1. Intro

- Book of Titus: a letter from Paul to his disciple, Titus, instructing him how to organize the disorganized and leaderless church on the Mediterranean island of Crete that was being pressured with false teaching and godless culture.
- Today, Paul instructs Titus and the church on Crete how they are to live and act before the spiritually dark culture around them.

2. Text

Titus 3:1-2

"**1** Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. **2** They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone."

- Submit to the **government** and it's officers. Be **obedient**. Always be ready to do what is **good**.

Titus 3:1

"**1** Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good.

- **Romans 13:1-2** "Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. **2** So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished."

    - Roman historian Tacitus said this of Emperor Nero's treatment of Christians: "Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as nightly illumination when daylight had expired."

    - It was into that political scene that Paul wrote with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to Titus and said, "submit to the government. Be obedient. Always be ready to do what is good."

- Followers of Jesus are to let our **light** shine in this dark world.

    - **Matthew 5:16** (ESV): "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

    - "Out of 100 men, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian."

        - What are the people around you seeing? Are they seeing a light in the darkness or something else?

- But what if the government tells us to disobey God?

Acts 5:17-42

- We must obey **God** rather than any human authority. - Acts 5:29

Titus 3:2

- Paul instructs Titus and the believers on Crete how to be examples to the unbelievers who are still trapped in Satan's lies.

- You must not **slander** anyone and you must avoid **quarreling**.

- Be **gentle** and show true humility to **everyone**.

- Perspective check: The world isn't our enemy, it's our **mission field**!

  - **1 Peter 2:11-12** "**11** Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. **12** Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world."

  - **Matthew 11:28-29** "**28** Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am **humble** and **gentle** at heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

3. Application

- How are we doing on our mission fields? Are we lights in our dark worlds or do we blend into the darkness?