

## *Titus*

### *Background on the book of Titus*

- Most agree that Titus was converted through Paul's ministry (1:4)
- Titus had traveled with Paul in the past, he delivered the "harsh" 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Corinthians
- The book of Titus is 1 of 3 books referred to at the pastoral epistles (also 1&2 Timothy)
- Paul left Titus at Crete to bring order to the churches there
- Crete was an island that was rich with natural resources and is considered the oldest recorded civilization (Minoans)
- Was also known for some barbaric groups and pirates
- Also had a reputation of laziness
- Cretans were so well known for their lying that the Greeks coined a word "kretizien" that means to lie or cheat. (claimed they had found the tomb of Zues in Crete)
- Even today we use the term "Cretan" to describe a troublemaker

### *My title: "God's Work Should Bring Good Works"*

#### *Paul's greetings (1:1-4)*

#### *Paul's instructions for leadership (1:5-9a)*

Vs5—What kind of qualities would be needed for a job like this??  
(there was not an "elders committee, it was on Titus)

Are you the kind of person who would be trusted, to be left behind with a wild bunch, for the purpose of bringing order?

\*This is probably why Paul mentions all through the letter to hold fast, and speak with authority

#### *The idea of the unhealthy believers / troublemakers (1:9b-16)*

vs.9—contradict= oppose, speak against

vs.10—rebellious= unruly, not submitted, out of control, insubordinate

God has established systems of authority, and He wants us to follow them: family, church, work, government, etc...

vs10—empty talkers= idle talking, saying senseless things

vs10—deceivers= to deceive the mind, seduce, an imposter

vs11—upsetting= subvert, destroy, overturning

vs11—teaching things that they shouldn't for ignoble / distasteful gain

There were people in the local bodies of Crete that were characterized by rebellion, empty talk, deceit, disruptiveness, and turning people away from the truth. Even their "good deeds" were from seeds of pollution(defiled conscience). They speak of knowing God, but by their actions they were denying Him.

They could claim that they were simply products of their society. (vs. 12)

Application for us...

- **Realize this type of behavior occurs in our church**
- **We need to be careful, that we do not become "products of our society". Even our Christian society. Paul is just as upset with this group, because of their Jewish traditions". We would say "those people in China are acting like typical Chinese people or well he's just being an ordinary teenager(1:12)**

Vs12—Paul did not discount their reputation—he also did not tell Titus to move on and forget about them...in fact, in the very next verse he expresses hope that they will be sound in the faith

Vs13—But...don't forget that Paul's purpose in having Titus "reprove them severely" was so that they would be sound "healthy / in good health" in the faith.

(reproving them severely was not based in arrogance—Paul remembered his own past {3:3})

Vs16—Detestable=offensive, repulsive

Disobedient=non-compliant, un-submissive

Worthless=not standing the test / unfit

\*used of a cowardly soldier who failed in battle

\*used of a candidate who was rejected for office

\*used of stone that was rejected by builders, if it had a big enough flaw it was set aside and marked with a letter "A" (for adokimos).

Some say it is not clear if the person above is a believer or an unbeliever...(I think believer...in 1:13 they are in the faith, they are obviously a part of this church, and see how Titus is to handle them in 3:9-10)

### ***But there is a different way that they are expected to behave (2:1-10)***

--Paul tells Titus to teach the people how they are expected to behave in everyday life

--Godly behavior (Good Works) doesn't start and stop at church—It's a part of everyday life

--Many of the itmes listed are what we are supposed to BE DOING!! This is just as important as NOT DOING WRONG THINGS!!

**Q: What good deeds have you done at home lately?**

2:10—Adorn= decorate, to honor, dignify—used of bringing decorations to the grave of one who suffered an undeserved death

***We are to live this way because we have been purified (2:11-14)***

2:11—"FOR" in other words God's people are expected to behave properly BECAUSE of the reason Paul is getting ready to mention, which is...

**...God's message of salvation includes separation from worldliness and fleshly desires**

**(although our salvation is not BASED ON DEEDS {3:5}---we are expected to live righteously)**

EX: You have an employee who has spent \$\$ unwisely, therefore is now in a desperate situation. They come to you out of humility and need with nothing to offer.

Out of your mercy and grace you freely rescue them from their helpless situation, and also promise to reward them, as they make right choices from this point on.

--Whether they now decide to make correct choices or not...you have granted them salvation.

--Your salvation of them was not based on their deeds, although your plan for them included a change of lifestyles.

**...choosing to live righteously / godly today, with our focus on the future**  
(1 Cor. 3:8-14 /// 2 Cor. 5:6-10 /// 2 Tim. 4:7-8 /// 1 Jn. 2:28)

**...realizing that because of the grace of God, Christ was willing to give Himself up for me SO THAT I would be release us from lawlessness, and purified us for good works!**

---Ask yourself...Does my behavior (right now) reflect what God has done in me and desires for me??

**The instructions that Titus is supposed to pass on to the people (2:15-3:2)**

---Remind them!! We all need to be reminded...maybe you need this reminder today!

Titus is not to be timid in his instructions...in fact he is to be **authoritative!**

**Paul acknowledges where they (himself, Titus, and other converts) came from (3:3)**

---We must not forget where we have come from!

---These characteristics and behaviors are in contrast to 2:12-14

--- This is what we had to offer!! These are what we were and did before!!

**What God did!! (3:4-7)**

---BUT!!...in contrast to vs.3

\*God showed kindness and love to mankind

\*He saved us (based in His mercy not our deeds)

--I'm glad He saved me according to His mercy, rather than my deeds

\*He accomplished this by cleansing (purging) us by making us entirely new

\*This work was accomplished by the Holy Spirit

\*The Holy Spirit was poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ

Vs7—Justified= declared righteous BY HIS GRACE!

Heir= one who inherits a thing, or obtains by lot

According to the hope of eternal life = "*agreeably to the hope of eternal life*" (the eternal inheritance fully satisfying the hope). Also explained... "*heirs of eternal life, in the way of hope.*" (Jamieson, Fausset, Brown)

---Notice the work of the entire Godhead in our conversion!! What a mighty work...surely there is the ability to do good works.

"God's Work Should Bring Good Works"

**Titus is to boldly remind them of what God has done, as a motivation for good works (3:8)**

---Again, speak confidently

---SO THAT...those who believed (past) would engage in good deeds (present)

**Titus is told how to deal with trouble-makers (3:9-11)**

**Paul instructions Titus regarding future plans, individuals, and travel (3:12-13)**

**Final instructions and goodbyes (3:14-15)**