

## Titus: Adorn the Doctrine of God

### Why are we studying Titus?

1. "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." -2 Timothy 3:16-17
2. We are in a unique transitional season at Briarwood
  - Reverend Frank Barker: 1960-1999
  - Reverend Harry Reeder: 1999-2023
  - Interim Pastor Dr. Dan Doriani 2023-?

### What do we know about the letter to Titus?

- Written by Paul in the mid-60's AD
  - Sometime after first imprisonment (Acts 28) and before final imprisonment and death
- Written to Titus in Crete
- Written at the same time as 1 Timothy (to Timothy in Ephesus)

### Who was Titus?

- First mentioned in Galatians (48 AD)
  - "Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. <sup>2</sup>I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. <sup>3</sup>But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek." Galatians 2:1-3
  - Was a gentile believer alongside Paul and used in Paul's argument against circumcision
- Most likely converted by and disciplined by Paul for 15-20 years
  - "To Titus, my true child in a common faith..." Titus 1:4
- Was a key leader in the church at Corinth
  - Mentioned 9 times in 2 Corinthians
  - Sent by Paul to lead the church
  - Principally involved in organizing the collection for the saints in Jerusalem, caring for the poor, correcting error in the Corinthian church, and reporting to Paul

"Titus was one of Paul's very dear and trusted friends; and the fact that he was chosen by the apostle to act as his delegate to Corinth, to transact difficult and delicate work in the church there, and that he did this oftener than once, and did it thoroughly and successfully, shows that Titus was not merely a good but a most capable man, tactful and resourceful and skillful in the handling of men and of affairs." -John Rutherford

- Paul's praise of Titus to the Corinthians
  - "But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you." 2 Corinthians 8:16
  - "As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ." 2 Corinthians 8:23

### **What do we know about Crete?**

#### The People of Crete

- From Polybius (Greek historian of 200-118 BC)
  - "impossible to find ... personal conduct more treacherous or a public policy more unjust than in Crete."
  - "So much in fact do sordid love of gain and lust for wealth prevail among them, that the Cretans are the only people in the world in whose eyes no gain is disgraceful."
- From Epimenides (Cretan philosopher from 600 BC)
  - "One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, 'Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.'" Quoted by Paul in Titus 1:12
- In Paul's day, the derogatory term "cretanize" was used to refer to a liar.
- Cretans were at Pentecost
  - "...both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." Acts 2:11

### **What is the purpose of Paul writing to Titus?**

- To put church leadership into order
  - "This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you..." Titus 1:5
- To warn against false teachers
  - "For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. They must be silenced... Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith." Titus 1:10,13
- Teaching sound doctrine
  - "But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine." Titus 2:1
- Proper living amongst believers
  - "...so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior." Titus 2:10
  - "I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. Titus 3:8

**Doctrine directs your life. Your life displays your doctrine.**

## How can we pray?

### 1. For our church

- To have strong and godly church leadership
- To be aware of and stand strongly against false teaching
- To be filled with teachers who teach sound doctrine
- To be filled with believers who live lives of good works displaying the doctrine of Christ

### 2. For the Reeder family

- To be comforted by the God of all comfort
- To be fruitful and devoted to good works
- To be encouraged by the faithfulness of the body

### 3. For the future pastor

- To be above reproach as God's steward
- To hold firm to the Word of God
- To be devoted to teaching sound doctrine
- To adorn the doctrine of God through his lifestyle and good works