

>> ALL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH. GO THEREFORE, AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE.

>> MORE, MORE ABOUT JESUS. MORE, MORE ABOUT JESUS. MORE OF HIS SAVING FULLNESS SEE, MORE OF HIS LOVE WHO DIED FOR ME.

CLIFF >> HELLO. MY NAME IS CLIFF GOODWIN, AND I WELCOME YOU HERE TODAY FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL. I HOPE AND TRUST AS YOU JOIN ME THAT YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLE IN HAND, AND I WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH ME. AS WE MOVE FROM POINT TO POINT, FROM PASSAGE TO PASSAGE, SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES WITH ME TO MAKE SURE THAT THE THINGS I TEACH HERE TODAY ARE TRUE TO THE WORD OF GOD. DEAR FRIENDS AND VIEWERS, I CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING SURE THAT IN RELIGIOUS MATTERS WE GET BACK TO THE BIBLE. IT DOESN'T MATTER, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, IT DOESN'T MATTER ABOUT YOUR OPINION OR ABOUT MY OPINION. WHAT MATTERS IS WHAT DOES THE BIBLE ACTUALLY TEACH. AND SO THAT BEING SAID, I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLE OPEN WITH ME. AND TODAY I WANT US TO CONSIDER A LESSON THAT I'VE ENTITLED CHRISTIANS IMPACTING SOCIETY. CHRISTIANS IMPACTING SOCIETY. NOW LET THAT SINK IN FOR JUST A MOMENT. IS IT NOT THE CASE, OR SHOULD IT NOT BE THE CASE THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD HAVE AN IMPACT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SOCIETIES? AND I BELIEVE THE BIBLICAL ANSWER WOULD BE A RESOUNDING YES. I THINK, FOR EXAMPLE, ABOUT THE PARABLE OF THE LEAVEN WHEREIN WE SEE THAT THE INFLUENCE AND THE IMPACT OF CHRISTIANS, THOUGH PERHAPS NOT ALWAYS VISIBLE AT FIRST, IT IS NONETHELESS ACTIVE, IT IS NONETHELESS EFFECTIVE, HAVING THAT EFFECT, MAYBE GRADUALLY, MAYBE OVER TIME, AND YET NONETHELESS, THE IMPACT SOONER OR LATER IS REALIZED. I BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER FOR US TO WIN THIS WORLD FOR CHRIST, THEN IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT WE WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON OUR SOCIETY. TO HELP US ESTABLISH THIS BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION, LET'S LOOK TO A PASSAGE IN TITUS 1:12-13. THE BIBLE SAYS, WHOSE MOUTHS MUST BE STOPPED, WHO SUBVERT WHOLE HOUSES, TEACHING THINGS WHICH THEY OUGHT NOT FOR FILTHY LUCRE'S SAKE. WE'RE OBVIOUSLY TALKING ABOUT SOME FALSE TEACHERS HERE. ONE OF THEMSELVES, EVEN A PROPHET OF THEIR OWN, SAID, THE CRETANS ARE ALWAYS LIARS, EVIL BEASTS, SLOW BELLIES. NOW, THERE, ESPECIALLY IN VERSE 12, WE SEE THAT TITUS HAD BEEN LEFT IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION. WE MIGHT SAY A DIFFICULT SOCIETY. YOU GO BACK UP TO VERSE 5 IN TITUS CHAPTER 1, AND PAUL HAD LEFT TITUS ON THE ISLAND OF CRETE. BUT THEN IN VERSE 12 WE READ ABOUT THE NOTORIETY, THE INFAMY, IF YOU WILL, OF THE CRETAN CITIZENS. THEY ARE ALWAYS LIARS, THEY'RE EVIL BEASTS, THEY'RE SLOW BELLIES, OR IDLE GLUTTONS, SOME TRANSLATIONS MIGHT READ. THIS WAS NOT AN EASY PLACE TO PREACH THE GOSPEL. THIS WAS NOT AN EASY SOCIETY IN WHICH TO PROMOTE RIGHTEOUSNESS. BUT FRIENDS, THAT'S EXACTLY THE POINT. THE APOSTLE PAUL DID NOT OVERLOOK IT. INSTEAD, HE LEFT TITUS, A TRUSTED ENVOY, IF YOU WILL, A TRUSTED PROTEGE IN MANY RESPECTS, HE LEFT TITUS THERE IN THE MIDST OF THAT EVIL SOCIETY, THAT CRETAN SOCIETY, AND HE EXPECTED TITUS TO PREACH THE GOSPEL. HE EXPECTED TITUS TO TEACH AND TO DO WHAT WAS NECESSARY IN SEEING TO IT THAT THE LOCAL CONGREGATIONS WERE ORGANIZED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ELDERS, THE GOSPEL AND ITS WORK WOULD GO ON EVEN IN AN EVIL SOCIETY. FRIENDS, THAT IN AND OF ITSELF PROVES TO BE A LESSON FOR US. SOMETIMES AS CHRISTIANS WE MIGHT BECOME DISCOURAGED, WE MIGHT BECOME DISHEARTENED BECAUSE WE LOOK AT OUR SOCIETY, AND WE SEE

THE EVILS OF ABORTION, HOMOSEXUALITY, GAMBLING, DRUNKENNESS, AND THE LIST GOES ON AND ON AND ON, AND WE FEEL OVERWHELMED. BUT I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT IN LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, YOU'RE HAVING AN IMPACT, OR YOU CAN HAVE AN IMPACT IN YOUR SOCIETY. LET'S LOOK TO A SHORT VERSE THAT HOLDS THE KEY, I BELIEVE. LOOK TO 1 PETER 1:16. BECAUSE IT IS WRITTEN, BE YE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY. DEAR FRIENDS, THE KEY IS HOLINESS. HOLINESS, BIBLICALLY SPEAKING, IS BEING SET APART FOR GOD'S SERVICE, BEING PURIFIED, CONSECRATED FOR HIS OWN SPECIAL USE. NOW, THAT DESCRIBES CHRISTIANS. CHRISTIANS ARE HOLY IN THAT WE HAVE BEEN PURIFIED FROM OUR SINS BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH THE TEACHINGS OF HIS GOSPEL. WE'RE SET APART NOW FOR THE LORD'S SERVICE. WE'RE HOLY. WE SHOULDN'T BE HOLIER THAN THOU. WE SHOULDN'T BE CONDESCENDING. AND WE'LL TALK MORE ABOUT THAT PERHAPS LATER; BUT WE SHOULD BE DIFFERENT. CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE DIFFERENT. AND THAT DIFFERENCE IS CALLED HOLINESS. AND THAT HOLINESS WILL IMPACT THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE. HAVING SAID THESE THINGS, I WANT US TO GO BACK TO THE BOOK OF TITUS, AND YOU MIGHT GO AHEAD AND MARK IN YOUR BIBLE THERE AT HOME TITUS CHAPTER 3. ALL OF OUR MAJOR POINTS ARE GOING TO COME FROM TITUS CHAPTER 3 INITIALLY. THESE ARE SOME WAYS IN WHICH CHRISTIANS WHO ARE HOLY, LIVING HOLY LIVES, CAN HAVE AN IMPACT IN THEIR SOCIETIES. NUMBER ONE, BY BEING HOLY, BUT NOT HIGHMINDED. HOLY, BUT NOT HIGHMINDED. LOOK AT THIS VERSE WITH ME, TITUS 3:1. PUT THEM IN MIND, PAUL TELLS TITUS, YOU PUT THE CRETAN CHRISTIANS IN MIND TO BE SUBJECT TO PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS, TO OBEY MAGISTRATES, TO BE READY TO EVERY GOOD WORK. THIS VERSE SUGGESTS TO US THAT IN OUR HOLINESS AS CHRISTIANS, WE STILL OUGHT NOT TO BE HIGHMINDED, THAT IS, THINKING PERHAPS THAT WE ARE ABOVE THE LAWS OF THE LAND. PERHAPS THERE HAD BEEN A TENDENCY IN SOME CHRISTIANS OF THE FIRST CENTURY TO FEEL THAT VERY WAY. THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY WERE NOW CITIZENS IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM, THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, AND PERHAPS WITH THAT GREAT STATUS THEY NOW ENJOYED, PERHAPS THEY BEGAN THINKING THAT THEY WERE ABOVE THE LAW, THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO RESPECT THE LAWS OF THE LAND, THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES, IF YOU WILL. AND YET PAUL IS TEACHING THE EXACT OPPOSITE HERE IN TITUS 3:1. THE PRINCIPALITIES, THE POWERS, THE MAGISTRATES, ALL OF THOSE ARE TERMS INDICATIVE OF CIVIL RULE, CIVIL AUTHORITY. AND PAUL'S POINT WAS, OBEY. OBEY. YOU KNOW, WE AS CHRISTIANS, WE OUGHT TO REALLY BE THE MODEL CITIZENS, OBEYING THE LAWS OF THE LAND, SO LONG AS THOSE LAWS DO NOT BRING US INTO CONTRADICTION OF GOD'S LAW, ACTS 5:29. BUT THAT'S THE ONLY EXCEPTION. SO LONG AS THEY DO NOT CONTRADICT GOD'S LAW, WE MUST BE LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS. A WILLINGNESS TO LIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAWS. SEE IT FROM ANOTHER PAULINE PASSAGE. LOOK WITH ME TO ROMANS 13 BEGINNING AT VERSE 1. LET EVERY SOUL BE SUBJECT UNTO THE HIGHER POWERS, FOR THERE IS NO POWER BUT OF GOD; THE POWERS THAT BE ARE ORDAINED OF GOD. WHOSEVER THEREFORE RESISTETH THE POWER RESISTETH THE ORDINANCE OF GOD; AND THEY THAT RESIST SHALL RECEIVE TO THEMSELVES DAMNATION. FOR RULERS ARE NOT A TERROR TO GOOD WORKS, BUT TO THE EVIL. WILT THOU THEN NOT BE AFRAID OF THE POWER? DO THAT WHICH IS GOOD, AND THOU SHALT HAVE PRAISE OF THE SAME. NOW, IT'S UNDERSTOOD, AND I WANT TO POINT OUT HERE THAT IN THIS PASSAGE, THE APOSTLE PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT GOD'S INTENTION FOR CIVIL RULERS. YOU AND I SADLY KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THAT IN OUR PRESENT WORLD TODAY, THERE ARE MANY REGIMES, MANY WORLD GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE FALLING MISERABLY SHORT OF THESE DIVINE EXPECTATIONS. GOD ORDAINED CIVIL GOVERNMENTS EXPECTING THEM, INTENDING THEM TO BE A TERROR TO THE EVIL WORKS, BUT TO PRAISE OR COMMEND GOOD WORKS. AND WHENEVER WE SEE THAT TO BE THE CASE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, INDEED THAT'S A BLESSING. HERE, PAUL'S

NOT DEALING WITH THE ABUSE. HE'S DEALING WITH THE DIVINE IDEAL. THIS IS WHAT GOD WANTS, THIS IS WHAT GOD EXPECTS. AND IN VIEW OF THAT, WE AS CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE HOLY, BUT NOT HIGHMINDED, THINKING THAT WE ARE ABOVE THE LAW. WE SHOULD BE MODEL CITIZENS SO LONG AS THOSE MAN MADE LAWS DO NOT CONTRADICT THE LAWS OF GOD. BUT NOW POINT NUMBER TWO. WE CAN GO BACK TO TITUS CHAPTER 3, AND IN THE SECOND PLACE WE SEE THAT CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE HOLY, BUT NOT HOSTILE. HOLY, BUT NOT HOSTILE. IT SEEMS THAT SOME PROFESSED CHRISTIANS ARE JUST SPOILING FOR A FIGHT. THEY'RE CONTENTIOUS. THEY CAN'T GET ALONG WITH ANYBODY. THEY'RE HOSTILE IN THEIR HEARTS AND IN THEIR ACTIONS, NOT TO MENTION THEIR WORDS. BUT LOOK WITH ME TO TITUS 3:2, AND WE'LL SEE THAT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THE CASE. PAUL SAYS, TO SPEAK EVIL OF NO MAN, TO BE NO BRAWLERS, BUT GENTLE, SHOWING ALL MEEKNESS UNTO ALL MEN. THAT HOSTILITY THAT IS IN THE HEARTS OF MANY, IT COMES OUT BY THAT WILLINGNESS AND THAT EAGERNESS TO SPEAK EVIL OF OTHERS. THAT SHOULDN'T BE TRUE OF CHRISTIANS. SOME ARE SO HOSTILE THAT THEY ARE EVEN WILLING TO GO TO BLOWS, AS IT WERE, TO FIGHT OVER THEIR VIEWPOINT OR TO FIGHT OVER THEIR OPINION. FRIENDS, THAT HOSTILITY, THAT'S NOT WHAT WE FIND IN CHRISTIANITY. AND IF WE WANT TO IMPACT OUR SOCIETY AROUND US FOR GOOD, WE MUST BE HOLY, WE MUST BE COMMITTED TO TRUTH, BUT WITHOUT ANY FLAVOR WHATSOEVER OF HOSTILITY. INSTEAD, WE SHOULD BE PEACEABLE PEOPLE. LOOK WITH ME TO ROMANS 12:18. IF IT BE POSSIBLE, PAUL WROTE, AS MUCH AS LIETH IN YOU, LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN. THINK ABOUT THAT. THAT SHOULD BE OUR DESIRE, THAT SHOULD BE OUR GOAL. HAVING BEEN BROUGHT INTO PEACE WITH GOD BECAUSE OF THE GOSPEL AND BECAUSE OF THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST, THAT INNER PEACE WE HAVE TOWARD GOD, IT OUT TO RADIATE OUTWARDLY IN OUR LIVES, IN OUR DEALINGS WITH OTHERS. PAUL SAYS, AS MUCH AS LIETH YOU, YOU BE AT PEACE WITH OTHER MEN. NOW, SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO TAKE A STAND. AND IN FACT, OUR PEACEABLENESS SHOULD NEVER BE COMPROMISE OF WHAT IS RIGHT. WE CAN'T COMPROMISE TRUTH. WE CAN'T ENDORSE OR CONDONE ERROR OR SIN; BUT EVEN WHEN WE HAVE TO TAKE THOSE DIFFICULT STANDS, DO SO WITH A PEACEFUL SPIRIT. DO SO FIRMLY, DO SO WITH CONVICTION, BUT DON'T BE HOSTILE. DON'T BE UGLY OR MEAN-SPIRITED. AS MUCH AS LIETH WITHIN YOU, LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN. NOW LOOK WITH ME TO HEBREWS 12:14. HERE THE BIBLE SAYS, FOLLOW PEACE. SOME TRANSLATIONS WILL READ PURSUE IT. PURSUE PEACE WITH ALL MEN AND HOLINESS, WITHOUT WHICH NO MAN SHALL SEE THE LORD. ISN'T IT INTERESTING HERE THAT THESE TWO QUALITIES ARE LINKED TOGETHER, NAMELY, HOLINESS, BUT ALSO PEACEABLENESS? ISN'T IT ALSO INTERESTING, YEA, EVEN SOBERING, THAT WE'RE TOLD HERE THAT IF WE DON'T POSSESS THESE TWO FUNDAMENTALS THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO SEE GOD. FRIENDS, THIS IS TALKING ABOUT SALVATION. I'M REMINDED OF THAT BEATITUDE, BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD, MATTHEW 5:8. AND YET WITHOUT HOLINESS IN OUR LIVES, AND WITHOUT A PEACEABLE, IRENIC SPIRIT, WE'RE NOT GOING TO SEE GOD WHEN THIS LIFE IS OVER. FOLLOW AFTER PEACE. WE'RE TO BE HOLY, BUT NOT HOSTILE. BUT NOW POINT NUMBER THREE. IN THE THIRD PLACE, ANOTHER WAY THAT WE AS CHRISTIANS CAN IMPACT THE SOCIETY AROUND US IS BY BEING HOLY, BUT NOT HARSH. HOLY, BUT NOT HARSH. YOU KNOW, SOME PROFESSED CHRISTIANS, AND I'M CAREFUL TO SAY PROFESSED CHRISTIANS, BECAUSE IN ACTUALITY, THEY'RE NOT CHRISTIANS IF THEY BEHAVE THIS WAY. SOME PROFESSED CHRISTIANS FEEL LIKE THAT IN THEIR CONDEMNATION OF WRONG OR OF SIN THAT THEY CAN BE MEAN, THAT THEY CAN BE CAUSTIC, ABRASIVE, HARSH. THAT'S NOT WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES. THE BIBLE TEACHES TO OPPOSE SIN. IT EVEN TELLS US TO REPROVE THE WORKS OF DARKNESS, EXPOSING THOSE THINGS, EPHESIANS 5:11; BUT AS WE DO THAT, WE'RE NOT TO BE HARSH. LOOK BACK TO TITUS 3:2 ONE MORE TIME.

TO SPEAK EVIL OF NO MAN, TO BE NO BRAWLERS. AND SO WE KNOW THERE'S NO HOSTILITY. BUT NOW, BUT GENTLE, SHOWING ALL MEEKNESS UNTO ALL MEN. SEE, THE LATTER PART OF TITUS 3:2 IS THE PART OF THE VERSE THAT TEACHES US AGAINST HARSHNESS. INSTEAD OF HARSHNESS, WE'RE TO BE GENTLE. FRIENDS AND VIEWERS, OUR Demeanor, OUR SPIRIT OR ATTITUDE, EVEN OUR WORDS, THE WAY THAT WE SAY THINGS, THE WAY WE COME ACROSS, IF WE'RE GENTLE, EVEN IN SPEAKING THE TRUTH, YEA, EVEN IN OPPOSING SIN AND ERROR, IF WE'RE GENTLE, WE CAN HAVE SUCH A POSITIVE IMPACT THROUGH OUR EFFORTS. BUT WE NEED TO BE GENTLE. A GREAT PASSAGE THAT UNDERSCORES THIS IS FOUND IN 2 TIMOTHY 2 BEGINNING AT VERSE 24. LET'S READ THAT TOGETHER. AND THE SERVANT OF THE LORD MUST NOT STRIVE. IN OTHER WORDS, NOT BE CONTENTIOUS. BUT BE GENTLE UNTO ALL MEN, APT TO TEACH, PATIENT; IN MEEKNESS INSTRUCTING THOSE THAT OPPOSE THEMSELVES, IF GOD PERADVENTURE WILL GIVE THEM REPENTANCE TO THE ACKNOWLEDGING OF THE TRUTH, AND THAT THEY MAY RECOVER THEMSELVES OUT OF THE SNARE OF THE DEVIL, WHO WERE TAKEN CAPTIVE BY HIM AT HIS WILL. THIS PASSAGE IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR PREACHERS OR EVANGELISTS, BUT NOT JUST PREACHERS. THIS PASSAGE IS A GREAT ASSET TO ALL OF US AS CHRISTIANS WHO ARE STRIVING TO REACH OUT TO THE LOST AROUND US, STRIVING TO BE SOUL WINNERS JUST LIKE JESUS CALLED US TO BE. SO MANY THINGS HERE. FIRST OF ALL, WE'RE TAUGHT THAT THOSE WHO ARE RESISTING OUR MESSAGE, RESISTING OUR EFFORTS, THAT THEY'RE NOT OPPOSING YOU OR ME, THEY'RE OPPOSING THEMSELVES, PAUL SAID. IT'S TO THEIR OWN DETRIMENT. THEIR OWN WELFARE IS BEING NEGLECTED BY THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE TRUTH. NOW, IF YOU AND I KNOW THAT AND IF WE REMEMBER THAT, THEN WE OUGHT NOT TO TAKE THEIR RESISTANCE PERSONALLY. EVEN THEIR JABS OR THEIR RIDICULE, THEIR EVIL REMARKS AS WE TRY TO REACH OUT TO THEM WITH THE GOSPEL TRUTH, IT SHOULDN'T HIT US PERSONALLY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A LOST SINNER THAT IS CAPTIVATED BY SATAN, IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE DEVIL, IF YOU WILL. AND ULTIMATELY THEY'RE RESISTING CHRIST, NOT US. THEY'RE RESISTING THE TRUTH, NOT US. THEY'RE OPPOSING THEIR OWN GOOD, NOT US. AND THAT SHOULD EVOKE WITHIN OUR HEARTS PITY AND COMPASSION; AND THEREFORE, WE SHOULD BE GENTLE WITH THEM, PATIENT WITH THEM, INSTEAD OF EVER BECOMING HARSH AND REBELLIOUS OR VENGEFUL, IF YOU WILL, LASHING OUT AT THEM IN RETALIATION. SHOULDN'T BE THAT WAY. WE SHOULD BE HOLY, BUT NOT HARSH. FRIENDS, IT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT WE REACH OUT TO PEOPLE IN THE PROPER MANNER. IT'S ALSO INDICATIVE OF HEAVENLY WISDOM WHEN WE DO SO. LOOK WITH ME TO JAMES 3:17. HERE WE READ, BUT THE WISDOM THAT IS FROM ABOVE IS FIRST PURE, THEN PEACEABLE, GENTLE AND EASY TO BE ENTREATED, FULL OF MERCY AND GOOD FRUITS, WITHOUT PARTIALITY, AND WITHOUT HYPOCRISY. AND THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS SOWN IN PEACE OF THEM OR BY THEM THAT MAKE PEACE. GENTLENESS AND MEEKNESS. THESE ARE GREAT REMEDIES, GREAT ALTERNATIVES TO HARSHNESS. WE ARE TO BE HOLY, BUT NOT HARSH. AN INTERESTING THING ABOUT MEEKNESS, BEFORE WE LEAVE THIS POINT, MEEKNESS IS NOT WEAKNESS. SOME PEOPLE, WHEN THEY HEAR THE TERM MEEKNESS, THEY PICTURE A MAN WHO IS MILQUETOAST, A MAN WHO IS SHEEPISH OR WEAK. THAT'S NOT BIBLICAL MEEKNESS. BIBLICAL MEEKNESS IS IN FACT INNER STRENGTH. INNER STRENGTH THAT IS OF SUCH A NATURE THAT THIS MAN OR THIS WOMAN WOULD RATHER SUFFER WRONG THEMSELVES THAN TO EVER BE GUILTY OF INFLECTING WRONG ON ANOTHER PERSON. THAT TAKES REAL STRENGTH, DOESN'T IT? AND SO IN THAT WAY, MEEKNESS NEVER RETALIATES. MEEKNESS IS NOT VENGEFUL. AND YOU KNOW, AS WE REACH OUT TO THE LOST, THAT'S A QUALITY WE ALL NEED. WE NEED TO BE HOLY, BUT NOT HARSH; HOLY, BUT NOT HOSTILE; HOLY, BUT NOT HIGHMINDED. BUT NOW NUMBER FOUR, IN THE FOURTH PLACE, WE NEED TO BE HOLY, BUT NOT HEEDLESS. HOLY, BUT NOT HEEDLESS. THE WORD HEEDLESS JUST MEANS

FORGETFUL. AND IN THIS WAY, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT DON'T BE FORGETFUL OF HOW IT WAS WHEN YOU WERE LOST, WHEN YOU WERE A SINNER OUTSIDE OF CHRIST. DON'T FORGET WHAT IT WAS LIKE, BECAUSE YOU NEED THAT EMPATHY AS YOU REACH OUT TO OTHERS WHO ARE LOST. LOOK WITH ME TO TITUS 3 BEGINNING AT VERSE 3. FOR WE OURSELVES, NOTICE THAT PAUL WAS LUMPING HIMSELF INTO THIS CLASS, FOR WE OURSELVES ALSO WERE SOMETIMES FOOLISH, DISOBEDIENT, DECEIVED, SERVING DIVERS LUSTS AND PLEASURES, LIVING IN MALICE AND ENVY, HATEFUL, AND HATING ONE ANOTHER; BUT AFTER THAT THE KINDNESS AND LOVE OF GOD OUR SAVIOR TOWARD MAN APPEARED, NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WE HAVE DONE, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY HE SAVED US BY THE WASHING OF REGENERATION AND RENEWING OF THE HOLY GHOST. SEE, IN THIS CONTEXT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT PAUL'S TELLING TITUS, YOU REMEMBER AND YOU TEACH THE CRETAN CHRISTIANS TO REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE LOST. IN THEIR REACHING OUT TO OTHERS WITH THE GOSPEL, THEY NEED TO REMEMBER THAT THEY, THEMSELVES WERE ONCE LOST ALSO. AND WITH THAT EMPATHY THEN WE CAN BETTER RELATE, AND IT TEMPERES OUR ATTITUDE, IT HELPS TO FOSTER OUR COMPASSION. FRIENDS, WE NEED TO BE HOLY, BUT NOT HEEDLESS, NOT FORGETFUL OF HOW WE OURSELVES ONCE WERE. LOOK WITH ME TO EPHESIANS 2:11. WHEREFORE REMEMBER, PAUL WROTE, REMEMBER THAT YE BEING IN TIME PAST GENTILES IN THE FLESH, WHO WERE CALLED UNCIRCUMCISION BY THAT WHICH IS CALLED THE CIRCUMCISION IN THE FLESH MADE BY HANDS, REMEMBER THAT AT THAT TIME YE WERE WITHOUT CHRIST, BEING ALIENS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL, AND STRANGERS FROM THE COVENANTS OF PROMISE, HAVING NO HOPE, AND WITHOUT GOD IN THE WORLD. BUT NOW IN CHRIST JESUS, YE WHO SOMETIMES WERE FAR OFF ARE MADE NIGH BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST. DEAR FRIENDS AND VIEWERS, BE HOLY, BUT NOT HEEDLESS. DON'T FORGET THAT YOU, YOURSELF NOW AS A CHRISTIAN, BUT YOU, YOURSELF ONCE WAS LOST. I THINK OF THAT STATEMENT THAT SAYS EVERY SAINT THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN OUGHT TO BE CONCERNED WITH EVERY SINNER THIS SIDE OF HELL. ONE MORE VERSE. LET'S LOOK AT 1 CORINTHIANS 15:10. BUT BY THE GRACE OF GOD I AM WHAT I AM; AND HIS GRACE WHICH WAS BESTOWED UPON ME WAS NOT IN VAIN, BUT I LABORED MORE ABUNDANTLY THAN THEY ALL; YET NOT I, BUT THE GRACE OF GOD WHICH WAS WITH ME. THE SAYING GOES, BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD, GO I. BE HOLY, BUT NOT HEEDLESS, NOT FORGETFUL. AND NOW POINT NUMBER FIVE, IN ORDER FOR CHRISTIANS TO IMPACT THEIR SOCIETIES, WE MUST BE HOLY, BUT ALSO HARD WORKING. THE BIBLE TEACHES A WORK ETHIC. WE CALL IT THE BIBLICAL WORK ETHIC. AND CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE WORKERS. AND IN THIS WAY WE WILL POSITIVELY IMPACT OUR RESPECTIVE SOCIETIES. LOOK WITH ME TO TITUS 3:8, WHERE WE READ, THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING, AND THESE THINGS I WILL THAT THOU AFFIRM CONSTANTLY, THAT THEY WHICH HAVE BELIEVED IN GOD MIGHT BE CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN GOOD WORKS. THESE THINGS ARE GOOD AND PROFITABLE UNTO MEN. NOW I KNOW THAT IN THE REALM OF THE CHURCH WE'RE TO BE ACTIVE AND INVOLVED IN GOOD WORKS, BUT I REALLY THINK HERE IN THIS CONTEXT PAUL'S TALKING MORE PERHAPS ABOUT OUR EVERYDAY WORKS, OUR VOCATIONS, OUR LIVELIHOODS. SEE, THE ASV PROVIDES THE FOOTNOTE, OR PROFESS HONEST OCCUPATIONS. CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE WORKERS. LOOK AT TITUS 3:14. LATER IN THE CHAPTER IT SAYS, AND LET OURS ALSO LEARN TO MAINTAIN GOOD WORKS, OR PROFESS HONEST OCCUPATIONS, FOR NECESSARY USES, THAT THEY BE NOT UNFRUITFUL. SEE, IN OUR HOLINESS, WE OURSELVES ARE NOT TOO GOOD FOR WORK. WE'RE TO BE HOLY, BUT WE'RE ALSO TO BE HARD WORKING. FOR ONE, WE'RE TO WORK IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR OUR OWN FAMILIES, RIGHT? LOOK AT 1 TIMOTHY 5:8. THE BIBLE TELLS US, BUT IF ANY PROVIDE NOT FOR HIS OWN, AND ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE OF HIS OWN HOUSE, HE HATH DENIED THE FAITH AND IS WORSE THAN AN INFIDEL. AND SO WE'RE HARD WORKING TO PROVIDE FOR OUR OWN, BUT EVEN FURTHER, WE WORK TO PROVIDE FOR OTHERS WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE.

WE'LL CONCLUDE WITH THIS VERSE, EPHESIANS 4:28, LET HIM THAT STOLE STEAL NO MORE, BUT RATHER LET HIM LABOR, WORKING WITH HIS HANDS THE THING WHICH IS GOOD, THAT HE MAY HAVE TO GIVE TO HIM THAT NEEDETH, HIM THAT IS IN NEED. HOLY, BUT ALSO HARD WORKING. THAT WAY, WE CAN IMPACT OUR SOCIETIES. THANK YOU.

JAMES >> LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE GOSPEL BROADCASTING NETWORK HAS JUST BROUGHT YOU PREACHING THE GOSPEL WITH BROTHER CLIFF GOODWIN. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION RELATIVE TO ANYTHING THAT'S BEEN TAUGHT, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE A CD OR A TAPE OF THE MESSAGE, JUST CALL THE TOLL-FREE NUMBER ON YOUR SCREEN. BE HAPPY TO SEND IT TO YOU. AND BY THE WAY, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO STUDY THE BIBLE PRIVATELY IN YOUR OWN HOME, WE OFFER FREE A SET OF FIVE STUDIES, AND WE'D BE HAPPY TO SEND THESE TO YOU AT NO COST AT ALL, AND IT WOULD BE OF GREAT ADVANTAGE. STUDY YOUR BIBLE, LEARN THE TRUTH, AND OBEY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. IT WILL HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR ETERNAL DESTINY. WE APPRECIATE CLIFF, THE EXCELLENT JOB THAT HE DID IN THE PRESENTATION OF TRUTH. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. MAY GOD BLESS.

CLIFF >> CHRISTIANS IMPACTING SOCIETY. FRIEND, I MUST ASK, ARE YOU PART OF THE PROBLEM, OR ARE YOU PART OF THE SOLUTION? IN ORDER TO BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION, YOU MUST BE A CHRISTIAN. THE BIBLE TELLS US WE MUST HEAR THE GOSPEL, ROMANS 10:17; WE MUST BELIEVE THAT GOOD NEWS, MARK 16:16; REPENTING AND TURNING AWAY FROM OUR SINS, ACTS 2:38; AND THEN WE MUST CONFESS WITH OUR MOUTHS THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, ROMANS 10:9-10; AND THEN WE MUST PUT HIM ON IN BAPTISM FOR THE REMISSION OF OUR SINS, ACTS 22:16. FRIEND, ONCE YOU HAVE OBEYED THE GOSPEL AND HAVE BECOME A CHRISTIAN, YOU, TOO, WILL IMPACT YOUR SOCIETY. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING WITH ME TODAY, AND I HOPE YOU'LL BE WITH ME NEXT TIME.

>> MORE ABOUT JESUS LET ME LEARN, MORE OF HIS HOLY WILL DISCERN. SPIRIT OF GOD MY TEACHER BE, SHOWING THE THINGS OF CHRIST TO ME. MORE, MORE ABOUT JESUS. MORE, MORE ABOUT JESUS. MORE OF HIS SAVING FULLNESS SEE, MORE OF HIS LOVE WHO DIED FOR ME.