

August 25, 2019

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## TIME OF REFLECTION

“It is not necessary to seek the truth among others which it is easy to obtain from the Church; since the apostles, like a rich man [depositing his money] in a bank, lodged in her hands most copiously all things pertaining to the truth.”

~Irenaeus (c. 115-c. 202), Bishop of Lyon (Lugdunum)

“The test of a gospel-centered church is its doctrine on paper plus its culture in practice.”

~Ray Ortlund, pastor and writer

“The really important kind of freedom involves attention and awareness and discipline, and being able truly to care about other people and to sacrifice for them over and over in myriad petty, unsexy ways every day. That is real freedom.”

~David Foster Wallace (1962-2008), American writer and professor

“Against the prevailing mindset of our day—you are what you make of yourself—union with Christ tells you that you can discover your real self only in relation to the One who made you. You are not, you cannot be, self-made. Union with Christ tells you that you can only understand who you are in communion with God and others. And that is a wildly countercultural claim.”

~Rankin Wilbourne, pastor, from his book *Union with Christ*

“Will not the very moment of great disillusionment with my brother or sister be incomparably wholesome for me because it so thoroughly teaches me that both of us can never live by our own words and deeds, but only by that one Word and deed that really binds us together, the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ? The bright day of Christian community dawns wherever the early morning mists of dreamy visions are lifting.”

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945), from *Life Together*

“It is important to think about the Church not as ‘over there’ but as a community of struggling, weak people of whom we are part and in whom we meet our Lord and Redeemer.”

~Henri J.M. Nouwen, (1932-1996), Dutch professor, writer and theologian

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## Worship through the Word

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**SERMON** – “The Church and It’s Work” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

**SERMON PASSAGE** – *Titus 1-3 Assorted Texts (NASB)*

*Titus 1:1-4*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, <sup>2</sup> in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, <sup>3</sup> but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

*Titus 1:5-9*

<sup>5</sup> For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, <sup>6</sup> namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. <sup>7</sup> For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, <sup>8</sup> but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, <sup>9</sup> holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

*Titus 1:10-11, 13*

<sup>10</sup> For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, <sup>11</sup> who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain....

<sup>13</sup> This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith,

*Titus 2:1, 5*

<sup>1</sup> But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine....

<sup>5</sup> ...so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

*Titus 2:11-15*

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, <sup>12</sup> instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. <sup>15</sup> These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

*Titus 3:1-2, 8, 14*

<sup>1</sup> Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, <sup>2</sup> to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men...

<sup>8</sup> This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.... <sup>14</sup> Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.