

# Titus 1 – 24 March 2024

## “Spiritually Setting The Church In Order”

### Introduction

- \*Gentile Titus; saved during Paul’s Missionary Trips
- \*He was Paul’s emissary to Corinth (II Cor 7, 8)
- \*During the writing of this letter, Titus was setting the churches in order on the Island nation of Crete
  - \*Then returns w/ Paul to Nicopolis, Greece (Tit 3:12)
  - \*Late to travel from Rome to Dalmatia (II Tim 4:10)
- \*Tradition says he dies as Bishop of Crete late in life
- \*Paul begins his letter with instruction on *spiritually* setting things in order on Crete
- \*If you’re in situation where the knowledge of Christ has come yet there is disorder, where would you start?
- \*In reality, we each face this everyday
- \*Many people know of Christ, but aren’t disciples

**We’ll see 3 ways to spiritually set things in order**

# #1 – Offer The Hope Of Eternal Life (Vs 1-4)

Read Vs 1

1. Paul is both a servant and an apostle; both lowly and positioned by God
2. I think the prepositional phrases matter a lot more than the noun (“of God”, “of Jesus”)
  - a. I used to be a servant of sin, now I serve God
  - b. I used to be an apostle of dead religion, now I can say that I’m send here by Jesus Himself
3. How did Paul get here? B/c he had faith in God & lives in true godliness

Read 2-3

1. We know that faith comes by hearing the Word, now it says hope comes by hearing the Word
2. The Christian Gospel isn’t in essence the offering of a way of life, but the offering of eternal life
3. We should **live with hope** in light of the promised eternal life to come
  - a. We can trust God to bring this eternal life
  - b. And this is the method of disseminating eternal life – preaching it one person to another

4. Hope is powerful; can change our current life!
  - a. Norwegian rats drown in 17 minutes
  - b. After being pulled out just before drowning, they found that they can then last 37 hours b4 drowning

## Read Vs 4

1. Titus was a Gentile and yet their common faith in the resurrected Lord Jesus unites as family
  - a. I'm sure they had to set aside lots of small differences that didn't really matter
2. Writing to young men, Paul has to include *mercy* with grace and peace
  - a. Notice the grace, mercy & peace aren't from Paul
  - b. What we offer people is from Jesus!

## #2 – Straighten The Structure Top Down (Vs 5-9)

Intro – (Win Dad, win the family)

1. Evangelism stats Dad (93%), Mom (17%), nill

Read Vs 5

1. Seems to indicate Paul appointed Titus to stay here as Paul continued on after his release from his 1<sup>st</sup> Roman imprisonment – now Paul confirms it
2. The two-fold task at Crete
  - a. Further straighten out whatever is lacking
  - b. To recognize leaders in every city / church
3. Notice how these elders were ordained
  - a. Not by popular vote or by self-promotion
  - b. Appointed by an established Godly man
4. But certainly, Titus had to use God's qualifications

Read Vs 6-9

1. Qualifications had nothing to do w/ giftedness or outward charisma, but of moral character

- a. Samuel went to anoint Jesse's son...& it was David
- b. Man looks on outward, God looks on heart
2. For a complete study on the characteristics of an elder, get our complete study from I Tim 3
3. Va 6 says if he can't steer his home, he's not qualified to steer the church
  - a. Blameless - *others can't take hold of* an issue in his life as sinful or distracting
  - b. One wife – singular wife, not polygamous
4. Vs 7 says he must be demonstrating contentment not covetousness
  - a. Notice *bishop & elder* are the same
5. Vs 8 says he must be geared towards thinking of others
6. Vs 9 says he must be able to teach from God's Word
  - a. Notice that we can use God's Word to both encourage the believers AND to convince the unbelievers

### **#3 – Work w/ Those That Submit & Give, Not The Arrogant & Covetous (Vs 10-16)**

Read Vs 10-11

1. Many people speak against Christianity for what they'll gain in money, power or position
  - a. Many won't come to Christ b/c they're not willing to loss some worldly money, power or position (ie. Rich Young Ruler)
  - b. Peter warned of them (Read II Pet 2:1-3)
2. They won't submit to authority & want to deceive
  - a. The ultimate authority we must submit to is the Lord thru believing His Word
  - b. There were Jews that specifically stirred people toward lies thru deception
3. How do we stop other's lying mouths? Violence?
  - a. No, by preaching sin & forgiveness
  - b. Read Rom 3:19 – seeing sin makes us stop

Read Vs 12-14

1. Even Cretan poet Epimenides said correctly, the Cretans generally were liars, evil & lazy

2. So Titus should know who he's dealing with
  - a. If you have a rough crowd, deal sternly
  - b. Paul didn't tell him to walk away simply  
b/c his audience was a rough bunch
3. And what are some of problems w/ this bunch?
  - a. Vs 14 says to watch out for Jewish myths (like Kabbalah) & laws of men (like legalism)
  - b. There are principles that come from the devil, from man or from God
    - i. Choose those from God

## Read Vs 15

1. This relates to the Jewish legalism from vs 14
  - a. To the Christian that has a pure mind & heart, he can enjoy the necessities of life in a pure way
  - b. But to the unbeliever that has a defiled mind & heart, he sees sin in everything
2. Exp: Have you been in a room when a phrase is used that could have a perverted second meaning & you don't get it but the room laughs
3. Purity is an internal matter, not dependent on situation

## Read Vs 16

1. Paul told Timothy that many evil doers, have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof
2. Jesus said you will know them by their fruits
  - a. You can't gather grapes from a thornbush
3. James said that we can show our faith in God by our works

## Conclusion

So when we look at our spiritual environment (our family, our church), how well are we established?

1. **Are we offering the hope of eternal life?**
  - a. Jesus' resurrection is what we preach!
2. **Are we straightening from the top down?**
  - a. Major on the major items, minor on the minor
3. **Are we focused on those that submit & give, rather than on the arrogant & covetous?**
  - a. There's always negative, focus on those that are motivated from a pure conscience