

Titus 3 – 14 April 2024

“Profiting From A Church Set In Order”

Introduction

*During the writing of this letter, Titus was setting the churches in order on the Island nation of Crete

*Tradition says he dies as Bishop of Crete late in life

*Chap 1 – Paul began w/ instruction on spiritually setting things in order on Crete

*Offer hope of the gospel & work w/ godly people

*Chap 2 – Paul instructed on practically setting things in order on Crete

*Living w/ sobriety & godly character

*If Chapters 1&2 was how to clean up your life, then Chap 3 is how to profit from a cleaned-up life

Today, we’ll see 4 ways to profit from a Church that is set in order

#1 – By Meek Citizenry (Vs 1-3)

Read Vs 1

1. Have a reputation as a good citizen
2. Paul told Tim to have the Ephesians pray for rulers, here Titus is given to lead the Cretens in simple obedience – they ask, you do
3. Turn to Rom 13:1-7
 - a. Certain we don't follow any authority over us in any realm when they direct a sinful action
 - b. Heb 13:17 says they'll give an account of how they did
 - c. But do we have a heart to obey authority seeing how God can use our obedience

Read Vs 2

1. Don't “speak evil” of anyone, but we certainly need to sometimes speak of someone's evil
 - a. Paul spoke of Alex doing evil (II Tim 4:14) to warn others
 - b. Don't speak dishonestly, yet we may need to speak honestly of one's evil words/deeds

2. Simply seek to build bridges, not walls between
3. Show ‘meekness’, restrained power as a horse
4. Why should we act such as vs 2? B/c of vs 3

Read Vs 3

1. Very reason we should show compassion & grace to those sinning, is b/c we’ve also done it
2. Notice they’re ‘serving’ sin by nature (Eph 2:3)
 - a. We were enslaved to sin as they now are
 - b. Shouldn’t we have love for the enslaved?

#2 – By Proper Motivation (Vs 4-7)

Read Vs 4-5a

1. In our state of enslavement, God reached to us
 - a. We didn’t reach out to God or fix ourselves
2. Read Rom 5:6, 8 – when we were w/o strength & yet ungodly sinners Christ died for us
 - a. Shall we not do the same?
3. Reading your Bible, coming to church & giving money are great works but cannot save you
 - a. It’s His mercy to accept us into His family

Read Vs 5b-6

1. “Washing of regeneration” – regeneration is literally ‘born again’
 - a. Jesus said unless a person is born again, he can’t see the Kingdom of God
2. So, is the washing literal washing like baptism?
 - a. Only other time ‘washing’ is used (Read Eph 5:26), the washing is spiritual
 - i. God cleaning us with His Word
 - b. When Jesus was washing feet, Peter thought he needed a complete washing or bath
 - i. Jesus said once you’re washed you only need to wash your feet b/c you’re already clean
3. “Renewing of the H.S.” – this is how we’re born again, by the life of the Holy Spirit coming in us
4. Notice we, right now, have abundant access to Holy Spirit
 - a. Read Luke 11:13 – quickly available
 - b. Read John 7:37-39 – abundantly available

Read Vs 7

1. Jesus has given to us the gift of His family money
2. How did we become heirs? Ee became His kids
 - a. Paul told Romans (8:17) that we've become children of God & if children then we're heirs
3. Well, what do we inherit?
 - a. James says (2:5) we are heirs of the very Kingdom of God

#3 – By Avoiding Distractions (Vs 8-11)

Read Vs 8

1. Faith alone saves, but faith that saves is never alone, it's accompanied by a good life
 - a. David Guzik said, “we must never get the cart of good works ahead of the horse of grace”
2. Good works should naturally spring up from a life being lived by the H.S. as fruit in a garden
3. How can we be “careful”?
 - a. Doesn't take sweat to do great work for God
 - b. It takes a great work of God in us not to sweat it

- c. Don't let our time & energy to be spent on God be choked out by this world's pleasures
- 4. Notice "these things are profitable" – Living for Jesus isn't just right, but it's good!

Read Vs 9-11

1. Attempt to help someone who's tripped up w/ distractions & knit-picking, but don't try endlessly
 - a. There're always endless opinions about how to apply the good principles of God Word
 - b. There're always endless very minor viewpoints on current events questions
2. Avoid these situations and continue into the profitable, good Word of God

#4 – By Doing All Necessary Functions (Vs 12-15)

Read Vs 12-13

1. Paul intends to send a close friend from himself unto Crete so Titus can come see Paul

- a. Tychicus specifically is mentioned often as a beloved & faithful servant of the Lord
2. In return, Titus would come to Paul at Nicopolis w/ Zenas & Apollos
 - a. Apollos (Acts 18) knew only John's baptism & grew, then he's in I Cor & they're still friends
3. The mention of Artemis & Zenas & Nicopolis should remind us, God works even in the places & thru people that very few have even heard of
 - a. God has a work in our town, thru us as well

Read Vs 14

1. Don't just be a happy paperweight
2. Christians should learn all the basic skills of life & not depend on others for these necessities
 - a. We should be the ones helping the unbelieving world when they have needs

Read Vs 15

1. We need God's grace to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ

Conclusion

I recently read a psychological magazine article that said, “the organizational state of your bedroom is an outward expression of the organizational state of your mind”

Well once we’re organized, here’s what we do w/ it...

1. **Be Meek Citizens:** what’s the profit in that?
 - a. Good relationships make it easy to share Christ with the world
2. **Be Properly Motivated:** what’s the profit in that?
 - a. Correct hearts make it easy to want to share Christ
3. **Avoid Distractions:** what’s the profit in that?
 - a. Clear focus gives us good opportunities to share Christ
4. **Do All Necessary Functions:** what’s the profit in that?
 - a. Job skills give us practical resources to share Christ