

Sermon Notes 10/23/22

# “Our Common Faith”

## What is our common faith?

1. It is \_\_\_\_\_ the truth.

Titus 1:1

John 8:31-32

2. It is \_\_\_\_\_ in godliness.

Titus 1:1

Titus 2:11-12

3. It is \_\_\_\_\_ in God’s promises.

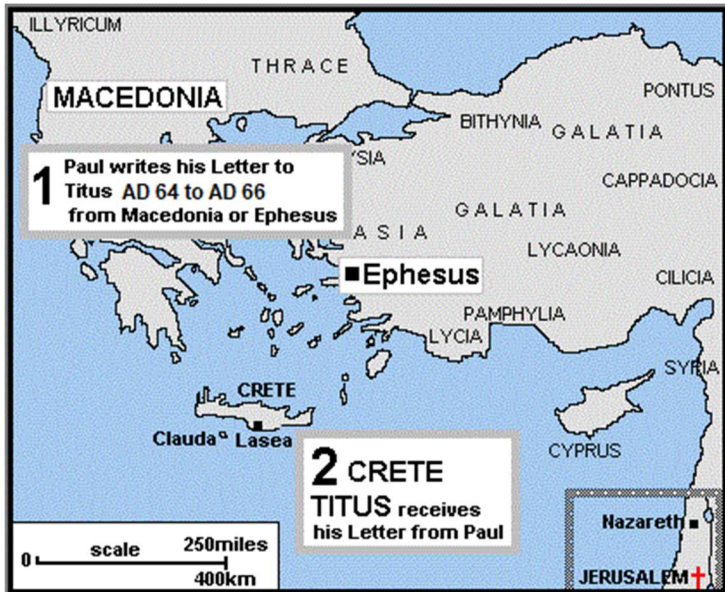
Titus 1:2

2 Peter 1:4

4. It is \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus as our God and Savior.

Titus 1:3-4

Titus 2:13-14



# Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 1: October 23

Titus 1:1-4

The books of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus are called “Pastoral Epistles” because they were written to preachers who were leading churches. Timothy and Titus were both entrusted with ministries of preaching, teaching, and equipping Christians to be ministers in God’s kingdom. As such, these books are practical and essential for Christians today who are preparing for ministry.

While the book of Titus comes after 2 Timothy in our Bibles, chronologically it was probably written after 1 Timothy and before 2 Timothy. Paul left Titus in Crete in AD 64 to help new Christians grow spiritually and appoint elders in each of the congregations (Titus 1:5). This letter was written to help Titus accomplish that task. Titus had his work cut out for him. The people living in Crete had a reputation for being difficult (Titus 1:10-14). For Christians today, the book of Titus helps us to understand the struggles and responsibilities of church leadership. But it also provides us with great encouragement for serving in God’s Kingdom. One of the major themes in Titus is the importance of doing good works. Paul uses the phrase “good works” six times in this letter (1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14).

Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell note,

Even the opening verses that contain the apostle's greeting indicate priorities that should characterize those who serve God by leading others: embrace grace, love godliness, and share Christ.<sup>1</sup>

## Read Titus 1:1-4

1. What is the first word Paul used to describe himself in verse 1?
2. According to verse 1, why was Paul called to be an apostle?

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<sup>1</sup> R. Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell, *1–2 Timothy and Titus* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 302.

James Smith writes,

Paul is the only New Testament writer to refer to Christians as *God's elect* (*eklektos*) cf. Romans 8:33; Colossians 3:12. The phrase is derived from the Old Testament. It stresses the idea of God's choice of his church. God chooses those who choose him as Savior to be the recipients of abundant spiritual blessings.<sup>2</sup>

3. What should the knowledge of the truth lead us to in verse 1?

William Mounce observes,

Hidden away in this verse is the trilogy of faith, the intellectual understanding of faith ("knowledge of the truth"), and the proper behavior that must come forth from faith ("godliness"). All three members of the trilogy are necessary elements in Christianity and constitute the goal of Paul's apostleship... *epignosis*, "knowledge," is not only intellectual apprehension but also a fullness of understanding, in this context the type of understanding that results from experience (cf. *eusebeia*, "godliness")... "godliness" is a technical term in the PE for the total commitment of one's life to God with emphasis on the practical outworking of that faith (cf. 1 Tim 2:2).<sup>3</sup>

4. What promise from God did Paul refer to in verse 2?

Robert Yarbrough comments,

Paul's reference to eternal life reminds Titus at the outset of the other-worldly dimension of his very this-worldly assignment. Titus has responsibilities on Crete. Like a pastoral overseer anywhere, he faces tangible and tawdry obstacles in the form of "rebellious people" (Titus 1:10), the unholy urges that guide them, and the deleterious effects they produce... But the faith and knowledge given believers in the gospel message introduce a transforming dynamic because they rest on what pertains to the age to come.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> James Smith, *Pastoral Epistles Revisited* (Coppell, TX: lulu.com, 2017), 192.

<sup>3</sup> William Mounce, *Word Biblical Commentary: Pastoral Epistles* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2016), 379-380.

<sup>4</sup> Robert W. Yarbrough, *The Letters to Timothy and Titus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2018), 470.

5. What did Paul say about the truthfulness of God's word? (1:2)
6. When did God plan out the promise of eternal life for us? (1:2)
7. When did God bring to light His plan for our eternal life? (1:3)
8. How did God bring to light His plan for our eternal life? (1:3)
9. What did Paul say about his ministry of preaching God's word? (1:3)

C. Michael Moss writes,

Paul emphasizes that his preaching was not a matter of his choosing, but a sacred trust given by God's command. The phrase "by the command of God our Savior" is exactly paralleled in 1 Tim 1:1.<sup>5</sup>

10. How did Paul describe Titus in verse 4?
11. How did Paul describe the Christian faith in verse 4?
12. What blessings did Paul pray for Titus to receive? (1:4)
13. Why is it important for leaders to see themselves as servants?
14. How does a knowledge of the truth lead us to godliness?
15. How do you that God's word is true?
16. What promise from God's word gives you hope in difficult times?
17. In what sense have we been entrusted to preach God's word?
18. Who has helped you to grow in the faith? How?
19. How can you encourage a Christian minister this week?
20. When can you share God's word with someone this week?

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<sup>5</sup> C. Michael Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 141-142.