

1. Intro

- We are pausing Luke until January and switching to the book of Titus.
 - The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to one of his disciples named Titus. Paul left him on the island of Crete to appoint elders in the church, to remove false teachers, and to teach the believers there to live Godly lives.
- In our text today, Paul lays out his own God-given mission in his opening words to Titus:
 - Bring people to belief in Christ (the Gospel)
 - Cultivate people's growth in godliness
 - Encourage people to confidently anticipate the eternal life God promised

2. Text

Titus 1:1-4

1“This letter is from Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives. **2** This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began. **3** And now at just the right time he has revealed this message, which we announce to everyone. It is by the command of God our Savior that I have been entrusted with this work for him.

4 I am writing to Titus, my true son in the faith that we share.
May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior give you grace and peace.”

- Paul identified himself as a **slave** of God and an **apostle** of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus took the humble position of a **slave** (doulos) and, in obedience to God, died a criminal's death on the cross for us!
 - **Philippians 2:5-8** “You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a **slave** and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

- Paul proclaimed the Gospel (Titus 1:1) because it is the power of God at work, **saving** everyone who **believes** it! (Romans 1:16)
- Paul taught the truth of God's Word so believers would live **godly** lives.
 - How would you answer the sentence: In my life, I just want _____.
- Paul encouraged people to **confidently** anticipate the **eternal** life God promised.
- Paul called Titus his **true son** in the faith.
 - They were not related by blood. Titus was Paul's son in the faith because Paul led Titus to faith in Jesus.
 - **2 Timothy 2:1-2** "Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. **2** You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others."
 - "God doesn't expect the impossible from us. He wants us to expect the impossible from Him!" D. L. Moody

3. Application

- We've believed the Gospel, but are we living a "godly life" like Paul encourages believers to live? If not, why not? Could it be we're filled with other things?
 - "I firmly believe that the moment our hearts are emptied of selfishness and ambition and self-seeking and everything that is contrary to God's law, the Holy Spirit will come and fill every corner of our hearts; but if we are full of pride and conceit, ambition and self-seeking, pleasure and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. I also believe that many a man is praying to God to fill him, when he is full already with something else. Before we pray that God would fill us, I believe we ought to pray that He would empty us. There must be an emptying before there can be a filling; and when the heart is turned upside down, and everything that is contrary to God is turned out, then the Spirit will come." - D.L. Moody