wanted to avoid. So I headed south, didn't walk far and again felt an impression from the Lord that said, "I said head north", to which I abruptly turned and started heading north. I was maybe a half mile into my walk and I say a terrified crying young child (maybe 3 or 4) walking south, to which I immediately knew was lost. Sadly walking by people after people and no one even noticing a lost child. I went up to him and said are you looking for mommy to which in convulsing shaking head nodding yes, but unable to speak. He tried to keep heading south, but (as wisdom would say – probably came from up near the pier), to which I said hey turn around and go this way and we will find your mommy. It was another couple hundred yards as we walked and it was easy for me to point to a woman out of a hundred and say is that your mommy, as he started to run to her after I

pointed, as I could see out of a hundred the most terrified woman on the beach in a frantic search mode (once again nobody stopping to help – even in all her fear).

After they reconnected, I continued on, and I thought wow had that child kept going south, and a world filled with sick predators, who knows what might have happened to this beautiful child today.....and the Lord immediately said, but I sent you. And I thus immediately overwhelmed with the goodness of the Lord, You still chose to use me, even after I challenged You, and Your goodness, and that You saw me. So Christian, I tell you a story of one of my lowest moments in my walk, and one of God's sweetest forgiveness to me, and say to you..... Faith has to be tested, and He knows our failures, but doesn't fail us when we fail Him, rather He simply marks them as pieces and steps in His refining process, and wants to remind you today, even in your failings, I will never fail you, so if you have failed recently, He says lets go, lets walk together, I am far from done..... lets head north, I got something to show you, I am going to use you in great in mighty ways.

Verse 4 – grace, mercy, peace: – again the power is in where it is sent from, and grace, mercy, and peace come from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and it cant be found in this world, thus why some people are living with no peace in their life.

- Grace- getting what we don't deserve, eternal life because His sacrificed life. Paid in Full.
- Mercy – not getting what we deserve, judgement and wrath because we broke His holy commandments. It is Done
- Peace – peace with God, peace (rest) from the condemnation of sin.

John 19:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Revelation 21:5–7 (NKJV) ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." ⁶ And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Romans 5:1 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Christian now go live in the power of peace, of being the elected, an unanimous vote, I want Ray!

Grace, mercy, and peace - Paul's interface with the world; everywhere 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

With those words (grace – mercy – peace), lets head to the communion table.

Communion

The power of communion, when we do it together, as we do not forsake the assembly of the brethren

1 Corinthians 11:17–22 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. ²⁰ Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. ²¹ For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

The Lord gives a great calling in communion to examine ourselves, and deal with anything and everything that is contrary to the Word of the Lord. In Corinth Church one of their big issues was division in the church, and people were not looking out for their brothers and sisters in the church. People were not reverencing the price that was paid by the Lord (v29 – not discerning the Lord's

body), and thus were living to their will and not the Lord's. We see that the abuse in the church was so extreme that God brought a correction upon them. But what I want to focus on is the promise that comes with communion. The communion table takes us back to what He has done for us, it reminds us where we were before we came to the understanding of what He did for us, it reminds us of the fleeting fading emptiness the world offers all of us. The communion (fellowship) table takes me back to my worth, my value, the treasure I am before Him and to Him, and that brings power into my life as I know the reassurance I am. And knowing the treasure I am, will lead me to live like the treasure I am. That is spiritual power! And, I do believe there is a healing power (in accordance with God's Will – just as the Cup that was before Him, He said nevertheless let Thy will be done); but in Isaiah we are told, by His stripes we are healed. Healed from the curse of sin for sure, delivered from the power of sin absolutely, but I can take the cup here at the communion table (it is not a mystical potion), but say Lord You have the power to heal, and so I ask, if You will..... heal me, because communion brings me into the remembrance of your healing power.

1 Corinthians 11:27–34 (NKJV) ²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. ³³ Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

1 Peter 2:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ *who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;* ²⁴ *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

On the night in which He was betrayed

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;* ²⁴ *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."* ²⁵ *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."* ²⁶ *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *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.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Passage: Titus 1:5-16

Title: Setting Things Straight

Summary: Paul is giving instruction to Pastor Titus that some things are off there in the church in Crete, and Titus needs to get the spiritual things straightened out for the sake of the church and its members. One of the main reasons things were off in the church and the believers, was because of the outside cultural influences that were prevalent and rampant in the region. A most applicable study considering the days we live, and the cultural influences the church faces today.

Titus 1:5–16 (NKJV) ⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—⁶ if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. ⁷ 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, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. ¹² One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² 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.

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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(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;

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 the things that are lacking - there was some disorder in the church and Titus needed to set things right. Verse 5 is the theme, the reason for the letter (we call them epistle), “to set things in order that are lacking”. That phrase is a medical term; it was applied to the setting of a crooked limb.” (Wiersbe) There were crooked things that had to be set straight among the congregations of Crete.

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

Overview

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.

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

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

Titus is ministering in the area of Crete. Crete, modern day area of Greece, is one of the largest islands in the Mediterranean Sea, it was and is a beautiful mountainous area. Crete is a mountainous island southeast of Greece, approximately 160 miles long and 35 miles wide

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)
Acts 2:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ *Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."*

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

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.

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.

Galatians 2:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ *Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me. ² And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain. ³ Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.*

Acts 15:6–12 (NKJV) ⁶ *Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. ⁷ And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, ⁹ and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they." ¹² Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.*

2 Corinthians 8:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus. ¹⁷ For he not only accepted the exhortation, but being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord.*

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..

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.

This is applicable for us because remember, a true leader does not create followers, but a true leader creates other leaders. So application for all of us today, not just those with the title/appointment in the church to be elders, but to mothers, and fathers, and all the ministry leaders. So the calling, the shard and deep desire of what we studied back in 2 Timothy 2, to raise up the next generation.

2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV) ² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

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

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."

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 must be translated and applied into our everyday living.

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 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.

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

Not accused dissipation or insubordination – living dissipation (lavishly or excessive), or insubordination (not subject to leadership).

(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,

For a bishop - The term "bishop" (synonymous with "elders," verse 5) can be translated "overseer" and suggests responsibility. "Steward of God" conveys the idea of a manager of a household or estate. The overseer or steward of God's "household" (the local church). 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.

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

Not given to wine - It's a privilege to be a leader in the Body of Christ, but that privilege comes with responsibility. The men at the helm make important decisions at the spur of the moment - and they can't afford a cloudy judgment. Admittedly, opinions differ on whether the phrase, "not given to wine" requires total abstinence or extreme caution - but there's no doubt it's intended to limit the elders' use of alcohol, and warn him of its dangers.

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

Next Paul lists positive requirements. First, he is to be philoxenon (literally, "a lover of strangers," in other words, "hospitable").

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.

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.

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.

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

(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 - Next, he is to be philagathon ("a lover of good things" or "a lover of good people"). The Greek word is used only here in the New Testament. Probably the sense is "good things" or "goodness" more than "good men."

Sober-minded - An elder is to be sōphrona (“prudent, thoughtful, self-controlled, sober”). The sense here is the wise control of every thought and instinct. I would say, he speaks before he speaks, his tongue is under control.

Just - As to the elder’s spiritual requirements, he is to be dikaion (“upright, just, righteous”), giving respect to man and reverence to God, as well as hosion (“pious, devout, holy”).

holy...” The term means “reserved for God”. Here’s how you spot holiness... It’s a man willing to give stuff up to spend time with God, and be more accessible for service, and be a better witness!

Self-controlled - “Temperate” (enkratē) means “disciplined, in full control of oneself.” It is similar to “sober” but has the added meaning of possessing inner strength to control one’s desires and actions.

(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.

The leader (elder, overseer) must hold the “faithful (reliable, sure, trustworthy) word” he has been taught. By “sound doctrine” (occurring eight times in the Pastoral Epistles, it means “correct teaching”) he will be able to “exhort” (encourage, edify) and “convince” (refute, convict, point out, rebuke in a convincing way) the “gainsayers” (those who oppose sound doctrine).

This applies to every person, but as it is applied to the elder who I appointed, is it comes with the authority (and expectation) to administer church discipline on behalf of the church to keep the church pure and protected from things of the world, the flesh, and enemy.

Back to 2nd Timothy, holdfast to sound doctrine. –

(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.

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

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

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.

It is through the Sound Doctrine, this Word that we can exhort and convict those who contradict. Back in 2nd Samuel, David’s boy Eleazar, which means “God is my help” went to battle for David, he was known 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. Eleazar’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.

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 discernor 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;

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

The average person is on their smartphone 5 hours and 42 minutes. If you just spend 15 minutes a day reading your bible on our CCAAC Bible App, you will read through the whole bible in a year! I promise you power if you do, not because of my personal experience which is true, but because the promise of God who says He will prosper His Word to you!

Isaiah 55:8-11 (NKJV) ⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Psalms 1 (NKJV) ¹ Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. ⁴ The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

One of my favorite Psalms is Psalm 1. Keeps it simple for me. And I love the part delighting in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. So we see an idiom of day and night means continually. And that word meditate means continually in the sense it was a word that was used with animals, such as cows, who continually were meditating, chewing on the food that they just ate. And cows are interesting. If you watch them in the field, they can be laying there chewing, but they hadn't taken in new grass or hay, if you watch them. Well, what they're doing is that's how God designed them is they chew on the fresh food. They swallow it. It goes into an inner stomach, and there it's being worked upon and nutrients drawn and the likes. And then the cow brings that back up and chews on it some more and swallows it again and will go through that multiple times before it moves into the final stomach for the final processing. Fearfully and wonderfully made. These animals are amazing creations.

And so God likens that to us as the Word of God. And there is this beauty of the continual chewing on the word and to come back to the same word later in the day. And oh, the power of having regular times of word and prayer throughout your day. We see that in the Old Testament. They literally three times a day and boy, they lived in power. Look at the life of Daniel. And so too will it be for us.

And with the regular routine through the scripture comes a place of the searching through the scriptures where we search through it, dig through it, come back to it, ponder on these things, meditate on these things. And they're beautiful, and they're exciting things. I think there's a place where we have to come back to the remembrance of the need to just simply come back to be reminded of the Word of God. So even when we reach the place I've read through the Bible once, twice, or as many times, I find how many times, regardless how many times I've been through it, I come to that place. Oh yeah, I forgot that promise. Oh yeah, I forgot that passage. Oh yeah, I forgot that story. How rich it is. It reminds me of just yesterday being deep in the woods in the mountains here in western Maryland. Just had several inches of snow and another foot, maybe even 18 inches to two feet coming soon, to which I said to myself, I need to test out my four-wheel drive and make sure everything is in operating order. And so the four-wheel drive high was no problem. Then I got to a thicker spot, and I said, "Let's go into four-wheel drive low," and my truck would not engage at all into four-wheel drive low. And your system tells you that it's not by this continual beeping. And it flashes that it's not engaged into four-wheel drive low, which is definitely what would be a need a couple miles back into woods of the mountains with a foot or two of snow. But luckily I didn't need four-wheel drive low. I was able to get out in two-wheel drive, but I used four-wheel drive high just to make myself feel like I was off-roading.

So I was getting a little aggravated in the sense that I go, "Well now, I've got to take my truck to the dealer to find out why my four-wheel drive low is not working." But then this strange thought came to my mind. I'm not sure why I would even consider such a thing, that I said I should read the manual. And so as I read the manual, the manual clearly told me what I was doing and wrong, that I was putting it in park and then trying to go into four-wheel drive low. And the manual says that I have to put it in neutral, not park. And so once I did, immediately my four-wheel drive low worked exactly as it was designed, with pure power enough that I said, let's go find out how it will handle over here in this off-road condition. And so reading the manual brought me to a place of peace, a place of confidence that it was there if I needed it, but it also brought me to a place of joy that I could venture off and do something exciting out of my normal trail and daily routine of life.

And it's kind of like the hunt. Sometimes you really have to search it out, and you have to do the legwork. It's energy. It's effort. It's time. It's going deeper into the woods where nobody else is going. And in that, there is a joy along the way in the energy, the effort and the time as in the hunt. We enjoy the outdoors, and we can walk with the Lord and let the sweetness of fellowship of just walking in his glorious creation, seeing his omnipotent power, see his genius in his creation, his creativity, his artistic beauty, the things that he creates. We get to walk among that and get away from the sound of cars and worldly sounds and just get into the simplicity of like it was in the garden. And it's a beautiful place to be. And like Psalm 1, Psalm 5 in verse 1 says, "Give ear to my words, O Lord, and consider my meditation." And so the Word is more than just the one way God speaking to us, but we get to meditate on the Word and speak back to the Lord and have conversations with him and even, when need be, cry out to him. Verse 2 of Psalm 5 says, "Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to you will I pray. My voice shall you hear in the morning, O Lord. In the morning, I will direct it to you, and I will look up." And that's a beautiful promise as we meditate on the word.

Psalm 5:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my meditation. ² Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, For to You I will pray.

But for the hunters that know public hunting and all the challenges that comes with it and the need to go further away from the crowd and get away from all the foxes that want to steal your grapes, as that passage declares, and you have hikers and bikers and people walking their dogs and other hunters, and you can be out there for an hour, and then your hunt is totally blown up. It's not their fault. It's public land, and everybody has a right to it.

But there's a place that we hunt for the freezer, but there's also a place that's as sweet in hunting, where we get to hunt 12 months out of the year, even though the season's only three or four months long. And what I mean by that is that off-season and the excitement of going back into the woods and searching through the woods and looking for the signs and the trails that are left by the deer and looking for indications of their movement and looking at places that we normally wouldn't do when it is hunting season, because then we would be the ones blowing the hunt and ruining that habitat. But in the off-season, we get to search it out and not have to worry about so much destroying the habitat.

And so you see the power of the Word and the joy of it. There's just the joy of the searching out of the Word, looking for the signs, taking it into deeper places. And it's always alive. It's never stale. And we get to enjoy something every day of the year, not just for a particular season. When we come to the place of, I get to search through these scriptures, hear the voice of God, meditate on what he has spoken, and then speak back and say, "Consider my meditation, the things I have been chewing on," and the Lord would answer. All of life's questions are answered in the Bible, and people still have a lot of questions because they don't search deep for the answers. They don't go back to the remembrance. The manual tells us how to get into four full-wheel power, and that's what I love about this scripture. Every day, as Lamentations 3:23-24, "His mercies are new every morning. Great is his faithfulness." And every day he has something waiting for us as he rains the manna down from heaven. So I encourage you to enjoy searching the scriptures, meditating on them, getting before the Lord and ask him to hear your meditation of what you've

been chewing on and thinking of. And you'll have this sweet fellowship that lasts all year, not just for one season.

Lamentations 3:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ *They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.* ²⁴ *"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"*

Convict those who contradict - Pastor Titus needed help. A pastor can't be the only one who takes a stand. He needs other men who are sound in their doctrine, and not afraid of confrontation.

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

Verses 10–16 describe false teachers whose character is totally opposite to that of the elder just described. False teachers were

- (1) anupotaktoi ("unruly, rebellious, insubordinate"). This rebelliousness is against God's Word and God's messengers, specifically those who were troubling Paul and Titus. T
- (2) hey were (2) mataiologoi—"vain talkers, empty-headed babblers" (compare 1 Timothy 1:6).
- (3) They were (3) phrenapatai ("deceivers, misleaders") who taught things without substance.

Paul then identified them as "of the circumcision." These Judaizers (Galatians 2:12ff.) believed circumcision and the keeping of Jewish ceremonial laws were necessary for salvation. They held to unscriptural Jewish myths (verse 14) and genealogies (Titus 3:9; see 1 Timothy 1:4). They were ascetics with scruples against things God considered good (Titus 1:14, 15; see 1 Timothy 4:3–5).

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.

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.

Paul wrote Titus that these Judaizers' "mouths must be stopped" (muzzled, silenced, bridled) because they were subverting (ruining, upsetting, overturning) "whole houses" (households, families). They were teaching what was wrong "for filthy lucre's sake"; that is, "for dishonest gain."

Their mouths must be stopped. By the way, do you notice back in verse 5, 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.

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 their 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."

Paul quoted Epimenides, a 6th-century, B.C., native of Knossos, Crete, and a philosopher held in high esteem. In Greek literature "to Cretanize" meant to lie and cheat. "Evil beasts" (brutes) suggests the maliciousness attributed to animals. The words "slow bellies" can be translated "lazy gluttons." This describes the Cretan's uncontrolled greed.

This is kind of like the saying today, what happens in Vegas, as Vegas is known for its immorality.

It's interesting that Paul both knew, and had read the Greek classics. Epimenides had written in 659 BC, 700 years earlier - and Paul was familiar with his work. Obviously, Paul saw the value of educating himself in the culture and thought of the folks he wanted to reach.

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

With the words "this witness (testimony) is true," Paul gave credence to the words of Epimenides (verse 12). Because Cretans were liars and lazy gluttons, Titus was to "rebuke them sharply." "Rebuke" is from the Greek verb *elenche* which has three basic meanings in the Pastorals:

- "bring to light, expose, set forth" (Titus 2:15);
- "convict, convince, point out" (Titus 1:9); and
- "reprove, correct" (see 1 Timothy 5:20).

**The second meaning is the sense in this verse.*

"Sharply" is the Greek adverb *apotomōs* ("severely, rigorously"). It occurs only here and in 2 Corinthians 13:10. "That they may be sound in the faith" is the purpose and objective of this sharp rebuke. Correction and restoration are the goals Paul set before Titus. "The faith" refers to the doctrine (accepted tenets of faith among the early Christians).

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

This verse describes what the Cretan Christians were already doing. It shows the Judaistic influence, first toward fables, then toward asceticism.

- The Cretans were giving heed to "Jewish fables" (myths). (Compare Titus 3:9; see 1 Timothy 1:4 and comments there.)
- They were being turned from the truth of the gospel by the "commandments of men."

This is reminiscent of the Colossian heresy that Paul addressed in Colossians 2:20–22 and is further delineated in Titus 1:15.

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.

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:

Along the same lines, it seems, no it is, the world the world is in hysteria, madness over the Covid-19 virus variant, omicron. Nothing is logical, our president calls it the pandemic of the unvaccinated, and pitting countryman against countryman, employee against employee, serviceman against serviceman, but without facts or proof. They say the vaccine needs updated because omicron breaks through it, but they still hold the position the pandemic of the

unvaccinated, and mandates, and firing, and overreaching governing authorities. The world will need to learn how to live with the virus, as it is not going away anytime soon. But the mantra pushes fear into believers, don't go to church, but its ok to go to work and the grocery store. As me and Renee early this week said (in a rhetorical question), what is the church to do, how is the church to respond, and we simultaneously said and echoed, "teach the truth", for the truth of Christ needs to counter the madness of world's mantra.

John 8:31–32 (NKJV) ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:34–36 (NKJV) ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Church, it is vitally important to stay in the loop on the prophecy updates we do here every month, as we can see clearly how the continually dripping of the world's mantra can seep in and sound so wise, until we step back and look at it in the light of God's truth.

(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.

It is not saying that everything a believer does will be pure, but, that the believer is pure, because they have been made pure.

John 15:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."

And we come to the communion table to remember that it is so:

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

How do I walk in purity? Same – Truth! Psalm 1, Isaiah 55, is pure power, the mediating on the Word, day and night, and then the world's thoughts don't become my thoughts, but God's thoughts become my thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8–11 (NKJV) ⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

Psalms 119:9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. ¹⁰ With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! ¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

1:16. A strong contrast exists between the first two clauses: "They profess (claim) ... but in works they deny (disown)."

False teachers stood condemned by their own conduct. Paul said they were

- bdeluktoi ("abominable, detestable, repulsive");
- apeitheis ("disobedient"); and

- adokimoi (“reprobate, unfit, unqualified, worthless, useless, rejected after testing”).

The mention of “every good work” introduces a key emphasis in Titus (see 2:7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14).

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

Matthew 7:17–21 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them. ²¹ “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.

Mark this passage as it is very prophetic, in just like Paul said to Timothy, people will have a form of godliness in the last days, many will even say that is godliness, and true godliness will be rejected as being narrow and judgmental:

2 Timothy 3:1–7 (NKJV) ¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶ For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

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.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² 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.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Chapter 2

Passage: Titus 2:1-15

Title: Living godly in This Present Age

Summary: In chapter 2 Paul is giving instruction to Pastor Titus on how to instruct the church to live godly “in this present age” which continually tries to call us away into its emptiness; but Paul reminds us that we live for something greater than here, but Him, as we await the “blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (verse 2:13).

Overview

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. Paul gave the instruction to “set things in order” in the church, and is giving instruction on how to do that, first corporately as a church, and then individually on how believers are to live.

Titus 1:1 (NKJV) ¹ 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,

Titus 1:1 (ESV) ¹ Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,

Titus 1:5 (NKJV) ⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—

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

Today's Study

Titus 2:1–15 (NKJV) ¹ But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: ² that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; ³ the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. ⁶ Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, ⁷ in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, ⁸ sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. ⁹ Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. ¹⁵ Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Outline: Living godly in This Present Age:

- As According to Sound Doctrine (2:1)
- As Older Men (2:2)
- As Older Woman (2:3)
- As Young Woman (2:4-5)
- As Young Men (2:6-8)
- As Employees (2:9-10)
- As We Are Looking for the Blessed Hope (2:11-15)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² 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.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?

- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Living godly in This Present Age: As According to Sound Doctrine (2:1)

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

2:1. Chapter 2 opens with a shift in content. Paul addressed Titus with “But ... thou.” This is an emphatic pronoun contrasting Titus’ work with that of the false teachers which Paul denounced in 1:10–16.

Titus 1:10–16 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. ¹² One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.*

The word “speak” is also in contrast to the speech and conduct of the Cretan false teachers (see 1:10, 11). Titus was to speak about the things that “become (prepei, ‘to be suitable, fitting’) sound doctrine” (compare 1:9).

The instruction in our passage today is “maturing” in the faith, going from younger to older in spiritual maturity.

The great bible commentator of many years ago Adam Clarke said of this chapter: “FEW portions of the New Testament excel this chapter. It may well form the creed, system of ethics, and text book of every Christian preacher. Does any man inquire what is the duty of a Gospel minister? Send him to the second chapter of the Epistle to Titus for a complete answer.” (Adam Clarke)

I pray we all be on guard as we need to every week, that the seed finds good ground today, I pray against the “hard heart – wayward path”, against the “shallow heart – stony ground”, against the “distracted/crowded heart – thorny ground”, but the Lord finds good ground in our hearts today to cast His Seed of His Word, and we might have a harvest of 30-60-100

Matthew 13:16–23 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; ¹⁷ for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. ¹⁸ “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. ²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. ²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”*

Living godly in This Present Age: As Older Men (2:2)

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

Notice in our passage, and I am not being snide/spiteful/hateful that the Lord clearly differentiates between the sexes (clearly male and female). Last week Canada presented a new law that is very concerning about pastors teaching on sexual identity; as a unified response it is reported some 4,000 American pastors made last Sunday a Sunday to preach on sexual identity as God created, to which I say that is great. One American pastor had his sermon removed on YouTube and censored as hate speech (hey church of America see where this is going). But, how sad that the churches in America needed a special Sunday to preach on something that all through the

scriptures God continually presents, I made them male and female. We don't need special Sundays, we just need to teach the whole bible, and it will teach itself:

Genesis 1:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

2:2. In his instructions to Titus, Paul indicated how behavior must line up with belief and illustrated how this applies to various age groups and sexes. In this verse Paul wrote about what the "aged men" must be. He listed six traits.

1. Sober - They were to be nēphalious ("sober, temperate, practicing restraint"). This denotes refraining from wine and having moderation in general.
2. Reverent - They were to be semnous ("grave, serious, worthy of respect, responsible"; compare 1 Timothy 3:8, 11).
3. Temperate - They were to be sōphronas ("temperate, sensible, prudent, self-controlled, thoughtful, soberminded"; compare verse 8).
4. Sound in Faith - Older men must be "sound" (hugaiantōtas), healthy in faith,
5. In Love - this is unconditional love (agapē),
6. In Patience - (hupomonē ["endurance, steadfastness, fortitude"]).

Years should add strength to a man's faith, increase tolerance of others, and produce ability to endure whatever comes.

The counsel in 2 Timothy 2, was that mature men, faithful men, would teach other. So for every mature man in this church, who are you teaching? Don't look at aging as an ending, but a beginning of the next generation.

2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV) ² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Living godly in This Present Age: As Older Woman (2:3)

(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;

2:3. "Likewise" (hōsautōs) stresses that the aged women should have the same moral fiber as older men.

Reverent - They must be reverent *in behavior*. The Greek behind "as becometh holiness" means "as befits a holy person." i. "The adjective 'reverent' basically means 'suitable to a sacred office' and conveys the image of a good priestess carrying out the duties of her office. The conduct of the older women must reveal that they regard life as sacred in all of its aspects." (Hiebert)

Slander – not Much Wine - Slander and drunkenness are two vices that were common practices among Cretan women. Christian women are to resist these actions and conduct and instead be "teachers of good things." Paul says they should be sober, maybe because a few tips of the bottle gets the tongue a little too loose.

Slander - The word for slanderers is the same word used for "devils." When the older women—or anyone else, for that matter—slander and gossip, then they do the devils' work. Slanders, are pawns in Satan hands.

Good Things - The Greek word is kalodidaskalous and may be translated "teach what is good." Whether male or female, we are to be teachers of good, and not anything that displeases God. Whether that teaching is in instruction, lifestyle, actions, or words.....

Romans 16:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. ²⁰ And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

I am reminded of that song of long ago by Christ Tomlin called "Romans 16:19":

- Romans 16:19 says!
- Romans 16:19 says!

- [2x]
- Be excellent in what is good
- Be innocent of evil
- Be excellent in what is good
- Be innocent of evil
- [Chorus:]
- And the God of Peace will soon crush Satan
- God will crush him underneath your feet!
- And the God of Peace will soon crush Satan
- God will crush him underneath your feet!

The counsel in 2 Timothy 2, was that mature women, faithful women, would teach other. So for every mature woman in this church, who are you teaching? Don't look at aging as an ending, but a beginning of the next generation.

2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV) ² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

For both older men and older woman, imagine just 1 hour a week investment, that is only 52 hours a year, and how deep that investment will prosper someone younger who is meandering through life, maybe be lost or looked over because everybody is so busy, and walks right past them thinking they got it all together, well most likely they don't, but if they are on a good tract, older has enough experience to help them avoid some of the pitfalls on the road we call life.

Living godly in This Present Age: As Young Woman (2:4-5)

(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.

By the way, I am way too wise to try to define the age of older and younger, and thankfully I believe this is way beyond age but speaks deeper of spiritually maturity.

2:4-5. Older women were to teach the young women philandrous

1. ("to love their husbands")
2. and philoteknous ("to love their children").

Both Greek terms occur only here in the New Testament. The base word is phileō ("to love, have affection for, like").

For you who have been married for some time, you more than anybody, "I Do" is only the beginning.

Five important teachings follow:

- (1) "to be discreet," sōphronas ("sensible, self-controlled, prudent");
- (2) "chaste," hagnas ("pure");
- (3) "keepers at home," oikourous (possibly "workers at home, busy at home, domestics");
- (4) "good," agathas ("kind," i.e., not hard or mean in their management of the home);
- (5) "obedient (subject, submissive) to their own husbands."

The purpose for all this was "that the word of God be not blasphemed" (maligned, discredited).

Homemakers - Ladies, are you a good homemaker? The Greek word means, "a keeper or guardian of the home." Paul wants to make sure the younger women order their lives in such a way that it puts them in position to manage the affairs of their family. No woman should be so busy that she puts her family on the back burner. Of course, this doesn't mean a woman can't venture out of her home to earn some money for the family. No more than it means a husband -

who's primary duty is to provide for his family - can't help his wife clean and manage the home. Marriage is certainly a team sport.

We learn in Proverbs 31 that the virtuous woman is both a mother and a successful business-person. She's industrious and ambitious, but her chief assignment is to manage a peaceful and orderly home. **Let's all realize, home is the most important place on earth. It's where life makes up its mind. It's a family's refuge from the world. A stable home makes for stable kids and a steady husband.** A lady who neglects her home, and allows chaos to rule, is out of God's will.

Obedient to their own husbands - This may not be a popular observation, but it's true: when a wife refuses to submit to her husband's leadership it casts a cloud over God's Word. In marriage God assigns roles to both spouses that speak powerfully of His relationship with His people. How thoroughly we've absorbed the Christian way of life is reflected in our attitude toward the biblical roles of husband and wife. Ladies, let me ask, If little, green martians landed in your backyard, and said to your kids, "Take me to your leader?" Would they take them to mom or dad? A godly wife let's her husband lead...

Living godly in This Present Age: As Young Men (2:6-8)

(Titus 2:6 NKJV) Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded,

2:6. Titus was to address the young men:

"Be soberminded!" He was to "exhort" (encourage, urge) them to this one objective. Sōphronein ("soberminded, self-controlled, prudent") is a word often found in this letter to Titus (see 1:8; 2:2, 4). It stresses the need for self-mastery.

Men, if you want your wife to follow you and trust your decisions you can't be impulsive - hot-headed - driven by emotions. You've got to be level-headed. Always aim carefully before you pull the trigger, and decide to take action.

(Titus 2:7 NKJV) in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,

Pattern - The word "pattern" is upon ("example, model"). Literally it means "an impress of a die." The same charge was given to Timothy (1 Timothy 4:12). But here Titus was commanded to be an example of "good works" (a key term in this epistle). His life should show what the gospel is and can do.

Integrity - Reverence - Incorruptibility - But his talk was important too. His "doctrine" (teaching) was to show "uncorruptness" (untaintedness, integrity). This underscores the need for purity of motive. Titus' teaching was to show "gravity" (seriousness, reverence, dignity). This points out the need for dignity of manner. As a teacher, Titus should demonstrate both purity of motive and dignity of manner.

The measure of a man's integrity is the gap between what he believes and how he actually lives. Is that gap in your life broadening or shrinking? Every man wants to be respected, but the wise man lives respectably.

The Pattern - So 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.

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.

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.

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 man's 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.

(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.

Sound Speech - 2:8. "Sound speech" (soundness of speech or wholesome speech) that "cannot be condemned" (censured, reproached) would put his opponents to shame. If Titus was an example in the words he spoke, those who opposed him ("he that is of the contrary part") would find nothing they could gainsay. The final clause of this verse, "having no evil thing to say of you," carries the idea that Titus was to present no opportunity for his opponents to use an evil report against him. His "sound speech" was to be truthful, wholesome, and absolutely irreproachable. Anything his opponents might say would then be seen as false, fabricated, empty, and evil.

Romans 16:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. ²⁰ And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

I am reminded of that song of long ago by Christ Tomlin called "Romans 16:19":

- Romans 16:19 says!
- Romans 16:19 says!
- [2x]

- Be excellent in what is good
- Be innocent of evil
- Be excellent in what is good
- Be innocent of evil

- [Chorus:]
- And the God of Peace will soon crush Satan
- God will crush him underneath your feet!
- And the God of Peace will soon crush Satan
- God will crush him underneath your feet!

Living godly in This Present Age: As Employees (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,

2:9. Next Paul addressed the subject of slavery as he did in 1 Timothy 6:1, 2. Titus was to “exhort” (teach, urge, bid) Christian slaves to be “obedient” (subject, submissive) to their masters. The Greek for “masters” is the root for the English word despot and shows the absolute authority the master had over his slave. Roman slaves had no legal rights whatsoever.

Well pleasing - Slaves were to “please them well in all things,” that is, give satisfaction in every respect.

Not Answering Back - The verb translated “not answering again” is literally “to contradict” and can mean “to oppose, to show active enmity against.”

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

Not Pilfering - is literally “put on one side for themselves” and connotes petty stealing. This was easily done by household slaves.

Statistics show American businesses lost \$13 billion to shoplifting last year...But employee theft cost an astronomical \$50 billion. Pilfering cost us four times as much as thievery. One out of eleven Americans is guilty of shoplifting. Three out of four have stolen from their employer.

Adorn the Doctrine of God our Savior - On the positive side, slaves were to show they could be trusted. In so doing they would “adorn” the gospel. Kosmōsin (“adorn, do credit to”) is literally “put in proper order.” The Greek verb can be used of the setting of a jewel to show its best features and full beauty. Christian slaves could testify of the gospel by their willing obedience to their masters

I remember a friend of ours who loved to show us her precious jewelry, and she would lay it on a black cloth, and her husband would position the light just right to make it reflect; and such a picture for all of us in the workplace that so often are prefabbed with the black backdrop, and when we work as unto the Lord, we are gems and jewels that sparkle and reflect the beauty of the Lord.

Living godly in This Present Age: As We Are 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,

Grace has appeared - Like a surprise, God’s grace appeared suddenly. We were drowning in sin, and grace is the first responder. There’s an African proverb that highlights God’s grace. **We’re like a turtle on top of a fence post.** A turtle can’t climb up a post. There’s no way it can jump or fly to the top of a fence post. The only way you’ll see a turtle on top of a fence post is if someone reaches down, picks up that turtle, and does for it what it can never do for itself. Someone else has to put it there. And that describes our salvation. God in Christ has done for us what we could never do ourselves. Grace goes against our human grain. From an early age, in most arenas, we’re measured by how we perform. But grace makes God’s favor free of charge.

2:11. Verses 11–14 constitute one of the two doctrinal sections of this epistle (the other is 3:4–7). Paul here described God’s grace and its effect on believers. It brings salvation and results in rejection of ungodliness and demonstration of holy living.

The word “for” introduces this new paragraph and the doctrinal basis for the ethical demands just given (verses 2–10). “Grace” is God’s undeserved love (compare Romans 5:6–10) shown in Christ and independent from any human effort (see Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8, 9). “Hath appeared” is in the aorist tense which points to one definite act. In this case it is the Incarnation that brought Christ to us (compare 3:4).

Grace is a Person - 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.

6,000 years ago God got His hands dirty in the Garden as He formed man out of the dust of the earth, and then 4,000 years after that those same hand become blood covered to buy us out of sin and deliver us from death, and today those hands stretch forth to each of us today, saying come to all you labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest:

Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV) ²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

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

Teaching - And once we receive God’s grace, it becomes our teacher... Paul writes of Professor Grace

“Teaching” here is more than instruction. The word in the Greek means the whole process of educating a child—instruction, encouragement, and discipline. The grace of God teaches that Christians should live differently.

Denying - First, negatively, they deny or renounce “ungodliness” (lack of reverence for God, godlessness). Second, they give up “worldly lusts” (passions, desires). Why does God teach against the world, because it is passing away..... only the things of God abide forever.

1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Should Live/This Present Age - Positively, Christians live “soberly” (self-controlled, prudently), “righteously” (upright, justly), and “godly” (reverently). A triad of relationships may be seen in these adverbs. A Christian lives right in relation to himself (self-controlled), to others (justly), and to God (reverently). He does this “in this present world” (age).

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

Incarnation to Second Coming - The doctrinal emphasis now moves from the Incarnation to the Second Advent. Paul calls it “that blessed hope.” It is not just a wish but divine assurance for life beyond this life. Paul referred to this event in his other pastoral letters (see 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1). Here he wrote of the “glorious appearing” (epiphaneian) of Jesus Christ. His first coming was with fullness of grace (Titus 2:11, compare John 1:14).

Glorious Appearing - His second coming will be in the fullness of glory. He came to the manger humble and lowly, and rode in to Jerusalem lowly riding on a donkey; His Second Coming He will ride into the world on a white horse, a conquering King and General. He came first as a Lamb, and will come again as a Lion.

Revelation 19:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

Revelation 5:12 (NKJV) ¹² saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

Revelation 5:5 (NKJV) ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

The phrase "the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" can refer to both Father and Son. It can also be translated "our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ" and focus on the Son's deity. No matter which translation is accepted, the primary sense is that Jesus is coming again, and He will be seen in His true glory and majesty. This is our blessed hope!

This is not just a wish, but a hope with full assurance, because the Grace that has a name, His name is Jesus, is also Truth, who cannot deny His Word.

(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.

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

(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.

He gave - The doctrinal emphasis now focuses on Christ's atonement.

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Might Redeem - He "gave himself for us" in order to "redeem" (lutrōsētai, literally, "to release on receipt of a ransom") us from all "iniquity" (wickedness, lawlessness)

And Purify -" (compare Ephesians 5:25, 26) us. Redemption and purification are the two great works involved in salvation.

Special People - "Peculiar" means "special, chosen, one's own possession" (1 Peter 2:9).

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Zealous for Good Works - Such people are "zealous" (eager, devoted) to do good work.

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.

What is Intent of Extravagant Grace

What's the intent of God's extravagant grace? To make for Him a special people - distinct from the world - zealous for goodness.

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

2:15. As a summary, verse 15 is transitional to 3:1 where Titus was to speak, exhort, and rebuke. "Speak" (teach) involves proclamation.

The command "exhort" involves encouragement (compare 2 Timothy 4:2). Titus was to encourage the Cretan Christians with positive and edifying words, but with the balance of the next command. "Rebuke" (reprove) involves the ministry of conviction. Titus was to convince wrongdoers of their sins so that they might repent and seek God's forgiveness and cleansing. Titus was to do all this "with all authority" (epitagēs). This Greek term is used only by Paul and always in the sense of a divine command. Titus was to recognize that his authority came from God. He then must not allow anyone to "despise" (disregard) him (compare 1 Timothy 4:12).

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.

Outline: Living godly in This Present Age:

- As According to Sound Doctrine (2:1)
- As Older Men (2:2)
- As Older Woman (2:3)
- As Young Woman (2:4-5)
- As Young Men (2:6-8)
- As Employees (2:9-10)
- As We Are Looking for the Blessed Hope (2:11-15)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives. *Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)* ¹² *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.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Chapter 3

Passage: Titus 3:1

Title: Be Subject to the Governing Authorities

Summary: In our passage today the Apostle Paul is instructing Pastor Titus in what we know as the pastoral epistles, to remind the church they were to obey the governing authorities, which at that time was the oppressive Roman Empire. This direction would have been a hotly debated topic among the church believers, no doubt controversial and divisive, but still yet a very clear inspired command of the Lord to His Church. Of course, the question always arises, is civil disobedience allowed, if so, when? Join us as we study through these things.

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

Well I have been in pastoral ministry well over 20 years now, but never more in the last two years has the topic, and debate, about submitting to the governing authorities been ever such a hot topic. This pandemic has shown both good and bad regarding the intent of Government to protect the people, and the flipside of that, of the Government being overarching and overbearing. What a Believer to do? The Scriptures tell us.

Outline: Be Subject to the Governing Authorities

1. Why are there Governing Authorities?
2. Why are Believers to Submit to Governing Authorities?
3. Is Disobedience to Governing Authorities Acceptable for a Believer?

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² 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.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

Why are there Governing Authorities?

Simply put because God instituted government

God established 3 institutions on earth, with government being one of them:

- The Home (Genesis 2 – marriage and be fruitful and multiply)
- The Government (Genesis 9 – establishment of Capital punishment)
- The Church (Matthew 18 – on this rock I will build my church)

Genesis 2:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Genesis 9:1 (NKJV) ¹ So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

Genesis 9:6 (NKJV) ⁶ "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.

Matthew 16:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Why are Believers to Submit to Governing Authorities?

The command to obey, be subject (submissive), is clearly declared in the scriptures.

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

Romans 13:1–7 (NKJV) ¹ 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. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴ For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷ Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

1 Peter 2:13–17 (NKJV) ¹³ Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. ¹⁷ Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

There is an obeying of the governing authorities, a submitting for the Christian witness. 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.

As we see in Romans 13, we reject God's authority when we reject man's authority, for God has established them (allowed them) to be the governing authorities. In Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2, we see the context of the governing authority is clearly the law that judges evil doers, brings punishment upon evil doers.

- Law enforcement against evil (murders, rapist, thieves, child abusers, and the likes). Hence why the people are to pay taxes, so to support these institutions that protect the people of a nation.
- Building Laws and Codes, and building inspectors are to keep people safe from shady contractors who cut corners to make more profit and threaten the lives of those people who live in those buildings, once again why taxes are paid to fund those institutions.
- Banking laws, stock market laws, business laws, to protect the citizens from evil doers looking to take advantage of people and robbing them of their money. Again, why we pay taxes
- Highways and infrastructure, laws to develop them, and maintain them. And, laws on who can and can't use them, what vehicles can and can't be driven on them, age limits and licenses, and of course speed limits. Again, why we pay taxes.
- And of course, healthcare laws, medical laws, licensing boards, who can and can't be a provider of medical care, all laws to protect people from physical harm and injury. Again, why we pay taxes.

It takes a government to establish all these institutions and evil the oppressive Roman Empire, with its heavy taxation, provided these things it's citizens, which even the overly taxed, were beneficiary of these things.

Governing authorities over these things are beneficial to every citizen, believer or not. Laws are good for societies.

Where in the scriptures do we see the examples of believers submitting themselves to the governing authorities:

- We see Jesus did regarding paying taxes to Caesar (Luke 20). If you play that all the way out, Jesus would have paid taxes when He was a carpenter.
- We see Paul did by saying I appeal to Caesar (Acts 25)

Luke 20:21–25 (NKJV) ²¹ Then they asked Him, saying, "Teacher, we know that You say and teach rightly, and You do not show personal favoritism, but teach the way of God in truth: ²² Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ²³ But He perceived their craftiness, and said to them, "Why do you test Me? ²⁴ Show Me a denarius. Whose image and inscription does it have?" They answered and said, "Caesar's." ²⁵ And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Acts 25:10–12 (NKJV) ¹⁰ So Paul said, "I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know. ¹¹ For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar." ¹² Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, "You have appealed to Caesar? To Caesar you shall go!"

How about unrighteous nations? Time prevents me from addressing every nation in our world, but let me address America, as we have learned from Israel. Sometimes God gives the Nation what they asked. Israel time and time again we find them in the scriptures doing well and serving God, and then into captivity, bondage, and/or oppression for not serving the Lord. The Book of Judges is a continual cycle. Throughout the book, we will see a cycle that is repeated seven times, a cycle very similar to the one in which we so often find ourselves:

- First, we see the people of Israel serving God.
- Next, we see them surrendering to sin.
- Then they are enslaved by sin.
- Fourthly, they are sorry about their sin.
- And finally, they are saved from their sin.

Sometimes, God gives the people/nation what they ask for, and there is a consequence to pay. Speaking of a great submission to governing authorities, God for years, and prophet after prophet told Israel to repent and return from their sin, but they disregarded and lives as they would.

Jeremiah the prophet said repent, or judgement is coming. Then he said, judgement is coming, Babylon is coming and don't try to resist them, but submit to them, for this is what you voted for.

Jeremiah 38:18–22 (NKJV) ¹⁸ But if you do not surrender to the king of Babylon's princes, then this city shall be given into the hand of the Chaldeans; they shall burn it with fire, and you shall not escape from their hand. ¹⁹ And Zedekiah the king said to Jeremiah, "I am afraid of the Jews who have defected to the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me into their hand, and they abuse me." ²⁰ But Jeremiah said, "They shall not deliver you. Please, obey the voice of the LORD which I speak to you. So it shall be well with you, and your soul shall live. ²¹ But if you refuse to surrender, this is the word that the LORD has shown me: ²² 'Now behold, all the women who are left in the king of Judah's house shall be surrendered to the king of Babylon's princes, and those women shall say: "Your close friends have set upon you And prevailed against you; Your feet have sunk in the mire, And they have turned away again."

We see at the time of this writing of Titus, Israel had rejected the Messiah, they would not let this man rule over us, and so the consequences, Rome ruled..... with an iron fist.

Luke 19:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'

John 19:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵ But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" ¹⁶ Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away.

Sometimes the oppression and unbearableness is because the Nation, gets what it voted for. I believe America is very much in that place, we live as we are because the people have voted.

How does that apply to the believers who didn't vote the way the Country went? I will address that shortly

We are called to pray for our leaders, and the church corporately should be doing that. We as a church and we in this great nation, we don't only get to pray, we get to vote. We get to vote them out of office through prayer, and after prayer we get to go cast a ballot to confirm it.

1 Timothy 2:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

Is Disobedience to Governing Authorities Acceptable for a Believer?

Now back to the individual Christian, is there a place to disobey the governing authorities?

Yes, clearly, and the Bible shows when it is a must to do so. Peter and John healed a lame man at the temple during the hour of prayer, all the people ran to them to see what just happened, and Peter preaches a word in power, and 5,000 get saved, but the religious leaders are filled with religion, care less lives are being changed, and throw them in prison (which by the way shows that there was Roman laws and Jewish laws that were permitted under the Roman law which was supreme in the land). The religious leaders concur that there was a miracle, but again they chose religion (man's self-righteous ways of coming before God), rather than God's way, through the cross, and thus threaten Peter and John to preach no more, to which we know their answer:

Acts 4:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. ²⁰ For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

Acts 4:13–22 (NKJV) ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. ¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, ¹⁶ saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name." ¹⁸ So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. ²⁰ For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." ²¹ So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. ²² For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

We see a repeat of this scenario in Acts 5, as the apostles did signs and wonders and many people were saved, and so the religious leaders rise against the apostles, back to prison they go, God supernaturally opens the prisons doors and sends them back to the temple to preach, and the religious leaders say hey we told you not to preach anymore, to which Peter gives the classic word of power we know:

Acts 5:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Acts 5:27–29 (NKJV) ²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, ²⁸ saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" ²⁹ But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Believers are not to submit to the governing authorities if the authorities law defies the Law of God.

The extremist patriot says that a person should always follow and obey his country, no matter what the command. As shown, this view also does not have biblical support. Moreover, it is not supported in the history of nations. For example, during the Nuremberg trials, the attorneys for the Nazi war criminals attempted to use the defense that their clients were only following the direct orders of the government and therefore could not be held responsible for their actions. However, one of the judges dismissed their argument with the simple question: "But gentlemen, is there not a law above our laws?"

Jesus defied the governing authorities when He would not hail Caesar as Lord:

John 18:37 (NKJV) ³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

There is a future day, that a man called the Anti-christ, who will be the world leader of the world government, will require all men and woman to take a mark of allegiance to him, or not buy and sell and thus not eat. Then ultimately, he will kill them. Should a Christian take the mark of the Beast because the government dictates, they should, absolutely not!

Revelation 13:16–18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the

beast, or the number of his name. ¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

Revelation 13:7–8 (NKJV) ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Here is Where Church Today Misses It

But here is where the church is missing it today, as the believers argue and divide over mask mandates, vaccine mandates, no church meeting, or limited capacity – as everyone feels they have a strong position that is justified by the scriptures.

And the church is divided, neutralized because of its division within itself.

The church is called, as we have studied, the pillar and ground of truth. The church is to be the pillar that the whole community looks up to and sees what truth is, what God looks like. The Church is to be the pillar and ground of truth for the Country... not the country or the government!

1 Timothy 3:14–15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; ¹⁵ but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Here is the problem, the government is not to be shaping the Church, the Church is to be shaping the government – we are the Pillar and Ground of Truth to the whole world! A divided body is called cancer; cancer attacks itself from the inside out and destroys itself. A Pillar is solid, and the concrete is mixed together for strength; a foundation is solid and immovable.

And here is where the church ultimately misses it, they miss the power they have to shape the government, and not the government shape the church.

Back to Acts 4, after Peter and John released, they come back to believers and it turns into a spontaneous praise and prayer session, and God confirms their actions by a prophetic word (Psalm 2), and then by a sign as the whole building was shaken, and then an outpouring of the Holy Spirit (a subsequent baptism of the Holy Spirit), and it says after they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:23–31 (NKJV) ²³ And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ²⁴ So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵ who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? ²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the LORD and against His Christ.' ²⁷ "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. ²⁹ Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰ by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

The church did not go into civil disobedience regarding obeying the things of God over the things of man, until a prayer meeting, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Christians should not be submitting to the governing authorities, just because they say to; and nor should Christians go into civil disobedience just because they think so..... civil disobedience or obedience should only come through prayer and fasting, and a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit.

Do you realize it was only... took 120 people in the upper room, just 120 in corporate prayer and it turned the world upside down. And I like to see the Lord do it again right here through us. But note clearly, a people who were in one accord

Acts 2:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Jesus speaking of the pillar and ground for truth, the church should be a House of Prayer, for that is where He hears and that is where He speaks.

Matthew 21:12–13 (NKJV) ¹² Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³ And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "

Jesus said, kinds like these do not come out without much fasting and prayer, and so the continual calling for fasting and prayer to fight. Fight for what? The souls of our Countryman

Matthew 17:14–21 (NKJV) ¹⁴ And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, ¹⁵ "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. ¹⁶ So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁰ So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. ²¹ However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Fasting loosens us from the world, from our flesh being in charge. As I like to say, I am going "too" fast, I need to slow down, therefore I am going "to" fast. Fasting slows me down, fasting breaks me away from my routine, and when we fast, we "attach" ourselves to the Lord in a special way. There is power in fasting in that every time your stomach growls you are reminded why you are praying (joke yes but true), fasting puts the flesh in subjection to the Spirit, as the Spirit says "no" I am in control not you, and to me one of the most powerful aspects is as you fast for extended times, you find an amazing clearing and clarity of your mind. Fasting, breaks through surface and superficial prayer, and connects us to heart-to-heart prayer, as we weed through why are we praying for this, is my heart serious about this prayer..... am I desperate for this thing I pray for.

The Church has missed its power because it has lost its power, because it is a divided church, that misses the power afforded it.

We do the monthly prophecy update to keep us awake, to stay alert, so we don't fall asleep of what is happening around us. But most of the world is asleep, and sadly much of the church is sleeping or slumbering, being lulled to sleep. Slowly, bit by bit Americans, very much the church, are losing their liberty, and government (inspired by Satan) is pushing a godless agenda. How are we to respond

I look north up our Canadian neighbors and I find it ever so interesting how Satan has worked there. Just this past month they have launched one of the most aggressive homosexual agendas in the world, and the threat is if pastor, churches, anybody for that matter tries to convince a person otherwise (as in accordance with God's Word) they can end up in jail. How fascinating, that for two years they have had some of the strictest covid measures in all the world, they still have capacity limits for worship gathering. They are divided over all the mandates like we America church are. But if you follow it, Satan divided the church in Canada, kept them apart from each other, and divided them to fight among themselves, and then Satan moved to pass this law. We need to see church, and we need to respond accordingly, through prayer and fasting..... in one accord.

We are called to pray for our leaders, and the church corporately should be doing that. We as a church and we in this great nation, we don't only get to pray, we get to vote. We get to vote them out of office through prayer, and after prayer we get to go cast a ballot to confirm it.

1 Timothy 2:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

Sometimes the oppression and unbearableness is because the Nation, gets what it voted for. I believe America is very much in that place, we live as we are because the people have voted. I saw lets do something about that..... together in one accord!

America

How about what happened on January 6, 2021, how does that align with the Word? It doesn't, and it doesn't align with American history either. There was insurrection before the one we saw on January 6th, 2021. It happened back in 1776 when the colonist rebelled against England. The difference between the two then and now, did you know before our forefathers declared a unanimous independence from England, they did not do it without first a proclamation and a day of fasting and prayer. But that's not what we see in America today. We see men moving in the flesh and evil motives for evil gain. What a difference we saw from our forefathers. If anyone questions whether they led civil disobedience, we see that they were led by more than flesh and carnal desires.

Many are unaware that the Declaration of Independence was not even to be considered until a day of fasting and prayer had been observed. Appointed by the Continental Congress, it was kept by all the colonies on May 17, 1776. When the nation was finally born on July 4th, 1776, our forefathers rang the Liberty Bell with great enthusiasm, and a legend says that it cracked as they zealously proclaimed their freedom. Years later the White Chapel Foundry of London offered to recast the huge carillon, but their proposal was of course refused. Apparently, the symbolic value of the damaged bell, which recalls the religious and patriotic fervor of those early days, is something that America still wishes to preserve.

America is the greatest nation in the world, but for how much longer. America is great because America was founded on "The Pillar and Ground of Truth"

George Washington, our Nation's first President wrote:

- *It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible.*

John Adams, our Nation's second President wrote:

- *"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."*

Patrick Henry – our founding father and signer of the declaration of Independence, the man who fire up a nation with those words: Give me Liberty or Give me Death! Also said:

- I wish I could leave you my most cherished possession, my faith in Jesus Christ. For with him you have everything; without him you have nothing.
- It cannot be emphasized too strongly not too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

National Day of Prayer

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

Whereas, the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the Supreme Authority and just Government of Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and of nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for National prayer and humiliation.

And whereas it is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

And, insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment, inflicted upon us, for our

presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole People? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th. day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer. And I do hereby request all the People to abstain, on that day, from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite, at their several places of public worship and their respective homes, in keeping the day holy to the Lord, and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and the restoration of our now divided and suffering Country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty seventh.

*By the President: Abraham Lincoln
William H. Seward, Secretary of State.*

Conclusion

America is the greatest nation in the world, but for how much longer. America is great because America was founded on "The Pillar and Ground of Truth"

We must not forget our Christian Heritage, and must live up to our heritage, let's be a people, a church, that prays in one accord, and then does what the Spirit tells us to do, with the power and boldness to do it.

Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV) ¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

May the Church shape the government, not the government shape the church!

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² 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.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?

Calvary Chapel Anne Arundel
Pastor Ray Bollas

- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Passage: Titus 3:1-15

Title: Let a Revolution Begin in My Heart

Summary: In our last study we saw the early church in Acts, and we saw our Forefathers of America, be in one accord, and the whole world was turned upside down. In our study today, God goes deeper, straight to the heart, with a calling of pure beauty and power, and that is a revolution in our very heart, and the outcome will be glorious, both to ourselves and the world around us. Join us as we finish this wonderful Book of Titus.

Titus 3 (NKJV) ¹ Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. ³ For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men. ⁹ But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰ Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned. ¹² 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. ¹³ Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing. ¹⁴ And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. ¹⁵ All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Outline: Let a Revolution Begin in My Heart (Titus 3:1-15)

- Subject to the Rulers (3:1)
- Speak no Evil of Anyone (3:2-3)
- Saved by Grace & Cleansed by the Holy Spirit (3:4-7)
- Maintain Good Works (3:8)
- Avoid Foolish Disputes (3:9-11)
- Raised Up Men (2 Timothy 2:2) Fulfilled (3:12)
- Sending and Meeting the Need (3:13-14)
- Ends Where it Began – Grace, Its All Grace (3:15)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² 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.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Subject to the Rulers (3:1)

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

Mark 16:15, the command to go into all the world. That's a command. Government can't override that. Hebrews 10, "Do not forsake the assembling of the brethren." The world cannot override that. God says, "My house shall be called a house of prayer." The world cannot override that nor governing authorities, and the church is to be the pillar and ground of truth. The word must go out.

In our last study we saw the church (the pillar and ground of truth) was to start a revelation to turn the world upside down, when and after they were with one accord, and we saw turning the world upside down (changing hearts and changing lives) would only come with much fasting and prayer:

1 Timothy 3:14–15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ *These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; ¹⁵ but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

Acts 2:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Matthew 17:20–21 (NKJV) ²⁰ *So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. ²¹ However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."*

Matthew 21:12–13 (NKJV) ¹² *Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³ And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "*

Chapter three verse one is read so often out of context, and it's a shame because it misses what the shaping is. It's not until chapter three that the order of command is given to be subject to governing authorities.

- The outline of the book starts with chapter one of the calling continually for the pure doctrine of the word to be taught in the church. And that elders and shepherds were raised up to teach, correct, extend the pure doctrine of the word of God.
- Then in chapter two, the calling is for godly men and godly women, both young and old and how they ought to live. Then how bond servants, that's workers in the workforce, were to work as a light on the world. And then the gospel is preached in purity and power in chapter two.
- Then in chapter three is the context to shape and impact and influence the government of the world.

The church, the people, good works sends a message to the world. Marriages can be solid. Homes can be stable. Kids can be pure. The gospel comes with redemption and purity because people are living in darkness, drowning in the darkness. Hence, they drown out the good news of the gospel because they think that's all there is. Oh, when the word of God breaks through, light breaks in.

And that's my testimony. I had all the world said to have. And I would look in the mirror to the bottom of my soul, see emptiness and darkness, void of color. I knew early, age 21, wife, kids, picket fence won't change this. And for years and years, I lived in that place knowing the emptiness and the darkness, trying to fill it and trying to convince myself that there was something to me and something would break through. But I knew deep in my heart, it wasn't. And I kept filling it, the void, with the volume of the world. But the void just kept getting bigger and bigger. Then one day, God called me to his word and I saw that there was more and by grace received him, not of works, because I knew there was nothing that I could do to buy it. I knew that all I brought was darkness and emptiness, but I trusted God would bring light and the volume of his love to fill the void of my heart, and he did. This world lives in darkness and hopelessness and hence why they are following whatever they are told, because they live in fear, but the church the pillar and ground of truth can speak the word and tell them there is more..... A God who loves them

Verse one says, "Every good work." That means all of them, and that means at all times. So, that means we need to be ready now and every moment to do good works. Not when we plan it, not when we feel like it, but every moment, we need to be ready for good works. And the only way that comes is being prepared in advance that, "I'm going to be a worker of good works."

If you give a cup of cold water, and not in the name of Jesus, the why of why you did it, then it is dead works.

Mark 9:41 (NKJV) ⁴¹ For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

Good works, by the way, they don't save you. They're just a byproduct of being saved.

Now here are some good works – not necessarily what we think they are, as we think feeding the hungry, teaching children's church, and the likes are how we see good works, but it is way more than that, because look what is said next:

Speak no Evil of Anyone (3:2-3)

(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.

Verse two. This is global, both believer and unbeliever, but wow. Paul had to tell pastor Timothy and remind him to remind people to not be mean, slanderous, harsh. Shouldn't that come as part of the preloaded software of the new operating system when you get saved? But obviously not. It's something of the old nature that needs to be seen and put in check continually, and hence why we continually come back to Matthew 17. Kinds like these don't come out without much prayer and fasting. There's something in the old man that continually needs to put in subjection to the new man, the spirit that is living in us.

Verse two and three tells us how not to speak. That is we're not to speak of evil. We're to pray, pray for the governing authorities, pray for our enemies. And you know what happens when you pray for governing authorities that you don't agree with and enemies that you don't like? God gives your heart for them, and maybe even a perspective of prayer breaks through the things of the flesh. And that takes us back how applicable not to talk evil about our employer and our bosses, or to give them respect and honor.

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, 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.

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.

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,

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.

Saved by Grace & Cleansed by the Holy Spirit (3:4-7)

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

Verse four. Romans 2. "It's your kindness that leads to repentance," one of my favorite songs of all time. It's an oldie, goes back 30 years, but still something I continually sing in my heart probably couple times a week. It's so beautiful.

Romans 2:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

(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,

Verse four through seven. Verse three isn't a pretty picture. But when love showed up, love had to show up. We couldn't, we wouldn't see it without it, love, for we were deceived. We're told in verse three, think we're all okay, that we were justified, or we were victims or we were misunderstood and the likes. Love had to show up.

Verse five. He is merciful, because of his kindness and love. They're all interwoven together. His mercy produces kindness and love, but he's merciful, because of his kindness and love. It's his nature. Our God has a wonderful nature. It's a nature of love, and he loves you. He died for you and he's calling you to a personal relationship. He's calling you to walk with him in an intimate and special way today.

Washing by ... Verse six, the pouring of the holy spirit. Key word there is "pouring," and as beautiful as it is when the Lord washes us, catches our tears, holds our face in his hand, the tenderness of the merciful, kind, loving God. But when it came time for the cleansing, it was a pouring out of the holy spirit. I'd been to Niagara Falls, and I saw the pouring of water, and it was glorious, but I reminded of Glacier National Park. I hiked all the way to the top of that waterfall. Then I hiked a mile up the waterfall source, which was a river.

And that river was made by melting snow cover. And that reminds me of, we are white as snow, as Isaiah said. Though our sins are like scarlet, we shall be made white as snow. And I remember hiking up there and the water was crisp and perfect. It was cold. It had to be maybe 40 degrees at the most. And I found myself in a little alcove, 10 yards maybe off the main river, so I didn't get washed down. But I went into that to get a fresh drink of water. And I put my face into the water.

It was crystal clear. And I opened my eyes under the water, and I could see the gold sparkling in the water from the mountainous run-off. And there we are. We're refined with gold, made white as snow. Even in all that verse three said about us, he says, "Come on in," Isaiah 8:14. "Let me wash your feet," John 13. We just see the washing of the Lord to make us white as snow, cleanse from all unrighteousness. And we're free. And we're made new.

Not by works, but by his mercy and see it through and by the Holy Spirit was washing, regenerating, renewing. Verse six, and it was poured out abundantly, not just saved by cheap sacrifice, in an extravagant sacrifice, expensive. That means we're not just saved a little, we're saved extravagantly and abundantly because it's comparative to what the price was paid to redeem us.

Verse seven, justified means justified never sinned. And therefore, you can go back to verse three and you can wipe it out, remove it, wash it, cleanse it away. It is done. Jesus meant what he said.

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 cannot 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 11:12-14 (NKJV) ¹² Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it.

Genesis 3:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

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.

John 3:3 (NKJV) ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

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.

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.

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

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.

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."

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

Maintain Good Works (3:8)

(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.

See, eyes that see need to be people who pray that unbelievers' eyes would be opened by love that came down.

Verse eight, how shall we respond to such love? Good works. Not wasteful, dead works, but profitable works. God wants us to do works that bring a profit. And yes, you can give a cup of cold water and feel good about it. But if you did that apart from in the name of Jesus, then all that you did was dead works.

The good works that we do must be correlated and tied to Jesus Christ so people know what brought the good works about, what was the heart and what was the core of them, what was the fuel that fired that good works. So we need to do good works in the name of Jesus, not just for

the sake of doing good works because we can take that as a command to do good works and be way off and wrong.

We should maintain good works; we should bear much fruit, for there is a crown awaiting us at the end.

2 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

James 1:12 (NKJV) ¹² Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

1 Peter 5:4 (NKJV) ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Revelation 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

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.

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.

Avoid Foolish Disputes (3:9-11)

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

Verse 9-11 stay on the mission and the mission is the Great Commission. Go, therefore, reject the divisive person after the second admonishing that's casting pearls to swines.

Back to verse one, God wants to start a revolution, Why? Because, verse three, the lost and dying are deceived. But for revolution, as we studied with the revolution of the United States of America, and as we studied the revolution of God launching salvation by grace and tearing down dead works of religion back in Acts 2, the revolution ... In Acts 2, the revolution and the American revolution, they were in one accord. And we must be in one accord if we're going to launch this revolution to win the lost and dying.

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 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.

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 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.

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.

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 pick 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.

Raised Up Men (2 Timothy 2:2) Fulfilled (3:12)

(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.

Verse 12, we see the fulfillment the 2 Timothy 2:2 provided to become profitable because Paul invested in them.

Sending and Meeting the Need (3:13-14)

(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.

Verse 13 and 14, send the disciple to go make disciples. The Christian life is that simple, win, disciple, and send.

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.

Ends Where it Began – Grace, Its All Grace (3:15)

(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.

And where it always ends, where it always begins, verse 15, because it's all grace.

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.

Outline: Let a Revolution Begin in My Heart (Titus 3:1-15)

- Subject to the Rulers (3:1)
- Speak no Evil of Anyone (3:2-3)
- Saved by Grace & Cleansed by the Holy Spirit (3:4-7)
- Maintain Good Works (3:8)
- Avoid Foolish Disputes (3:9-11)
- Raised Up Men (2 Timothy 2:2) Fulfilled (3:12)
- Sending and Meeting the Need (3:13-14)
- Ends Where it Began – Grace, Its All Grace (3:15)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² 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.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.