

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" (hugainontas), 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!
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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.

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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.

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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 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 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 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

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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.

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, choose 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 choose 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 Caesar 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.