



**VERSE BY VERSE MINISTRY**  
INTERNATIONAL

*TEACHING THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD*

# Titus 1A

## Chapter 1:1-4

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- This morning we begin our dive into the letter of Paul to Titus, looking at the topic of the Enduring Truth.
  - We'll begin today with Titus 1:1-4

**Titus 1:1** 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,

**Titus 1:2** in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

**Titus 1:3** 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,

**Titus 1:4** To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

- A.W Tozer in his book “Man- The Dwelling Place of God” Chapter 37: The Importance of Sound Doctrine, Tozer states these profound words:

**Each generation of Christians must look to its beliefs. While truth itself is unchanging, the minds of men are porous vessels out of which truth can leak and into which error may seep to dilute the truth they contain. The human heart is heretical by nature and runs to error as naturally as a garden to weeds. All a man, a church or a denomination needs to guarantee deterioration of doctrine is to take everything for granted and do nothing. The unattended garden will soon be overrun with weeds; the heart that fails to cultivate truth and root out error will shortly be a theological wilderness; the church or denomination that grows careless on the highway of truth will before long find itself astray, bogged down in some mud flat from which there is no escape.**

- A.W Tozer expresses in his book the necessity for sound doctrine and teaching for the Christian.
  - He mentions that truth, if left unguarded and unattended, will cause the church to move into error, eventually becoming a “theological wilderness”.
  - My prayer for us this morning is that we understand 4 things:
    - Truth in the hearts of every believer must be closely cultivated, carefully examined, courageously taught, and lived with conviction.
    - If we fall short of rooting out error and false teaching, we make room for the watering down of the Gospel.
- Paul’s letter to Titus addresses a few things:
  - There are several churches that have been established through the Gospel Ministry of Paul, established in a city full of secularism and sin.
    - This city is called Crete

- The existing churches and believers within this network of churches are experiencing a rise in false teachers.
  - False doctrine is creeping into the church and Paul implores Titus to “put what remained into order.”
  - Paul will express his reasoning for Titus to remain in Crete in Titus 1:5 where he states:

**Titus 1:5 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,**

- What we have to understand is, those who are bringing in false doctrine profess to be Christian but yet their lives and actions show no Gospel characteristics.
  - In other words, they profess to know God but their lives have nothing to show for it.
  - Paul mentions this further in the text in Titus 1:16 where he says:

**Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.**

- Paul’s letter to Titus is quite similar in nature to that of his first letter to Timothy regarding oversight and dealing with false teachers.
  - There is a dire need in the churches in Crete to establish overseers and organization within the church.
    - Paul’s apostolic appeal to Titus will bring about a deep concern that Paul has for these churches, but more importantly, the Gospel message.
- Paul addresses, at the beginning of his letter to Titus, a greeting of sorts that is unique from his other letters.
  - We will see in the text why Paul’s wording and word choice is so very important, both to Titus, the churches in Crete, and to you and I today.
    - However, before we explore this letter further, I want to set the scene and provide some geographical and historical context.
- Although we do not know who delivered this letter to young Titus in Crete, we are able to approximate a date, somewhere between AD. 64-66, when this letter was written.
  - Interestingly enough, Paul’s letter to Titus was written around the same time that Paul writes the pastoral epistle to Timothy.
    - Paul’s first letter to young Timothy would be similar in focus but different in emphasis.
    - In 1 Timothy, the emphasis would be on leaders in the local church, whereas the emphasis in Titus is on the organization of the local church.
    - It could be seen that the churches that Timothy was over were much older and established than that at Crete.
  - So I gave us a snapshot of the book and what it will be about. I now want to

ground us in some geography and history on Crete.

- Understanding this next piece will give us context into Paul’s urgency in the text as well as his emphasis on such strong theological matters.
- Crete was considered one of the largest islands in the Mediterranean Sea and was also well known for its notorious Cretan culture.
  - To give you an example of how notorious Cretans truly were, one of the words in Greek for being a liar was *kretizo*.
    - Literally “to be a Cretan”
  - The people who lived on Crete were known for treachery, violence, sexual corruption, and a love for money.
    - Many men on this island were known to be mercenary soldiers that worked for the highest bidder.
    - Men sleeping with other men’s wives...the list goes on and on.
    - Imagine pure anarchy at its best with no moral compass by which to live and behave, and you have Crete.
    - This place was corrupt, to say the least, and Titus was charged to set what remained.
- In Titus 1:12-13, Paul quotes a man by the name of Epimenides, one of Crete’s own prophets, that makes a profound statement about his own people.
  - Epimenides states, “Cretans are always liars, evil beast, lazy gluttons.”
- One could imagine that the believers in Crete were faced with many challenges.
  - They have surrendered their lives to Christ and are seeking to obey Him and live well while seeing the lives of those they know continue in sin and secularism.
    - The Cretan Christians’ allegiance is no longer to sin but to their Savior.
  - One takeaway is very clear: There is a desperate need for sound churches in unchurched areas with godly leaders setting the example.
    - Crete is the ideal place for a strong church with properly taught doctrine to be placed to encourage righteous living amongst believers.
- Paul is not remiss of the message of mercy within the Gospel.
  - A part of knowing sound doctrine is knowing how you came into this glorious salvation. Don’t forget...God’s mercy also met you!

**Titus 3:3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.**

**Titus 3:4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,**

**Titus 3:5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,**

- So far we understand that the state of these churches were in grave danger and in need to be “set in order.”

- Disorder has been brought into the church by false teachers who professed to be believers yet their behavior showed differently.
  - Titus is charged to establish elders or overseers in these churches so that the truth would be made known and false teaching weeded out.
- Lastly, you might be asking why Titus?
  - What experience or background did Titus have that Paul was confident enough to leave him in Crete to establish organization in this chaotic mess.
    - Titus' background was that he was a Greek Christian amongst a largely Jewish group.
    - Titus' time with Paul was very much indicative of the ministry that he would take on himself.
- It is apparent that Paul picked the right man for the job.
  - Titus' time with Paul was reflected in the ministry he would take on at Crete.
    - There's a quote from Pastor Bryan Loritts that says, "If you want to know what God is calling you to do in ministry, take an inventory of your pain."
    - Titus was not foreign to false teachers along his journey with Paul.
    - It was under Paul's leadership that Titus grew in his faith and would recognize false teachers from a mile away.
- Now that we have some historical and geographical background out of the way, let's dive into the text.

**Titus 1:1 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**

- Paul begins with the similar framework of a traditional Pauline greeting, however he does not start with his role in the church, he starts with his position in Christ.
  - He mentions that he is a bond-servant of God. The Greek word for bondservant is *doulos* which simply means slave.
  - He then establishes his apostolic authority in the letter by saying "and an apostle of Jesus Christ".
    - Paul could have addressed the letter in this way for a multitude of reasons but here is one:
  - Judaizers had crept into the churches and were attempting to have new Gentile/Jewish Christians and existing Christians conform to the Mosaic Law.
    - They taught it was necessary to be circumcised in order to be saved.
    - Paul addressed the council in Jerusalem in Acts 15 and Galatians 2:1-5 regarding these false teachings.

**Gal. 2:1 Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also.**

**Gal. 2:2 I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those**

esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain.

**Gal. 2:3** Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.

**Gal. 2:4** This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.

**Gal. 2:5** We did not give in to them for a moment so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

- I believe Paul begins with his position in Christ versus his spiritual role because it places Christ as the head, not Paul or any other man or religious custom for that matter.
  - It places emphasis on the One whom calls all men and women to Himself and for Himself.
    - These false teachers were placing emphasis on position regarding Jewishness within a Pharisaical context.
    - However the Gospel emphasizes the fact that deeds don't make you "righteous", it is God who makes you righteous.

**1 Tim. 6:3** If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness,

**1 Tim. 6:4** he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a sick craving for controversial questions and disputes about words, from which come envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions,

**1 Tim. 6:5** and constant friction between people of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

- These false teachers were seeking "shameful gain" in their own right versus seeking Christ.
  - The false teachers were Pharisees at heart: All talk and no action.
    - Paul describes them more accurately in Titus 1:10-11, this way:

**Titus 1:10** For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

**Titus 1:11** who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.

- He continues in verse 1 by stating, "for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness"
- Paul makes it clear that being chosen by God is possessional, not positional.
  - Salvation is based upon Christ's work and not our work.

- It's not a matter of tradition, but a matter of revelation by the Spirit of God because of God's personal election.
    - Nor is it a matter of Jewishness, but rather a matter of God's sovereign choosing.
  - God chose a people for Himself in the Children of Israel, out of all the nations in the world.
    - Not because they were better or more desirable than any other nation, but simply because He chose them.
    - R.C Sproul states: "God chooses whomever He chooses for reasons that are wholly his."
  - There is nothing that you or I have done or can do that qualifies us to be considered qualifiable for being called by God.
- Legalism and traditionalism says I have to work my way to God to be this good person.
  - The Gospel says, God came to us and gave us His goodness so that we may do the good.
    - Paul in the first verse alone is calling out these false teachers as Titus reads the letter out loud.
    - I can imagine them cringing in their seats as Titus is proclaiming this into the hearing of these Cretan churches.
  - It is recognizing the knowledge of the truth of the Gospel that our lives are transformed by Christ and nothing else.
- We can't forget the second half of verse 1 where Paul says "which accords with godliness".
  - Paul lets us know, it is the truth of the word of God that transforms us and the Spirit of God that conforms us into the image of Christ.
    - This process of being sanctified comes with being taught soundly and being trained up soundly.
  - My wife and I have a 5 and 4yr old, and they have their own rooms. However, as a parent, you know if unmanaged, those rooms can become atrocious.
  - One day my wife was so frustrated she took to Facebook because she felt like she had a complete mom fail because their rooms were dirty.
    - We had shown them before how to do it and what we expected, but it just didn't stick.
  - Our previous Pastor's wife commented and said:
    - Teach and train what you want to see. Training and modeling is the strategy with lots of encouraging words.
    - Training does not take after you have said it once or twice. It's ongoing.
- Here is what Paul is saying in this verse: The knowledge of the truth of God's Word is accompanied by rightful living and constant teaching and training which brings glory to God.

**1 Tim. 4:6 In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good**

**servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.**

**1 Tim. 4:7** But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;

**1 Tim. 4:8** for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

- When we have been truly transformed by the truth of His word it moves us to live to the Glory of God.
  - Training our bodies in the truth of God's word is not just a Sunday activity, it's a daily activity.
    - What does your time with Jesus look like?
    - How is the truth of the Gospel producing transformation in every area of your life?
- Paul continues on in verse 2.

**Titus 1:2** in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

- Paul makes mention that it is in the knowledge of the Gospel through the work of Jesus Christ that we have something to live for and look towards, and this is with a promise!
  - This hope of eternal life is foundational and fundamental to the faith and hope of every believer.
    - This is not an empty hope that temporarily satisfies a portion of our lives.
    - This hope satisfies all that we are and is to produce something in us that bears fruit or evidence of what has happened inwardly.
    - In other words when we realize what has been done for us it moves us to godly action!

**Titus 2:13** looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

**Titus 2:14** who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, eager for good deeds.

- There should be a yearning and longing to live for the Glory of God in all that we do.
  - Our living simply becomes an anticipated response for the hope we know we have and the Hope that is coming!
    - We don't live as if we have no hope. But we live well in trying times because we do have hope.
    - When our Christian loved ones pass away, we don't need to mourn the loss simply because they are no longer here with us
    - We KNOW where they are going to be, in glory with the Father, and we KNOW we will join them

- We are confident in this hope because God promised it! And because God promised this He cannot lie!
  - Why is this so important to pause and consider? It's important because it hinges upon something being true.
  - Either God is true and His promises are also true or these false teachers are not liars at all.
  - Paul is creating this contrast between God's trustworthiness and humanity's lawlessness and wickedness, more specifically, Cretans.

**Jer. 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? **Jeremiah 17:10** “I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.”

- In a culture of relative truth and perceived truth, we must first recognize what absolute truth truly is.
  - As followers of Jesus, we recognize that the absolute truth is based upon scripture.
    - God cannot lie. If God were to be a liar, He would cease to be God.
    - God is trustworthy.

**Hebrews 6:18** so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

- Truth is hinged upon Christ alone and nothing else and it is important to know the truth well in order to spot out the lie.
  - We must identify truth not by our own biases, perspective, or traditions, but rather based upon God's Holy Word and what Christ did on the cross.
- Not only was this hope promised long ago, but Paul lets us know God prepared it at the right time. Check out verse 3.

**Titus 1:3** 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,

- Paul mentions that the eternal hope, Jesus Christ, was promised long ages ago and came at the “proper time”
  - The phrase “proper time” in the Greek is *kairos*.
    - This word means appointed time or designated time.
    - To put it another way, it's a particular point in time related to other points in time with a focus that this time is designated by an authority.

- To put it plainly, God’s revelation of the Messiah, Jesus Christ was on God’s timing to bring about His good and perfect will in human history.

**Romans 16:25** Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past,

**Romans 16:26** but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—

- Paul makes it known that the Gospel that was preached at Crete, when he and Titus were first there, is the true Gospel. The Revealed Gospel. The Enduring Truth.
  - And because our Hope is in Christ who is the very Word of God, we not only have a fixed promise of eternal life, but there is also a demand for obedience.
    - What we know and believe about God through the proclaiming of the Gospel is directly linked to our behavior and how we live.
    - This does not mean we are perfect by any means but rather the Gospel is the anchor and source of your life.
    - What this does mean is that when he comes back and we see Him face to face we will be made perfect in His very presence.
    - This is a promise for believers and it is a promise that we greatly await!
- As Pastor Steve oftentimes mentions, when you preach the bible good things happen.
  - This happens because God Himself is moving upon the hearts and minds of those He chooses and wills for His Own Glory.
- Paul’s emphasis on preaching this message implies that there is to be an ongoing proclamation of this news. It’s not a one and done.
  - This consistent message should be proclaimed not just from the pulpit in your hearing, but from the lives that you are living.
  - You church, are to share this sound faith that you consistently hear with others. The same message of Hope that saved your very lives.
- Being entrusted with this truth presupposes that not only has it been believed but that fruit is evident in your life.
  - This truth will anchor you when everything around you is questionable and seems unconquerable.
- Paul wraps up his greeting in verse 4.

**Titus 1:4** To Titus, my true son in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

- Paul makes mention that Titus is his “true son in a common faith”.
  - Paul typically uses this word or phrase to show genuine connection in a sense of being one and the same.

- In other words, Titus believes and trusts the same Gospel that Paul has taught him and entrusted to him.
- This is based upon the Apostles' teachings.

**2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:**

- What is this “common faith” you may ask?
  - It is the thing that Paul has mentioned that is of first importance in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4:

**1 Cor. 15:1 Now I make known to you, brothers and sisters, the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received, in which you also stand,**

**1 Cor. 15:2 by which you also are saved, if you hold firmly to the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.**

**1 Cor. 15:3 For I handed down to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,**

**1 Cor. 15:4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,**

- Titus is a “True Child” because he has held firmly to sound doctrine!
  - A scholar by the name Philip Hughes in his book, Paul’s Second Epistle to the Corinthians, states that Andreas Cretensis, Titus’ successor at Crete says these words in Titus’ eulogy.

**“The first-foundation-stone of the Cretan church; the pillar of the truth; the stay of the faith; the never silent trumpet of the evangelical message; the exalted echo of Paul’s own voice.**

- I don’t know about you but from what history and the scriptures show me, Titus went to Crete as instructed and obeyed Paul’s command by the will of God well.
  - How will people know you and your God, and what will they say about you and your God when you are no longer here?
    - Did you serve to the Glory of God well?
    - Will they see that His promises are true because you remained faithful to His Word?
    - Did you compromise your beliefs to be liked or did you stand flat-footed and unashamed?
    - Did your life reflect Christ even when you were hard pressed on every side?
- The Gospel, when taught soundly, entrusted to faithful men and women well, and lived with conviction and to the Glory of God, will transform lives
  - This is why I thank God for this church and this ministry and our Elders here.

- God has given us a Pastor that teaches soundly.
- God has given us elders that are overseeing, praying for, and carefully making decisions that will help edify this body.
- We as a church are growing in the knowledge and grace of God because of an unwillingness to veer from sound teaching, regardless of the culture.
- Listen to this testimony of a Verse by Verse Ministry online participant

**My husband and I were both furloughed from our jobs for a very long time in 2020. I came across Pastor Steve in the podcasts in November which led me to Verse by Verse Ministry. I have struggled with constant worry throughout my life (especially this year) and it was God’s word through your ministry that I’ve learned how to rest in the Lord and what a joy it has been. I had never fully understood what that meant until now and there are no words to describe the peace that follows and the joy, gratitude, and this new insatiable desire to learn how to be an obedient servant of our beautiful loving God!**

- Every believer that comes across the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the word takes root by the Power of the Spirit, transformation happens!
  - Your experiential knowledge of God does not leave you the same
  - Every leader here has been entrusted with the work of the ministry because they have been called to shepherd the body.
    - They are here to help equip, train, and see us all grow and be trained in righteousness.
    - The work of the ministry goes forth because of its enduring and trustworthy truth.
  - Don’t just get comfortable because you go to a strong bible-based church. Your training and growth doesn't stop on Sunday or Wednesday.
    - Your growth and my growth must be pursued everyday as we seek to glorify Christ in our living and in knowing Him more.
  - And as Paul would end his greeting I end by saying, “Grace and peace to you from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior”



**VERSE BY VERSE MINISTRY**  
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# Titus 1B

## Chapter 1:5-9

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- This morning, we will explore verses 5-9 and discuss what are the qualifications for elders.
  - If you weren't with us for the first teaching of Titus in Titus 1:1-4, we discussed:
    - Paul's urgency in this letter regarding the importance of sound doctrine within the church.
    - The crazy Cretan culture that was ever resembled to our current culture.
    - How false teaching from Judaizers began to creep into the church teaching salvation came through circumcision rather than Christ.
    - Lastly, the urgent necessity to set right what remained.
  - Turn with me now to Titus 1:5-9

**Titus 1:5** 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,

**Titus 1:6** namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.

**Titus 1:7** 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,

**Titus 1:8** but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,

**Titus 1:9** 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.

- Dr. Dan Allender, wrote a book entitled "Leading Character".
  - In this book he states something profound regarding character.
    - He says this:

**The actual word in the Greek—charaktér—originally was used in connection with tools designed for engraving. And character is indeed a tool that marks us—that in one sense cuts us, shapes us, and engraves us. We are image-bearers who are intended by God to make him known in a fashion that no one else on the earth can do in the same way.**

**-Dan B. Allender, Leading Character**

- Character is everything. You can earn jobs and lose jobs based upon the character of the individual.
  - The true character of a person can attempt to be hidden, but what comes out through pressure, with time, will be revealed.
  - One thing that you can't fake is character. It reveals the systems and beliefs by which one lives.

- Ultimately, your beliefs will be revealed in your behaviors.
- This morning we will see how the qualification of Elders, church structure and the structure of marriage and family life are intertwined in selecting elders.
  - We will see the following things in the text:
    - God’s structure of the family is essential to the body of Christ and the thriving of the family.
    - Leadership in the church must be carefully considered.
    - Positions/roles do not make the man of God, but God makes the man of God.
    - Leadership is to be patterned after the Great Shepherd, which is Christ.
    - Christ is the Head of the Church and we should look to Him for all things.
- Again, to briefly recap from the last lesson in Titus, Titus is given the instruction by Paul to “set in order what remains”.
  - Paul gives specific instructions of how to accomplish this task
    - He is to appoint elders in every city
  - As I mentioned before, the reasoning behind the need for organization in the Cretan churches was there was a chaotic culture in Crete.
  - Cretans, as mentioned by their own prophet Epimenides, were:
    - Always liars, evil beast, and lazy gluttons. (Titus 1:12)
- The task that Titus is given by Paul is not an easy task. One could assume based upon the size of Crete that Titus would need to appoint quite a few elders.
  - As I mention this, you might be asking yourself, how could one man know who to appoint as an elder within these home churches.
    - As we move throughout the text you will see that the qualifications for these elders required more than a casual awareness or familiarity.
  - This letter will outline for Titus as well as the church today, what the qualifications of the appointment of an elder was and is.
    - However, before we jump into the qualifications of an elder, I would like to establish a definition of what an elder is.
  - The word “elder” comes from the Greek word *presbuteros*.
    - It means an older man, a community leader that assists in making leadership decisions for the church body.
  - This appointment is not taken lightly and must be prayed about, observed by recommendation, and entrusted to God.
    - Acts 14:23 describes the appointment of elders this way:

**Acts 14:23** When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

- As you can see, the appointment of elders was not unknown to the New Testament saints.

- Not only was it common for the New Testament churches, but it required much diligence and observation of the eligible prospect.
- As we dive further into Titus, it is my prayer that we see the significance of elder-led churches
  - Most importantly, how they guard against false teaching, serve as guardians for the body, and protectors of the flock.
- Let's dive into the text, picking up at verse 5

**Titus 1:5 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,**

- Titus was charged with the responsibility to set in order what remained and to appoint elders in every city.
  - The “what” that remains specifically deals with the existing Christian churches that were in Crete.
    - These churches heard the Gospel message but needed organization.
    - With anything new that has been established, there is a need to maintain the foundation and function of it.
  - When I think of healthy organizations, I think of Chick-fil-A
    - What is interesting about the Chick-fil-A organization is that although they have multiple franchises, their customer service is consistent.
    - I have never met a grumpy, inattentive waiter or waitress.
  - The reason their service is so consistent is because their services are set in order because each franchise follows the order of Chick-fil-A Headquarters.
    - The expectations are the same, the customer service is the same and the messaging throughout every Chick-fil-A is the same.
  - In this same way, Paul is looking for Titus to establish these elders as a means to both set the example of right living and sound teaching.
- We mentioned the term “set in order”. It is the Greek word *epidiorthoō*. It literally means to “set right”.
  - This word was used by medical writers regarding setting broken limbs or straightening crooked ones.
    - I am sure for those who have experienced broken bones before, it is a painful process to set the bones back in place.
    - The tools that are used to make that adjustment are set in place to provide guardrails and parameters by which healthy growth should occur.
  - The text makes it clear that the means by which things are to be set in order, is through the actions and role of the elders in the church.
    - Elders provide the guardrails and protection for the body to grow properly and they too submit themselves under the wisdom and sovereignty of God.
- The only question that arises from the text at this point is, how will Titus accomplish this challenging task?

- More specifically, the question you might want to know is “what was the number of churches present on the island of Crete?”
  - One scholar documented that Homer, who lived in the ninth century, referred to the island of Crete in a hyperbolic way as “Crete of the hundred cities”
  - This apostolic responsibility was given to Titus by Paul to accomplish the work that had to be completed.
- This assignment Paul gave Titus required that Titus travel throughout all of Crete to identify these men, within these churches, as elders or overseers.
  - Paul, in verse 6 would then give the qualifications for these men that would be selected.
- Here is what verse 6 says:

**Titus 1:6 namely, if any man is beyond reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of indecent behavior or rebellion.**

- Paul outlines a description and function of who an elder is and how that elder should behave.
  - Paul mentions the elder’s societal and domestic expectations.
  - Most evident in the text is Paul’s qualification for public and private purview regarding leadership in the church
    - While at the same time being interwoven with the structure of marriage and family life.
  - He mentions that the elder must be a man “above reproach”.
    - The word “above reproach” in the Greek is *anenkletos*.
    - It literally means without reproach or blameless.
  - This man’s life was observed and inspected to bear witness to his life’s consistency with what he believed.
    - Let’s pause and recognize this does not mean they were perfect. (Romans 3:10)
    - However there is an expectation for these men both in public and in private according to their relationship with Christ.

**1 Tim. 3:2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, skillful in teaching, 1 Tim. 3:3 not overindulging in wine, not a bully, but gentle, not contentious, free from the love of money.**

- The fact that Paul begins with an Elder needing to be above reproach is first indicating the frame of lens by which everything else follows.
  - If I were to put it plainly, the leadership of this man must be clearly evident even if no one is looking.
    - Your uprightness is not simply turned on when you come into the church and

when you leave you turn it off. It's not a light switch!

- The text allows us to see that any leader in leadership whether in public or at home requires authenticity.
  - Paul jumps out the gate with the standard that this man is to be married. A one woman man.
- It shouldn't surprise you that when being considered for the role of elder in a church, that the apostle Paul compares that responsibility to that of the husband and his family.
  - Remember the men in Crete were NOT known for fidelity. It was not foreign for other men to sleep with their neighbors' wives.
  - What the text makes extremely clear throughout all of this is that the Elders are countercultural.
    - These men are held to a higher standard and their lives are to reflect that of the one in whom saved them. Christ Alone!

**2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.**

- Something that may strike you as odd in reading verse 6 is Paul mentioning the Elders “having children who believe”
  - Why would the scriptures have this as a qualifier for an elder?
    - On one hand being able to raise children to be faithful, trustworthy, and obedient demonstrated proper training and control of one's children.
    - Raising solid children is a parental responsibility.
    - On the other hand the scripture mentions that the Elder's children are “believing”
  - Does this mean that all of the Elder's children are to be believers in Christ?
    - This would be a truly remarkable thing, for sure. All of his children have become followers of Jesus.
    - However, salvation does not come through men it comes through the Father selecting whom He has foreknown.
  - We first must recognize that if we do not grasp the original language here, this scripture can be misinterpreted.
    - The word for “believe”, in this case, is the Greek word *pistos*. It is not to be confused with the word *pistis*.
    - *Pistos* means proven to be firm, reliable, or trustworthy. 1 Timothy 3:4-5 confirms this position.
    - *Pistis* is always a gift from God and is not something that is produced by human beings. *Pistis* is a Divine persuasion.
    - We come to faith in Christ alone, not by any means of men.
  - So what is Paul saying here?
    - The way in which a man raises his children and is faithful to his wife is

indicative of his home management.

- His parental/marital and familial relationship is a window view to his ability to steward the church.
- This is witnessed not just at home, but also in the public sphere.
- Paul wraps up verse 6 by saying that these men are to not be accused of dissipation or rebellion.
  - In other words, they should not drink excessively to the point of being drunk.

**Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,**

- These men’s influence is based upon God’s Spirit and not by secular satisfactions.
  - Not only should they not be accused of dissipation or drunkenness, but they should not be accused of rebellion.
    - Titus 1:10 states it this way:

**Titus 1:10 For there are many rebellious people, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,**

- These are the men who Titus was told to get rid of out of the church.
  - For many of these home churches, these false teachers had begun to creep into leadership positions.
  - So you could imagine as Titus is reading this letter aloud to this gathering of churches, the false teachers would have been frantic.
  - Paul’s urgency in this letter places huge emphasis on the protection of the body of Christ just as a father protects his own family.
    - Titus’ assignment was to find fitting, fatherly, but above all, godly men to guard, shepherd, and protect the flock.
  - Clearly these men Titus would find would stick out like sore thumbs.
    - These men would be men seeking to imitate the one in whom called them to new life.
    - The character of these men would easily be blameless and un-accused because their lives were reflective of what they believed.
    - They should also be marked by sound teaching and not enticed to believe in false teachings because they know what sound doctrine looks like.
- As an application to this particular context, you and I here at Verse By Verse Fellowship can rest assured that whoever God sends as the new Senior Pastor, will be a man of sound teaching.
  - The reason being is the Elders know what the expectation is in teaching and exposition because they too were under sound doctrine by Pastor Stephen Armstrong.
- Let’s move on to verse 7.

**Titus 1:7 For the overseer must be beyond reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not overindulging in wine, not a bully, not greedy for money,**

- Paul outlines what we will call the 5 Must Nots.
  - They are the following:
    - Not arrogant
    - Not quick-tempered
    - Not a drunkard
    - Not violent
    - Not greedy for gain (Love of money)
  - If these men were to be godly stewards of the church their personal stewardship had to be well taken care of.
    - These qualifications are evident of the fact that God is to make these men, and not these men make themselves for the position.
- Let's dive into the first of the “Must Nots”
- The first Must Not is the elder must not be arrogant.
  - Simply put, the elder should not be a prideful man. Someone who boasts about themselves.
    - Peter spoke of these types of men who are self-indulged in this way.

**2 Peter 2:10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt passion, and despise authority. Reckless, self-centered, they speak abusively of angelic majesties without trembling,**

- Elders must be men marked by humility.
- Next, elders must not be quick-tempered
  - This man is not easily taken to violence or anger. In other words there is much patience that is demonstrated.
  - The reason quick-tempered men are not suitable for being an elder is that responding quickly in frustration results in foolish behavior – which is unwise.
    - Proverbs 14:7 says it this way:

**Proverbs 14:17**

**A quick-tempered person acts foolishly,  
And a person of evil devices is hated.**

- Thirdly, elders are not to be drunkards.
  - In some translations it may read “addicted to wine”. The bottle is not where this man chooses to drink from for sustenance or nutrition.

- In other words it is the bible and not the bottle that this man is led by. It is the bible that leads the man to proper behavior.
  - This particular Must Not is interesting because of the drunken behavior and violence that is noted by some scholars regarding drunken worship of Dionysus.
    - Dionysus was known as the Greek god of wine and ecstatic experience. It became a cult during the early Roman civilization that Rome quickly tried to address.
    - This cult was marked by drunken behavior, coupled with orgies and violent outburst.
  - There was a grave need for these elders to be men that stood whole-heartedly on Christ and not the culture.
- Fourthly, the elder is not to be a violent man.
  - This word in the Greek means striker or brawler. This person is ready to fight if the wind blows the wrong way.
    - This type of man was commonly found in Crete which was known for violent men.
    - Surly the elder will come across many situations in the church that must cause him to respond in love not violence.
  - Jesus even confronts Peter regarding Peter's response to Jesus being arrested in Matthew 26:51-52:

**Matt. 26:51 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.**

**Matt. 26:52 Then Jesus \*said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword will perish by the sword.**

- There is a different way of living for people of God and we are a people that are to be known by the way in which we love and live among others.
- Lastly, the elder was not to be a lover of money.
  - The motivation for this man was not money or influence, but rather it was Christ being proclaimed in the hearts of all men.
    - Paul makes mention of this love for money in 1 Timothy 6:10 where he states:

**1 Tim. 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.**

- If an elder possesses these qualities, Paul makes it clear that it will not only be bad for the body, it will be bad for that person.
  - The position will not make you humble, patient, kind, or sound in teaching. It will simply amplify what is in you.
    - The position does not make you – Christ by His Spirit makes you and conforms you.

- Let's keep pushing on to verse 8.

**Titus 1:8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,**

- Right after Paul lays out the must haves, he directly contrasts them with the “Must Haves”.
  - Here are the 6 Must Haves: Some of your translations may use a different word in replacement of what I may say, but know they are synonymous.
    - Be hospitable
    - Lover of good
    - Self-controlled
    - Upright
    - Holy
    - Disciplined
  - Hospitable is our first must have. It literally means loving strangers.
    - No matter who you are or where you come from you are welcomed. This person has a welcoming hospitable spirit.
  - Next is a “lover of good”.
    - These men are to love what is right, what is godly, and what is true.
    - This is a matter of what is good not in the sight of men but in the sight of God.
    - Another definition in the Greek says “loving what is good”
  - Paul then mentions self-controlled (some translations may read “sensible”).
    - This means that the elders are to be sound in mind, sober-minded.
    - They are in a sane state and the guiding voice for their decisions is solely the Holy Spirit and His guidance.
  - Upright:
    - The elder is to be righteous in all things and if things are done out of order, they are able to and willing to put things in order, rightly and justly.
    - Their primary motivation is that of Christ and not of self.
  - The next must have is the elder must be holy.
    - Now when you think of being holy, recognize that this holiness is not found in and of yourself.
    - This holiness comes from what God has freely given us through the shedding of blood of His son Jesus Christ.
    - 1 Peter 1:14-16, Peter says this regarding holiness:

**1 Peter 1:14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,**

**1 Peter 1:15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all**

**your behavior;**

**1 Peter 1:16** because it is written: **“YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”**

- Paul concludes the 6 must haves with the final qualification – discipline. I do not think that it is a coincidence that Paul mentions this quality or qualification last.
  - Why is that the case? Why does Paul use discipline as the last quality for seeking elders?
    - Discipline is the means by which these other qualities are exercised consistently to produce godliness and growth in grace.

**2 Peter 1:5** Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge,

**2 Peter 1:6** and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,

**2 Peter 1:7** and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

**2 Peter 1:8** For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they do not make you useless nor unproductive in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- There is a benefit to these qualities and recognizing that these qualities are not just for the overseers or elders.
  - Before we begin to ask the question, why should this matter for me...I’m not an elder.
    - These are qualities that should reflect that of every believer.
    - These qualities are the marks of an individual prior to gaining a position and even becoming an elder.
    - Meaning, this character and quality of a person was shaped by the Spirit of God.
  - What am I saying in all of this?
    - The life of the believer should stand out from amongst the culture and should reflect Christ in every area of life.
- Paul moves next to what I would call the culminating point of this section regarding elder qualifications.

**Titus 1:9** 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.

- We see that the quality of this man is marked by his life in light of the scriptures. His life should both encourage others and convict others to the point of correction.
  - This man is able to do this because of the power of the Spirit in his own life and his obedience and submission to Christ Himself through the word of God.
    - The text says “holding fast the faithful word in accordance with the teaching.”

- Obviously, this man is so faithful to the text that when he hears something that is off, he recognizes it.
- Your familiarity with sound teaching should be so keen that the moment you hear something is off, it triggers something in your mind.
  - There is this flashing light like an alarm that should go off in your head.
  - If you want to see God’s transformative power at work in your life, be a doer of His word and watch the Spirit transform your life.
- Now the question that we should be asking ourselves regarding “holding fast” is, how?
  - How do I know that what I am hearing is true and that the word is active in my life?
  - You will see the fruit of your faithfulness in following Christ.
- This truth that you are holding onto WILL produce godliness within you and with this truth comes transformation.
  - We cannot come across the word of God and not be transformed by His Power.
- Paul then mentions in the text that this elder will be able to both exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict it.
  - This believer who is selected as an elder should be able to encourage men and women of God in the body to stand firm in the faith.
    - Not only is the exhortation by word of mouth for the elder but it is also in deed.
  - Because of the care these elders have, they are diligently disciplined in seeing the growth in grace of every member in their care.
    - It's this fatherly affection that no matter what, I am committed to seeing you grow as a follower of Jesus.
- Exhorting in sound doctrine is then followed by being able to refute individuals who contradict sound doctrine/teaching.
  - That word refute in the Greek means to expose.
    - The goal in refuting this individual is not to lose them but rather to convince them of the truth.
    - This love for the body is similar to the love of that of Christ himself, Who is the ultimate shepherd.

**Revelation 3:19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.**

- The objective behind rebuke is repentance.
  - If an individual has been taught falsely, a good under-shepherd comes alongside that individual to correct in firm love in the hopes of winning that brother over.
    - And if the individual refuses to repent or their hearts are hardened to the truth, after much patience and work, they must be called out.

- Paul makes the weight of this point extremely clear, so clear that he mentions rebuke in this way in Galatians 2:14

**Gal. 2:14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?”**

- The only way that proper rebuke can occur is if a proper Gospel is known, taught, lived, and obeyed.
- In John MacArthur’s book, “Reckless Faith”, he said these words regarding counterfeits:

**“Federal agents don’t learn to spot counterfeit money by studying the counterfeits. They study genuine bills until they master the look of the real thing. Then when they see the bogus money they recognize it.”**

- True belief in the Gospel will always be accompanied by good deeds and right actions.
  - As followers of Jesus Christ, you and I should be proven true because the Gospel is our anchor.
- We must see, now more than ever, that Elders are a necessity for the church in order to protect the body.
  - They serve in this capacity not because they are perfect but because God has chosen them.
    - As a father would for his family, they are diligently seeking wisdom from the Lord to help shepherd our hearts in the scriptures.
    - It is the word of God that must be the anchor in all aspects of our lives.
    - We must consistently be praying for these men, and I would like to do that collectively this morning.



**VERSE BY VERSE MINISTRY**  
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*TEACHING THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD*

# Titus 1C

## Chapter 1:10-16

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- This morning, we come to the end of Titus Chapter One as we explore verses 10-16.
  - If you weren't with us for the teaching of Titus in Chapter 1:5-9, we discussed the qualifications and characteristics of Elders in the church.
    - If you haven't had the opportunity to check out the previous teachings on Titus, we encourage you to check out our website at [vbvmi.org](http://vbvmi.org).
  - This morning we will look at the opposite spectrum of upstanding Christian character and elder qualifications as we discuss False Teachers:
    - What their objectives are
    - How we must deal with them in the church
    - And how to not be deceived by their cunning tricks.
- Turn with me to Titus 1:10-16

**Titus 1:10** For there are many rebellious people, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

**Titus 1:11** who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of dishonest gain.

**Titus 1:12** One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”

**Titus 1:13** This testimony is true. For this reason reprimand them severely so that they may be sound in the faith,

**Titus 1:14** not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

**Titus 1:15** To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

**Titus 1:16** They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

- In 1861, The prince of preachers, Charles H. Spurgeon, in his sermon “The Weeding of the Garden” stated this regarding sound Christian ministry.

**A ministry that never uproots will never water; a ministry that does not pull down will never build up. He who knoweth not how to pluck up the plants which God hath not planted, scarcely understandeth how to be a worker of God in his vineyard. Our ministry ought always to be a killing as well as a healing one, — a ministry which kills all false hopes, blights all wrong confidences, and weeds out all foolish trusts, while at the same time it trains up the feeblest shoot of real hope, and tends comfort and encouragement even to the weakest of the sincere followers of Christ.**

- False hope will always over-promise but never deliver.
  - It masquerades itself as a viable option but yet when it comes down to providing substance it lacks all confidence and assurance.

- If we are not careful and aware of what true hope is, we can be pulled away from the truth because we never had a grip on it in the first place.
- False teaching to many people starts off very subtle and inconspicuous in many ways.
  - It can sound right and for some false teachers, they can even look the part.
    - However, it is not until their lives are hard pressed and the weight of testing comes down upon their shoulders that who they are is seen.
    - You can try to fake it till you make it but through pressure with time, what is in you will come out of you.
- The Apostle Paul in these 10 verses lays before us a few things that we must pay close attention to regarding false teachers.
  - The text will show us the following things regarding False Teachers:
    - Who these false teachers are and their objectives/motives
    - How are we to deal with these false teachers?
    - How do we detect wolves in sheep's clothing?
- Pick up with me in verse 10.

**Titus 1:10 For there are many rebellious people, empty talkers, and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,**

- Paul begins by making known the quantity of these false teachers.
  - He says that there are many. Not a few, not a small amount, but many.
    - So clearly, this is not an isolated issue regarding a particular area.
    - With Crete being 160 miles in width the spread of these Judaizers was significant.
  - He then mentions the attributes of these men. They are:
    - Rebellious men, empty talkers, and deceivers.
    - Clearly, these are not kind words at the least bit, and according to the text rightfully so.
  - This word rebellious in Greek is *anypotaktos* (an-oo-pot'-ak-tos)
    - It means not made subject, unrestrained, free.
  - Their allegiance is not to the scriptures nor are they willing to submit to leadership.
    - It's as if someone who is in the military who declares full allegiance to their country turns around and commits treason.
    - Treason is the response of a rebellious heart.
    - They become unhinged or remove themselves from under proper authority for the sake of their own personal interest.
  - Paul makes mention that this idea of being unhinged from scriptural and doctrinal authority is rebellious.
    - These false teachers play the part well when in their hearts there is no true

allegiance, it's just a means to get what they want.

- And while they are there they can ruffle some feathers and stir confusion.
- This is why Paul lets us know in Titus 1:9 what the life of an elder looks like and that they MUST “hold firm” to the trustworthy word as taught.
  - The true position of every believer is to be a slave to Christ and not a slave to our own devices.
  - We must be submitted to Christ and the text.
- This is why Paul began in his greeting in Titus Chapter 1 by saying “Paul a bond-servant, a slave of God”.
  - Paul makes this reality known from the start of this letter who he is submitted to.
  - And anyone that is not a slave to Christ and is not willing to submit under His authority is unhinged from the truth.
- Paul continues on that these men are empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of circumcision.
  - He calls out this particular group straight out of the gate. It is obvious that Paul has some familiarity and frustration pertaining to this particular group.
    - Although there are many kinds of false teachers out there, the text makes it known that this circumcision group was unique.
- In order for us to understand Paul’s familiarity and frustration with this group it requires we do some digging in the text.
  - It is well recorded throughout the book of Acts, Paul’s missionary journeys, and ministry to the Gentiles.
    - There were many Jews and Gentiles that would come to faith through the ministry of Peter, Paul and Barnabas.
    - However, there were some Jews that insisted on sabotaging the work of the Gospel attempting to undo and unravel the work of the God.
    - Luke documents this in Acts 13:44

**Acts 13:44** The next Sabbath nearly all the city assembled to hear the word of the Lord.

**Acts 13:45** But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.

- And another situation documented in Acts 14:1-2

**Acts 14:1** In Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a way that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks.

**Acts 14:2** But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brothers.

- The non-believing Jews that were spewing these empty lies and religious babble had no substance to their talk. Their sole motivation here was to plant confusion.
  - This very fact speaks to how wicked and deceitful some of these false teachers' hearts really were.
    - And because these men's hearts were ill-intended and not submitted to the truth of scripture and the apostle's teaching, Paul informs Titus these men must be silenced.
- Check it out, verse 11.

**Titus 1:11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of dishonest gain.**

- After Paul makes clear who these false teachers are at the core and how they have no allegiance to the truth of the scriptures, he firmly states, “they must be silenced”.
  - The word for silence in the Greek is *epistomizo*. It means to muzzle or to close someone's mouth.
    - And Paul spares no expense with these men who have crept into these home churches.
  - Paul says “shut these men up”. They need not say another word.
    - The reality is false teaching must be silenced wherever it may be spewed, especially within the church.
    - Why must they be dealt with so harshly? Because the ramifications of not uprooting false teaching is unraveled families and churches.
  - I want to come back to the word “silence” in the text, so place a pin right here in your minds.
    - I believe that what we will see regarding the word “silence” will be quite interesting.
- It is evident that these false teachers are causing chaos in these home churches and the result of their lies are causing issues in these families/communities.
  - Paul uses the term “upsetting whole families”.
  - Now this word to some can cause a bit of confusion because it can be mistaken as an emotional situation.
    - This word upsetting in the Greek, in this context, actually means destroying or ruining faith.
  - In other words, the teaching from these false teachers are causing men and women in these gospel communities and churches to fall away from the truth.
    - If the cause of this unraveling is from false teaching and the solution is to shut them up, the question becomes who will do it?
    - Herein lies Paul's urgency to Titus, the elders are to serve in this capacity.
    - Remember, the Elders serve as the authoritative guards of the body in regards to remaining sound in doctrine, orthodoxy, and orthopraxy.
  - Imagine a home without the presence of a loving and faithful father in it.

- If the home lacks a sound paternal presence, it leaves the family vulnerable and susceptible to attack.
- One of the most startling statistics I came across regarding fatherlessness in the nuclear family was stunning. For example:
  - Because of the lack of presence of the father in the home, many young boys, without fathers, join gangs in order to seek approval.
  - There is an increase in behavioral issues with that child when proper discipline is not implemented in the home
  - And the rate of incarceration increases due to the lack of that father figure.
- What am I saying here? Paul’s urgent and brass-tone regarding elders being established is because if they are not there, any Joe Blow can creep in.
  - And with all intention of creating controversy, chaos and confusion the false teacher has full reign to unravel the family structure.
- Paul is serious about this matter and as Pastors and Leaders in the church we too are hyper-diligent in the protection of this body at VBVF.
  - And dare I take it a step farther, you too as the body of Christ, you too should be diligent in guarding against false teaching.
- Paul then mentions that these false teachers’ motives are way off base. Their motivation is “sordid gain”.
  - Check it out, the text says they were teaching things that were contrary to the Gospel message in order to profit either financially or for their own satisfaction.
    - It was simply to build up their pocket books or their following.
  - Their shameful gain is very subtle.
    - The fact that these men crept into these home churches and have caused damage shows how smooth and inconspicuous they are.
    - This isn’t too far off from what we see today, is it?
- Today we can clearly see this being prostituted in the pulpits in America and around the world
  - The “Name it and Claim it” groups
    - Pastors who ask their congregations for thousands of dollars for private jets to go and do ministry.
    - And all of these things disguised under the banner of Jesus’ name.
  - Let’s keep pushing to verse 12 and 13

**Titus 1:12** One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”

**Titus 1:13** This testimony is true. For this reason reprimand them severely so that they may be sound in the faith,

- What a powerful and forth-telling statement by Crete’s own prophet. Here is what Epimenides characterized and Paul confirms:
  - The culture on this island was notoriously known as habitual liars,

murderous/violent men of the highest degree, and greedy beyond their control.

- This statement was so widely known that one scholar records that the Greek world accepted it as being true.
- What nails the coffin in it all is in verse 13, Paul says, after having read many of the Greeks' writings, that this testimony of Crete is true.
  - What is so encouraging through all of this is that although Paul is laying down the gavel, he still manages to provide opportunity for grace.
- Verse 13 says, For THIS reason reprimand them SO THAT, they may be sound in faith.
  - Reprimand who? Those in the body who are believing these lies and false teachings or was it that false teacher?
  - Some scholars have argued that it could potentially be both.
- This wasn't a matter of simply calling people out for the sake of argument, but rather for the sake of winning that individual over to the truth.
- Church, the goal for those who have been deceived by fake news is to bring them to a knowledge of the truth.
  - In grade school when you were learning word problems, if you had a good math teacher, they required you show your proof of the answer off to the side.
- This way if your answer was wrong, he or she could go to your proof column and identify where you were off.
  - In the same way, the elders and leaders in the church can come alongside your life.
    - And if error is found, we can identify it, correct it in love by going through the scriptures to help you turn from error.
    - Therein lies the grace! Therein lies the love of God.
- God's grace reaches down in the muck and the mire and He makes those in whom He calls, clean.
  - God's grace should leave you and I in awestruck wonder.
- For some here, God may have rescued you from the Muslim Faith, Jehovah's Witness sect, the Mormon Church or even the Catholic Church.
  - It is clear that those in whom God chooses, He calls, and those in whom He calls He cleans, and those in whom He cleans He keeps!
- Let's keep moving to verse 14.

### **Titus 1:14 not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.**

- Paul's objective in this section is to hinge the believer in the truth of Who has saved them.
  - Their affections and their focus should be upon the teaching of scripture and not skeptics.
    - The moment that we begin to add anything to the person and work of Jesus

Christ you lose the Gospel.

- One of the main issues that stirred up much controversy during Paul's ministry to the Gentiles was the topic of salvation.
  - It got so bad that the Apostles and Elders of the churches got together to discuss this issue at the Council of Jerusalem in Acts 15.
    - During that time non-believing Jews would attempt to dissuade believers from the truth by saying salvation required circumcision.
    - However, men like Paul, Barnabas, and Peter testified to the work that God was doing amongst the Gentiles.
  - From Cornelius and his family receiving the Holy Spirit in Acts 10 to the large crowds that came to faith in Iconium, Gentiles were being saved.
    - With that being said, this did not settle well with non-believing Jews.
    - So as a result of the works of God that were happening, these men of the circumcision would demand Gentiles to be circumcised.
  - Paul's argument as well as Peter's testimony were clear: salvation was not by means of Jewishness or religious custom and tradition.
    - Rather, salvation is through faith alone, in Christ alone, by grace alone, to the glory of God alone.
    - Peter would confirm in Acts 15:11

**Acts 15:11 But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they (Gentiles) also are.”**

- This agreement in unity in the faith and in the Spirit was accepted by the Apostles and the Elders.
  - James would then send a letter to all the churches telling them that salvation is not based upon religious position or custom.
  - Salvation is a work that is done by God Himself.
  - Here is a timeline of when the Jerusalem Council met in Acts 15 versus when Paul wrote the letter to Titus. *(See slide)*
    - Do you see that gap in time? 15 years have passed since the matter of salvation by Christ alone was settled!
    - This was Paul's aggravation.
    - It was clear that those whose hearts were not submitted to the authority of the church leadership or scripture did not want to hear the truth.
  - May I suggest that the reason that those who did not agree with the decision were individuals whose hearts did not belong to the Lord.
    - The Spirit of God will always point to Christ and will point to the truth.
  - There are no needed additions or alterations to the Gospel. The Gospel is Christ and Him crucified alone.
    - Jesus plus nothing is enough.
    - Colossians 2:20-22 says this:

**Col. 2:20** If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,

**Col. 2:21** “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”

**Col. 2:22** (which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of man?

- In verse 15, Paul makes a headline statement that I pray we grasp this morning. Here it is:

**Titus 1:15** To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

- Paul at this point is getting to the meat of the issue here.
  - He makes it known that this issue of what is pure versus what is unclean, is a matter of what’s within.
    - This is a matter of the heart.
    - What are the true motives of this person? What is driving them?
    - If we really wanted to dig deeper into this issue of the heart, the real question would be, who is driving the motives?
    - Is it the Lord or the master deceiver, satan himself?
  - For if you are pure in all things and a submitted slave to the scriptures, even if you may have been taught the wrong thing, your heart is set on being one with Christ.
    - You may be wondering, how is that so?
  - Remember I said in the beginning of our time together, I wanted to come back to the word “silent” referencing Titus 1:11
    - Here is why:
    - I want to show you two instances regarding this word silent and the context in which it was used and the response from those who were silenced in the text.
- Turn to the book of Acts 11:18
  - This is the scene where Peter reports to the Jerusalem Church that Gentiles have received salvation in Christ.
    - In the midst of that some Jewish Believers took issue with this report being that Peter would fellowship with Gentiles.
  - However, after a detailed report showing how the Holy Spirit demonstrated His power as He did for them at the day of Pentecost, the Jewish believers' response changed.
    - Here is what was documented:

**Acts 11:18** When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to

life.”

- When Peter first shared the Gospel with the Gentiles in Acts 10, he had his Jewish crew with him.
  - No Jew expected Gentiles to come to salvation, yet they could not deny what they saw.
    - The true question is, why were they quieted or silenced?
    - Friends, I believe they were quieted because they too doubted, and could not agree with what took place, in their hearts.
    - However, because these men with Peter, had the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit Himself silenced and convicted them of the truth.
    - Look at their response after they are convicted of the truth in silence...they praise God for what He has done and accept it as truth!
  - Why is this important...check out John 16:13-14

**John 16:13** But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

**John 16:14** He will glorify Me, for He will take from Mine and will disclose it to you.

- So we see how the Holy Spirit deals with believers, but check out how Paul says these False Teachers should be dealt with in verse 11.
  - He says, they must be silenced!
    - Notice there is no inward conviction with a non-believer because the truth is not in them.
    - There is no gauge in their conscience, only evil intent to disrupt the work of God.
    - We see an example of this disruption from the Judaizers in Acts 14.

**Acts 14:1** In Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a way that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks.

**Acts 14:2** But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brothers.

- This is why Paul says “to the pure all things are pure”.
  - Who is your allegiance to? Are you a slave to Christ or are you a slave to sin?
    - Because the reality is, what is in you will flow out of you.
    - Paul says it best in Romans 6:17:

**Romans 6:17** But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you

## became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were entrusted,

- The reality is each and every one of us in this room at one point in our lives were a slave to sin.
  - But thanks be to God for the mercies that He has shown us that while we were yet sinners, Christ came and died.
    - We did not become obedient through behavioral change or tradition or having extra religious participation.
    - No, it took a Holy God to see an unholy and unworthy man and woman and impute His righteousness upon us!
  - The reason that we are pure friends, is because God has made us pure through the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.
- And I love how Paul wraps up verse 16.

## Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

- I love Paul's use of words in the text. He says they profess to know God, but yet their deeds deny Him.
  - Intellectually they are familiar but applicably they are foreign because they do not know Him.
    - Ceremonially they are clean on the outside but in their hearts they are filthy.
  - They may be circumcised in the physical sense but yet their hearts have not been cut by the Spirit.
    - These false teachers talk a big game but they lack substance.
    - The text tells us in 1 John 2:4

## 1 John 2:4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

- Ultimately, this statement deals with how what I know translates to what I do, but the thing that translates it all is the heart.
  - If the heart is convinced of the truth then you will live well.
  - Why? Because of the Spirit of God in you, that convicts and convinces us of the truth.
    - No matter how bad you may have messed up or failed, the fact that your compass rose is the truth of God's word, you will always find your north.
    - Why? Because you are God's slave, His *doulos*, His possession.
    - Those in who God calls He always conforms...keyword: who God calls.
  - False teachers are always based upon one thing – defiance of God's work and plan.

- Their work is never to the good of God's glory. Their primary objective is to sabotage the work of the Lord.
- We must be ever so careful to guard against these types of people. They are in fact wolves in sheep's clothing.
  - They will look the part, act the part, even feel like a Christian. They will use the right words to the point that it is convincing.
    - And once they have won you over they will devour you.
  - These types of men and women when tested by God, not only do they fail the test of authentication, you will also see that they never produce fruit.
    - For nothing good comes from dead things.



**VERSE BY VERSE MINISTRY**  
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# Titus 2A

## Chapter 2:1-10

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- We are now in Chapter 2 of Titus and will be exploring the first 10 verses of the text this morning.
  - So far, in summary, we have witnessed Paul’s urgent message to Titus regarding setting in order what remained.
    - The reason for needing to set things in order is because many of these home churches were experiencing false teachers in leadership.
    - So in response, Paul lets Titus know that the way to get things into order is by appointing Elders in the churches.
  - We then discovered that Titus is not to select just any kind of man, but rather men of character; men who are rooted in sound teaching with a high view of scripture.
    - He then contrasts these men of character with that of false teachers.
    - Paul summarizes his point in verse 15 of Chapter 1, by saying “to the pure all things are pure”.
  - Paul would conclude in verse 16, regarding the false teachers, that although they have a knowledge of God, their lives and actions have nothing to show for it.
    - Knowing that these false teacher’s motives are anti-gospel, Paul makes it clear what the behavior of believers should look like.
    - The single thread throughout this entire book hinges on the fact that the Gospel leads to right living.
- It will be in Chapter 2 of Titus that we will see how this transformative life, by the Spirit of God, is to be applied and lived practically within the body as a whole.
  - Turn with me to Titus 2:1-10 as we read together.

**Titus 2:1** But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

**Titus 2:2** Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.

**Titus 2:3** Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,

**Titus 2:4** so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

**Titus 2:5** to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

**Titus 2:6** Likewise urge the young men to be sensible;

**Titus 2:7** in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,

**Titus 2:8** sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

**Titus 2:9** Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,

**Titus 2:10** not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

- There was this story you may have heard of...

**A young man was to be sentenced to the penitentiary. The judge had known him from childhood, for he was well acquainted with his father— a famous legal scholar and the author of an exhaustive study entitled, "The Law of Trusts." "Do you remember your father?" asked the magistrate. "I remember him well, your honor," came the reply. Then trying to probe the offender's conscience, the judge said, "As you are about to be sentenced and as you think of your wonderful dad, what do you remember most clearly about him?" There was a pause. Then the judge received an answer he had not expected. "I remember when I went to him for advice. He looked up at me from the book he was writing and said, 'Run along, boy; I'm busy!' When I went to him for companionship, he turned me away, saying "Run along, son; this book must be finished!' Your honor, you remember him as a great lawyer. I remember him as a lost friend." The magistrate muttered to himself, "Alas! Finished the book, but lost the boy!"**

- The most lasting impact that one has on the next generation of believers and the world around them is based on how, and with whom, an individual's time was spent.
  - Not only is God's design for discipleship essential to the flourishing of the family, but it is also equally important for the flourishing of the church.
    - Spiritually mature men and women deeply committed to life-on-life with new and young believers helps transform generations to the glory of God.
    - These will be generations that will live well because they know well and they know well because they have been taught well.
  - My question for each of you this morning is this, who is discipling you?
    - Whose life are you able to observe and see that their lives are pointing you to the very person of Christ and not their own works and striving?
    - Deep commitment within a Gospel Community cultivates correct living in Christ.
- Our lives are not changed because we changed our behaviors, but rather God has changed our hearts, by His Spirit in light of the scriptures.
  - And because God has changed our hearts, it is by His grace that we are to live a life worthy and reflective of the life that paid it all.
    - And it is in understanding the truth of what sound teaching in scripture sounds like and looks like lived out, that Paul opens up Chapter 2 by saying:

**Titus 2:1 But as for you, proclaim the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.**

- We see right out the gate the text begins with the word “but”.
  - Paul uses verse one of Chapter 2 to contrast with the previous verse.
    - Check it out in Titus 1:16, Paul says:

**Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being**

## **detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.**

- These false teachers have an understanding of God, but because their hearts are not of God, their lives do not exhibit true spiritual transformation.
  - The text reveals that we can know God on an intellectual level, but yet not be impacted by His word and therefore not live a transformed life.
    - True transformation comes through being effectual doers of the word you know, trust, and believe.
    - James, in James 1:22-24 says:

**James 1:22** But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not just hearers who deceive themselves.

**James 1:23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

**James 1:24** for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

- Paul brings his attention to Titus here in verse 1 and I can imagine if they were face to face Paul would be holding him at the shoulders.
  - “Titus, you know what these men are about. These false teachers are unbelieving and the Spirit of the Lord is not in them.”
    - He tells Titus in a few words: live out what you preach.
  - I love the New Living Translation’s version of this verse. Here’s what it says:

**Titus 2:1 NLT** As for you, Titus, promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching.

- Paul’s emphasis to Titus is very clear: practice and live out what you preach.
  - As Pastor Steve would always say, when you teach the bible, good things happen.
- With this in mind, as we move to verses 2 to 6, Paul will explain from a practical perspective, what sound doctrine looks like in action within the body of Christ.
  - Here is how Paul will break down the ways in which these particular groups in the body of Christ are to live as redeemed men and women of God.
    - Older Men
    - Older Women
    - Younger Women
    - Younger Men
    - Slaves
  - And what we will see regarding these varying age groups is, the Gospel has no respect of persons.
    - The Gospel demands a life response regardless of age or social status.

- We pick up in verse 2 of Titus Chapter 2.

**Titus 2:2 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.**

- Titus is told to teach these groups sound doctrine. Notice he is not teaching them behavior, Titus is to teach them the word.
  - This will be important to remember as we move along throughout the text.
  - Paul first addresses the Older men in the church.
    - From the outside looking in, it could be seen from these characteristics that the older man is “untouchable” in the sense of being blameless.
  - Paul mentions this phrase “are to be” which presumes that there were older men in Crete who still lacked spiritual maturity in their behavior and life.
    - We have to keep in mind that some of these new believers still had some adjusting from their old way of life.
- The text makes one thing evidently clear, we can not assume that just because someone is older in age that they are spiritually mature.
  - What marks the spiritual maturity of an older person is the truth that has been applied in their life over the course of their life.
    - Titus is to teach these older men even in their seasoned age, how to live well.
  - Paul states that these older men are to be:
    - Temperate – These older Cretan men should be restrained in their drinking. They are not taken to drunkenness like the typical Cretan men of the day.
    - Dignified – These older believers were to be revered or worthy to look up to.
    - Sensible – These men were spiritually healthy and were able to discern well and reason well based upon godly wisdom and life well-lived.
  - Paul then mentions that Titus should teach them to be sound in faith, in love, and in perseverance.
    - To put it simply, these older men in the church should be healthy in their trust of the Gospel, love towards others, and steadfast in the faith.
  - It is key that we hone in on the word perseverance in this passage of scripture.
    - The word perseverance in the Greek here is the word *hupomonē*. This word is patient endurance or steadfastness.
  - Imagine you are in a battle and you are waging war with a sword and someone takes a strike at your sword over and over again.
    - Your sword’s ability to sustain the blow from the attack – that is the word for endurance that Paul uses.
  - The Older men that are marked by maturity have endured some things in life.
    - Their lives have taken some hits, however, they did not waiver, they endured.
    - They endured because they did not abandon their faith or sound teaching.
  - Paul now moves to address the older women in the church.

- Lets look at verses 3-5

**Titus 2:3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, Titus 2:4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, Titus 2:5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.**

- Clearly, Paul’s expectation on the women in the church requires the same maturity level as that of the Older men.
  - Paul uses the word “likewise” here in the text.
    - This word regarding the behavior of the older woman is not to be divorced from the same weight of maturity as that of the older man.
    - Spiritual maturity does not have an age attached to it as if to say you need to be “this age” to be considered spiritually mature.
    - This maturity comes through application and living out the word of God by submitting to the Lord.
  - Paul then contrasts the older spiritually mature woman with the things she should NOT be doing which is not gossiping and not being drunk with wine.
    - It can be assumed from the text, once again, that older women in this Cretan culture were known for being gossips and drinking excessively.
    - One scholar records that in early comedies, women were displayed as gossips and involved in foolish talk.
    - With that reality being known, Paul informs Titus to teach these older believers to endure in the truth they know and not the culture they see.
  - If I can just pause here for a moment, I want us to recognize that this reality is not removed from our cultural dynamics today.
    - And as believers in Christ, we too must warrant against the temptation to acquiesce to the culture.
    - The Gospel must transform our hearts and it is through living out the scriptures by the power of the Spirit that is the only agent of growth.
- As Paul continues in addressing the older women, I want you to notice a shift in accountability to the teaching and instructing of the younger women.
  - Notice I say accountability, not responsibility.
    - This does not mean that younger women are not to sit under the teaching of the Pastor.
    - This simply means that the opportunity to be taught on a more one on one level is best accomplished by the older women.
  - Check it out again, the end of verse 3 to verse 5.

**Titus 2:3b-4 teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young**

## women to love their husbands, to love their children,

- Paul does something very interesting here in the text regarding the teaching to younger women.
  - He moves the discussion from public edification from the pulpit to private edification/training by means of discipleship.
    - The responsibility of teaching the younger women is to be accomplished by the older women.
  - There is an old African Proverb that says: “ The youth can walk faster, but the elder knows the road.”
    - Young people have the tendency to assume that we know everything.
    - And when it comes down to discipleship it requires that we be teachable.
- I believe it is important to highlight how Paul organizes this section regarding this relationship of discipleship between older and younger women.
  - Paul breaks down the impact of women on a social/public aspect as well as from a domestic/private perspective.
  - I want us to quickly look at the seven responsibilities of the young woman that Paul describes:
    - He says they are to do the following:
      - Love their husbands
      - Love their children
      - Be self-controlled
      - Pure
      - Working at home
      - Kind
      - Submissive to their own husbands
    - Within Judaism and the Greco-Roman world, a woman’s virtue was considered to be based upon how they loved their husbands and raised their children.
      - This same virtue can be found in the book of Proverbs 31

**Prov. 31:26 She opens her mouth in wisdom,  
And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.**

**Prov. 31:27 She watches over the activities of her household,  
And does not eat the bread of idleness.**

**Prov. 31:28 Her children rise up and bless her;  
Her husband also, and he praises her, saying:**

**Prov. 31:29 “Many daughters have done nobly,  
But you excel them all.”**

- Please hear me when I say this, these attributes for a young woman are not outdated. They are biblical and society will push back against this truth.

- It is documented by some scholars that there was this idea of “A New Roman Woman” that was being practiced and promoted in the Roman World.
  - The characteristics of this woman would be diametrically opposed to that of a Christian woman.
- If I were to put it into today's context it would look like what feminism is today.
  - Some of the thoughts of the day were, “If men can sleep around surely we can too.”
- Philip Towner in his book “The Letters to Timothy and Titus” documents this regarding the “New Woman” ideology by saying this:

**"The values of the 'new woman' [style of conduct in Crete] had little to do with traditional commitments to the household; the new morality they emphasized endorsed the freedom to pursue extramarital sexual liaisons and liberties normally open only to men, which would place marital fidelity and household management at risk. Thus the household was the chief theater of Paul's campaign."**

- If I were to list this out to you in a chart, this would be the difference between a Christian woman versus a “New World Woman”. *(See Slides)*
- It will take a solid woman of faith to help the younger woman know how to navigate the trials and troubles of a young marriage.
  - It will take the solid spiritual maturity of a woman to talk to the younger woman about how to submit to her husband, even when her husband is wrong.
    - It takes a solid mature woman of faith to show the value and virtue of raising kids in a counter-cultural world.
  - After Paul addresses the older and younger women here, he moves to address the younger men.
    - This is what Paul says:

### **Titus 2:6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible;**

- We see the word “likewise” show up again in the text.
  - Surely, Paul is not stating that the younger men are to simply be sensible.
    - Remember this word likewise, is connecting to the attributes that were included for that of the older man in verse 2.
  - That is the younger men too, are to be:
    - temperate
    - dignified
    - sensible
    - sound in faith, in love, in perseverance
  - What age group could Paul be talking about here?

- Clearly, there is no youth ministry occurring at this time. There is no children's ministry that is happening either.
- It could be assumed that the teenagers of this day were right alongside their parents hearing the word preached.
- These expectations on right living were to be applied not only to the older men and women but to the younger men and women as well.
  - It is documented by some scholars that the age range here would be anywhere from mid-teens to 40 years of age for young people.
- What do we see thus far here?
  - Cross-generational discipleship is necessary to develop and cultivate the heart and life of a believer in Christ.
- My wife and I's life was dynamically impacted by our good friends Manny and JoAnn.
  - Manny and JoAnn were our Small Group leaders at our previous church here in San Antonio.
    - It was in their small group that we were able to truly be authentic, talk about our crap, and grow in grace.
  - Manny and JoAnn knew that my wife and I's heart was for ministry as we were being asked to serve in ministry in a full time capacity.
    - What we did not share with Manny and JoAnn was that our desire was to be debt free.
    - It was our desire to travel where we needed to without any financial burden.
  - One day after a small group, Manny and JoAnn pulled us aside and told us something that has forever changed our lives.
    - They said "We know that the Lord has a calling on your lives and it will require you all to not be in debt"
    - "We feel that the Lord wants us to open up our home to you all so that you can pay down your debt".
  - My wife and I, in disbelief, look at each other and break down into tears because we had been praying for an opportunity where we could be debt-free.
    - We just didn't know how.
  - They then proceeded to tell us, do not worry about paying rent here, or trying to pay for your own food, we got you guys.
    - They convert their downstairs study space into a bedroom for us and convert their living room into the kid's room.
  - For the next few months, we would be a group of 8 people living in 1 house.
    - I share this because true discipleship is accomplished when you have life on life.
    - You can dig into the life of the ones God has called you to and can glean from their wisdom.
    - And therein lies Paul's point in it all. We must model what we want to see.
  - Check out the next part of the text, verse 7 and 8

**Titus 2:7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,**

**Titus 2:8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.**

- Paul, here, addresses Titus specifically (short of calling him out by name).
  - He says in all things, show “yourself”. Meaning this is to be addressed to you as the leader and Pastor of the people in Crete.
    - What I find most interesting in the text is that Titus’ directive is given directly after the younger men.
    - It could be said that the reason being is Titus himself is a young man and his life is to not be divorced from the message he preaches.
  - How many times as parents have we told our children, “do as I say and not as I do”, only to find that we ourselves didn’t even do as we said.
    - It’s this idea that because I’m the leader or in charge, that I’m not obligated to follow the messages I preach.
    - Paul pushes against this notion of thought because it is hypocritical and it makes us out to be a liar.
  - So Paul makes it clear in the text that Titus is to “be an example” of good deeds with purity in doctrine.
    - We see this same usage of the word example in Philippians 3:17, where Paul says to the church at Philippi:

**Phil. 3:17 Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.**

- The word for example here in the Greek is *summimētēs*. It means joint imitator.
  - This is where we get our English word symmetry from.
    - We also see this similar word used when Paul talks to the Corinthian church about imitating him as he imitates Christ.
    - The word in the Greek for imitator in this context is *mimētēs*
    - Here it is in 1 Corinthians 11:

**1 Cor. 11:1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.**

- Here is what I pray you see. You as the discipler and image bearer of Christ are not the object to imitate.
  - You are simply pointing the one who is imitating you, to the one in whom you are imitating and that should be Christ, Himself.
    - The moment that you have made discipleship about your following or how good you are, you have missed the purpose of discipleship as a whole.
    - If you are pointing people to be like you, you are pointing them to be an even

better sinner.

- Your life and my life should be a receipt of the life that was paid on the cross over 2,000 years ago.
  - Teenagers in the Youth ministry, if you are in here, this is for you as well.
- Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12 these very words:

**1 Tim. 4:12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.**

- Teenagers, do not buy into this cultural lie of YOLO – You Only Live Once.
  - This lie is a trick from the enemy himself. It is a lie that says live life to the fullest without any regret and when you get older you will have lived a full life.
    - May I suggest to you all this morning that the only life that brings true fulfillment and joy is in Christ our Lord.
    - Temporary pleasures are just that, here today and gone tomorrow.
  - Check out verse 8 in the text. It will provide us with the answer to why we must live counter-culturally.

**Titus 2:8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.**

- Here is what Paul is showing us in the text. Your life's receipt through good living will be a testament to the transformation that has taken place in your life.
  - If you are a member at Costco, you know that after you purchase your items and are beginning to leave, you are met at the exit by a check-out person.
    - That check-out person is required to look at your receipt and validate that everything you purchased is in your basket, why?
    - Because if what is on your receipt is not in your basket, someone is lying.
  - In this same authentication process, Paul says your life well lived will leave no room for the enemy to creep in to accuse you of anything.
    - Remember, we talked about this word “beyond reproach” before. It means there is no room for accusation because nothing can be found against you.
- Paul will then transition to the last two verses that we have time for this morning, verses 9-10.

**Titus 2:9 Urge bond slaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,**

**Titus 2:10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.**

- Paul brings us to the last group within the greater church demographic: slaves.

- If you were here for the teaching I did in Philemon, we discussed this issue of slavery within the 1st century.
  - Slavery within the 1st century was based upon several things, here are just 2 reasons:
    - 1) You were either captured by a conquering nation from war, or
    - 2) You owed a debt to someone and wanted to pay it off.
- Understand that this passage in no way approving of slavery then, however it was a way of life.
  - So Paul, within the confines of what the laws and rules were during this time, wanted to urge the slave, too, to live well.
- Paul tells the slaves to be subject to their own masters, not in just some things, but in everything.
  - He then mentions how they are to go about accomplishing that:
    - 1) Be well-pleasing – satisfying the needs of your master

**Col. 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord and not for people,**

- 2) Not-argumentative – not contradicting what they request or ask of you.
- 3) Not-pilfering/stealing – not reserving for yourself what you think you deserve.
  - In the book of Philemon, Paul deals with Onesimus, Philemon’s slave in a similar matter.
  - It is quite interesting that the letter to Philemon is directly after the letter to Titus.
- If we were to bring about some practical application here I would say, how you work on your job today bears witness of who you belong to.
  - - Are you an employee that consistently comes to work late? This is not well-pleasing.
    - Are you an employee that always tries to prove your point in the business meeting even if you know your supervisor is dead wrong?
    - Are you an employee that you know you came in an hour late and left an hour early but you don't indicate it properly in your time tracker?
  - Do you see how these types of things can cause Christians to be a bad witness in the workplace and in society?
    - What is the goal in living well in all respects amongst the non-believing world?
    - It allows our lives to bear witness to our Lord and Savior.
    - It allows non-believers to see that Christians don't talk a big game, but we live in a way that pleases the Father.
  - If we never opened our mouths and only our lives could speak for us, would people be able to see Christ exemplified in and through your life?
    - Paul writes these words to young Timothy as he is pastoring in 1 Timothy 6:1:

**1 Tim. 6:1 All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against.**

- Do you see it? The last half of verse 1... Why are we to live well and do well: because it brings glory to God when our lives reflect what we believe no matter the conditions.
  - Sound doctrine leads us into right living.
    - If there is anything we are to see in the text this morning, it is that no believer has a “get out of sanctification” free card.
    - Every believer in Jesus Christ, every father, mother, sister, brother, boss, employee, grandmother, and grandfather has a Gospel obligation.
  - We must live well to reflect the glorious work that has been done in us by the grace and goodness of God.
    - I believe Dietrich Bonhoeffer said it best:
    - “Your life as a Christian should make non-believers question their disbelief in God”

- In our last teaching in the letter of Paul to Titus, we discussed Paul’s mandate to Titus which was to “teach what accords with sound doctrine.”
  - Paul would outline in this section of the letter how believers in the body of Christ should live in accordance to the word of God.
    - He outlined these groups in the following order:
    - Older men, older women, younger women, younger men, Titus (Pastor/Leader), slaves.
  - Paul showed us in this previous text that spiritual maturity was not marked by age, but rather by application of the scriptures in one’s life.
    - We came to find that God uses the older, spiritually mature, men and women in the church to help disciple and lead the younger generation.
    - Older men to younger men and older women to younger women.
  - It became evident that within the organization of the church, the responsibility of discipleship doesn’t fall primarily on the Pastor.
    - Rather, each member of the church body has a role and that is to live out the scriptures according to what is patterned.
  - Titus was to set the example and to model for the body what right living looks like in alignment with the right teaching.
    - Paul concludes within these groups of believers, the slave.
    - The slave is to submit themselves to their masters, regardless of how they may or may not be treated.
  - Ultimately, the response and the responsibility of the slave to live well is no different from any believer in Christ, slave or free.
    - It is this understanding of the text that leads us to the last 5 verses of Chapter 2.
- If I were to outline for us these last 5 verses of Titus Chapter 2, it would be the following in respective order:
  - Grace makes known the great gift of salvation
    - Grace disciplines us and grace teaches us
    - Grace allows us to look back in humble adoration while looking forward with great anticipation
    - Grace frees us and keeps us
    - Grace commissions us
  - If I were to put a tag on this text it would be “Grace Teaches Us. Grace Leads Us”.
    - Pick me up in Titus 2:11-15.

**Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,  
**Titus 2:12** instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,  
**Titus 2:13** looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great

**God and Savior, Christ Jesus,**

**Titus 2:14** 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.

**Titus 2:15** These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

- Let's Pray
- On December 29, 2020, NPR Music did a special cover on Steve Turner's book, "*Amazing Grace: The Story of America's Most Beloved Song*".
  - Mr Turner's book tells the story of lyricist, John Newton and his conversion from being a slave trader to an abolitionist.
    - Turner traces the evolution of this song from its origins in 1772 written in Newton's attic in Olney, England.
  - Turner discovered that the lyrics of this famous song was developed from Newton's personal conversion experience.
    - This idea of grace being God's unmerited favor to lost and broken sinners.
    - If you aren't familiar with the lyric, allow me to recite just a bit of it this morning:

**Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found Was blind but now I see  
Was Grace that taught my heart to fear And Grace, my fears relieved  
How precious did that Grace appear The hour I first believed**

- Charles Spurgeon said this regarding God's grace:

**A person who is really saved by Grace does not need to be told that he is under solemn obligations to serve Christ. The new life within him tells him that. Instead of regarding it as a burden, he gladly surrenders himself, body, soul, and spirit, to the Lord.**

- It is this reality that the Apostle Paul expresses to Titus and this network of Home Churches in Crete that this grace has in fact appeared.
  - Paul will conclude Chapter 2 with the reality of what the grace of God has done and should do inwardly for the believer in Jesus Christ.
    - Pick me up in verse 11.

**Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

- Right off the bat we see that this verse begins with the word "for".

- I mention this because the word “for” refers to a particular point in the previous verse or verses.
  - So walk back with me to verses 9 and 10 of Titus Chapter 2. Paul says:

**Titus 2:9 Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,**

**Titus 2:10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.**

- What we see here is that the slave’s ability to submit to their earthly master, regardless of their treatment, will show their masters a different life response.
  - To a slave master who owned slaves, it could be assumed that some were expected to be argumentative or not satisfactory in their work.
    - We saw a similar situation of this from the teaching I did in Philemon.
  - Onesimus, who was a Phrygian slave, was considered, prior to coming to Christ, doubly useless.
    - There was a famous proverb that stated “A Phrygian is the better and the more serviceable for beating”.
    - Meaning, not only was Onesimus spiritually dead because of his unbelief but he was not well-pleasing in his work and stole from Philemon.
  - By God’s divine providence, Onesimus ends up coming across the ministry of the Apostle Paul.
  - Through Paul preaching the Gospel to Onesimus, Onesimus comes to faith in Christ.
    - It would be after some time had passed, that Paul would send Onesimus back to Philemon to reconcile the wrong that was done.
    - Why do I mention this?
  - We must recognize that the Gospel message in and of itself is a message of reconciliation and transformation, not only vertically but horizontally.
    - The Gospel changes us at the core of who we are and brings to light who God has called us to be.
  - Now realize that Onesimus returning to his master was a death sentence.
    - However, it was an opportunity Paul saw that allowed both Onesimus and Philemon to see the Gospel of grace at work in a hostile situation.
    - Check out what Paul tells Philemon in Philemon verse 15:

**Philemon 15 For perhaps it was for this reason that he was separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever,**

**Philemon 16 no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.**

- Philemon would receive a doubly useful Onesimus. One who has been made spiritually alive as a brother in Christ.
  - But he will also have a servant who can share the Gospel with others.
  - Friends, this type of relationship in antiquity would be completely counter-cultural. Why?
    - Because you now have slaves and masters as brothers in Christ, together as one.
    - To put it plainly, the Gospel of grace would be on display for all to see.
  - Paul in Titus 2:10 shows Titus and the current reader that slaves, even in their low social status and position are able to make much of the grace of God.
- Paul in the same sentence regarding Christian slaves uses an interesting word for what living well looks like to others.
  - He uses the word “adorn” in verse 10 of Chapter 2.
    - The word adorn in Greek is *kosmeō*. It means to make neat, to decorate, to put in order.
  - Paul references this same word in 1 Tim 2:9-10, as he is talking to women about how they should dress. Check it out:

**1 Tim 2:9 Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments**

**1 Tim 2:10 but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.**

- This word adorn is beyond mere viewing pleasure. This is an imperative. It requires action.
  - Paul mentions that they are to put themselves in order by putting on what is right and doing what is godly.
  - Paul’s point in verses 9 and 10 is simple: By living out what you have been soundly taught, it allows others to know and see this Gospel of Grace.
    - Your life and my life should reflect what God has freely given to us, and that is His grace!
  - It is here at verse 11 where Paul will bring the WHY of right living amongst a chaotic and toxic culture to the forefront.
    - He says “ For the grace of God has appeared”
    - That word “appeared” in Greek is *epiphainō*. It means to appear, show, or give light to.
  - What is so interesting about this sentence is that in Greek, the sentence actually starts with the word “appeared”.
    - If we were to read it in its proper Greek structure it would read, “It appeared,

the grace of God bringing salvation to all men”

- Now, before we move forward we must establish a biblical definition of grace.
  - Grace is the unmerited favor of God by which we are receiving something that we did not and do not deserve.
  - Understanding the very definition of Grace brings about two important questions:
- The first question is, “Who has done the saving?” and the second is “What are we saved from?”
- The “who” that has appeared in human history to bring salvation to all those who would believe and are chosen by God is Jesus Christ, Himself.
  - I love what Paul says regarding Christ entering into human history. He says this in Titus 1:3:

**Titus 1:3** 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,

- If you remember from our earlier teaching in Titus, you can recall this interesting Greek word *kairos*.
  - *Kairos* is a particular point in time related to other points in time with a focus that this time is designated by an authority.
  - Paul would say it this way in 2 Timothy 1:10:

**2 Timothy 1:10** but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

- The appearance of Christ through the incarnation in human history shined a light into the darkness of humanity and our depravity to show our need to be made right before God.
  - Paul mentions in Romans 6:23:

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- So we see that Grace is in fact personified in the very person and work of Jesus Christ.
  - This now moves us to the second question that we posed.
    - If this grace is undeserved, “what are we saved from?”
  - Grace saved us from the very wrath of God.
    - In Romans 5:10-11, Paul says this:

**Romans 5:10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

**Romans 5:11** And not only this but we also celebrate in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

- God demonstrates His very own love for those whom He has chosen so that they may become the very righteousness of God, in Christ.
  - In exchange for your wickedness, sinfulness, and brokenness, Christ steps in to absolve the rightful judgment we were due.
    - We will tackle this particular doctrine a little later on.
  - Before we move any further, I want to address what some may see as the elephant in the room regarding the last part of verse 11.
    - “Bringing salvation to all men”
    - We will address this very doctrine later on in the sermon. So put a pin here, we will be back.
  - Paul continues on in verse 12.

**Titus 2:12** instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

- I don't want us to miss what Paul is saying here. It is quite profound, but yet so simple.
  - Paul tells Titus, in few short words, it is grace that instructs us and grace that compels us.
    - He mentions that this grace of God instructs us to do some things:
    - It instructs us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires.
  - The question here really that arises is, how does grace instruct us and compel us?
    - Paul makes this clear as being inspired by the Holy Spirit in verse 11.
  - It is in understanding what has been done for us that should move us to live in such a way that adorns the very life that we have in Christ.
    - If I know that it is God's grace that has saved me from the wrath of God and into the righteousness of God, my entire outlook changes.
    - I can't know what I know and continue on in the life that I lived prior to knowing Jesus.
    - The Gospel demands a response.
  - The word “instructing us” in the Greek is a rather interesting phrase. It is the word *paideuō* which means to discipline, to train, or educate.
    - How does God's grace discipline or educate us to deny ungodliness and worldly passions, desires, and pursuits?

- Grace reminds us of who we once were and where we once were headed.
  - Remember, this discipline and training is for when?... The Present Age.
    - We live in this space between the "not yet" and the "here and now", and while we are here, we are not removed from the temptation of sin.
    - We are not removed from the battle with sin, rather we are to guard ourselves in the truth and the knowledge of the scriptures in obedience.
- As parents, you may understand it this way. Although we are our children's primary disciple-makers, eventually they will be out on their own.
  - Within our homes, we can provide the parameters by which our children are to act, think, and behave in our presence.
    - We help aid in cultivating right living in our children, all with the hope that when they leave us, they'll live well because they know well.
    - And when our kids go against what we have established in our home, discipline is in place to remind them and get them back on track.
  - In this same way, God has chosen us as His own possession (Titus 2:14) and is committed to conforming us into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.
- We see a situation in Acts 8:9-25 where Simon the magician who previously practiced magic came to faith in Jesus Christ.
  - And as a new believer, there were still some old tendencies that may not have yet fallen off.
    - The text makes evident that Simon the magician asked the apostles a question that demonstrated a lack of spiritual maturity.
    - It is then that Peter confronts Simon the magician and reproves him. Check out Peter's response in Acts 8:22:

**Acts 8:22 Therefore, repent of this wickedness of yours and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart will be forgiven you.**

- Just as a mother or father disciplines those in whom they love, our Heavenly Father Who bought us with a price will do the same.
  - Our purchase by the blood of Christ was a fervent commitment to conform us into the image of Jesus Christ.
    - The objective of sanctification is not to become a better you, it is to conform you to the image of the one that saved you and justified you!
  - The question we must ask ourselves this morning is, what areas in our lives are still proverbially hidden from Christ that need to be confronted and corrected?
    - What areas in your life are concealed with sin in your hearts and needs to be addressed and repented of?
    - My prayer for us this morning is that we can submit those areas of unrighteousness to the Lord and seek repentance.

- And as we seek repentance of those sins, may we humbly submit ourselves to the Lord and put on Christ-like character.
- As long as we are in this present age, we will have our battles with sin. But the good news is that we are no longer slaves to sin.
  - As we submit ourselves under the scriptures, sound leadership, and right teaching, we have no option but to conform. Why?
  - Because we are the Lord's He will not let go.
  - Hebrews 12:6 puts it this way:

**Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loves He disciplines,  
And He punishes every son whom He accepts.”**

- God's work in those in whom He called WILL be completed.
  - Because those in whom He chooses are wholly His and He will get the glory out of our lives.
  - It is this grace that kept you from some things you knew could have been damaging for your life prior to knowing Christ.
    - It is this grace that preserved your life when you didn't even value your own life.
    - It was this grace that sustained you when you made unwise choices.
  - It is also this grace, after salvation, that keeps you because it's not your sustaining power that is keeping you – it is God Himself!
    - Let this grace also inform and conform you, friends, as we seek to obey Jesus in every area of our hearts and lives.
  - Let's keep moving, verse 13.

**Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,**

- We see here that grace allows us to look back in humble adoration while looking forward with great anticipation.
- Check out Paul's language here. He says “looking for the blessed hope”.
  - Depending on what translation you are reading, some of your bibles may say, “while we wait on the hope...”
    - For some readers, it could be assumed that waiting is this sense of sitting idly.
    - However, the NASB provides the reader a more accurate translation, and here is why:
  - The phrase “looking for” presumes that there is an active awaiting or anticipation for the arrival of Christ.
    - This is not a person that is sitting down being unproductive in their work, but

- rather as they are working, they work eagerly awaiting the arrival of Christ.
- The intent behind what they are doing is based upon this beautiful scene of the appearing of Jesus Christ coming back for His bride.
- Don't miss Paul's connection from verse 12 to verse 13. There are two important things to note:
    - We first see that we have the very personification of grace in the incarnation of Christ which brought salvation into human history at the right moment for those called by God to believe...
    - And in His life on earth showing us what it looks like to truly live and have life more abundantly.
  - Secondly, there is an eschatological anticipation of what is to come for the believer.
    - We are to live well in the here and now as we actively work well to the glory of our great God till the moment we see Jesus face-to-face.
    - We do what we do well and in obedience because we know what is to come and that is Jesus returning for us in the Second Coming.
  - One of my most favorite things to do with my wife is watch movie trailers of upcoming films.
    - These movie trailers are intentionally short to not give away the movie in its entirety.
      - The trailer simply gives a glimpse of what will be fully experienced.
    - In this same way our lives as believers give non-believers a preview of coming attractions.
      - The way that we love, the way that we serve, the way that we live amongst a dying and broken world, gives them a taste of what God has done.
      - And it gives them a foretaste of what God will do in the coming kingdom as He rules perfectly.
      - It's this ability to exist in the here and now while we anticipate the not yet, knowing in full assurance that when Christ comes back we will be ready.
    - In the words of our Founding Pastor, Pastor Steve, this gives the believers eyes for eternity.
      - The reality is, the non-believer should get a glimpse of the power and the grace of God by seeing how you live in the Present age.
    - We recognize what we rightfully deserve yet at the same time evidently see what has been freely given to us.
      - It is this mystery of the grace of God that should move us to obey Him.
    - This type of transformation can only be accomplished by God Himself and not by mere men.
      - Check out verse 14.

**Titus 2:14** 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.**

- Paul makes it known here that this grace of God sanctifies us.
  - Paul says that Jesus has redeemed us from something, for something.
    - Jesus' death has redeemed us from every lawless deed.
  - Paul then says Jesus gave Himself for us to redeem us.
    - The language here is what many theologians call "The Great Exchange".
    - The fancy theological term for this work is penal substitutionary atonement.
  - This is a doctrine that many evangelical Christians today struggle to understand.
    - We want to accept this great God of Love but for some reason we struggle to understand His Divine and Holy judgment.
  - Penal substitution simply means that the penalty that we were rightfully due was paid by a Holy and perfect substitute, Jesus Christ.
- Because God is also just and Holy, the very wrath of the Father had to be satisfied.
  - The punishment and wages of sin for humanity had to be absolved, once and for all.
    - If there were no payment for sin, where would God's justice be found? If God doesn't absolve sin, He ceases to be Just and Holy.
    - And therefore would cease to be God!
  - Therefore, God being rich in mercy and love sends His Holy, spotless, and blameless son, Jesus Christ to go to the cross and atone for our sins.
    - Check out what the prophet Isaiah says about the atonement:

#### **Isaiah 53:10 But the Lord desired**

**To crush Him, causing Him grief;**

**If He renders Himself as a guilt offering,**

**He will see His offspring,**

**He will prolong His days,**

**And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.**

- Scripture tells us that it pleased the Father to crush the Son.
  - Why would this means be necessary and sufficient for believers? Here is how it works.
- Many Jewish Legal scholars and within the Roman law system can best explain penal substitutionary atonement known in law as "Respondeat Superior"
  - In Latin, it literally translates, "let the Master be answerable". It is this idea of being vicariously liable.
    - Well-known Christian Theologian, William Lane Craig mentions in his book *Atonement and the Death of Christ* how this principle works.

- He utilizes these legal terms to express substitutionary atonement as a “legal pardon”
- He mentioned in one of his writings about a nurse that came to him after one of his discussions.
  - This is what she told him and I quote:

**I am a nurse. This principle is everywhere in medicine. If a chief surgeon is performing a surgery and one of the subordinates botches the surgery, even though the chief supervising surgeon did nothing wrong – absolutely innocent – he is the one who is held liable for the acts of that nurse or subordinate that did the medical malpractice. The liability of the subordinate is imputed to the superior. It is not transferred from the subordinate to the superior, but it is replicated in the superior.**

- Here is what Jesus did for us. He entered into humanity. Into the very creation He created.
  - He lived for 33.5 years. Fully God and Fully man. He executes his ministry for 3 years ultimately pointing to His death.
    - He is beaten, scourged, whipped until He was unrecognizable and hangs on a cross.
    - He takes on the punishment that we were rightfully owed.
  - Before he dies He asks for a drink, and in return is given a mixture of vinegar and water. It is what the bible records as a very bitter drink.
    - Only He knew the cup of the wrath of the Father would be much worse.
- In John 19:30 before Jesus dies, He says the Greek word, *tetelestai*. This is huge to understand in the text.
  - This word in Greek means “paid in full”. However the verb tense is important to note.
    - Why is this important? Because when Jesus said *tetelestai* he said it in the perfect tense.
  - To put it plainly, not only was the work of the cross finished at that moment in time, but it will continue to be finished through what Christ has done!
    - Christ will not ever be placed on the cross again. He will never die again!
    - Christ is all in all. He is Redeemer. He is Alpha and Omega. He is!
  - What is even sweeter is that those who hear this message of grace and believe, they too are forever kept.
    - Paul continues on by saying that those who are redeemed will also be purified for Christ as His own possession.
    - This saving blood of Christ not only saves us but it cleanses us and it keeps!
  - I love the hymn written by Robert Lowry, published in 1876

**What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

**Nothing can for sin atone,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
Naught of good that I have done,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

**This is all my hope and peace,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
This is all my righteousness,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus**

- This precious grace is a reminder that we are not saved by our own merit, our accolades, or any of the above.
  - It is only by the kindness of our Lord and Savior that we are His and He is ours.
    - We must not forget the last part of this verse. He redeemed us for something.
  - *“To purify us for good works”*.
    - He saved us so that we may do good works to bring glory to the Father.
  - Ephesians 2:10 says this:

**Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**

- The mere fact that we all are sitting in this room hearing the word of God consistently, every Sunday, is a testament to the goodness of God!
  - You and I prior to being saved had no desire in our hearts to love the Lord, to serve the Lord, or to know the Lord.
    - It took God Himself, to bring us to Himself, to make a people for Himself, to give glory to Himself.
    - Friends, we have no stake in this game, but to know that God called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light to participate with Him is gracious!
  - If it had not been for the Lord who was on our side, we too would be just like the cretans on the island of Crete.
    - We would still be constant liars, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons.
    - But thank God grace got a hold of us!
  - This grace, friends, should move us into constant adoration for God and to bring

Him glory in the way that we live.

- If Christ's death and resurrection was a receipt of what was freely done for us...
- How much more should our lives be a receipt of what Christ has done in us?
- This is Paul's point regarding grace!
  - If the grace of God reached the worst of us, surely He can reach the Cretans.
    - And it doesn't require having to look like cretans to reach the cretans with the Gospel.
    - It simply requires someone who is willing to let their lives reflect the very life that saved them.
  - And friends, may we not get so beside ourselves in thinking that because we belong to God that we are better than anyone else?
    - May we not get on our pharisaical high horses and think that the Gospel is only good enough for us!
    - If the Gospel reached you and you are in this room or listening to this video, you too were once an enemy of God.
    - No one is exempt from this truth!
  - Paul wraps it up in verse 15:

**Titus 2:15** These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

- You can sense the weightiness and urgency of the matter regarding Titus teaching things that accord to sound doctrine.
  - Paul tells Titus, "speak these things". What are these things?
    - Teach sound doctrine, teach the Gospel and teach it in grace.
    - This is not only a command for Titus to teach these things to others, but it is presupposed that Titus is to live these things.
  - If he is the pastor who is selecting these leaders (elders) of these churches, he must certainly find men who are committed to the same truth as he is.
    - Surly, Titus is to be the one in whom others are looking to for godly instruction and guidance.
  - Knowing the culture in Crete and how their lifestyles are the very antithesis of the Gospel, it makes it all the more important to stand firm on these things.
    - Paul gives Titus the very authority to not only establish elders but to preach and teach without the need to compromise the Gospel.
    - Paul shows Titus that this grace that God has given reaches down to the lowest valley.
    - Paul will restate this truth in Titus 3:3 where he says to be gentle in all you do because:

**Titus 3:3** For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

- We have too many churches compromising for the sake of fitting into the culture.
  - We have too many Christians willing to acquiesce to the culture for the sake of being “politically correct”.
  - We have too many churches compromising for the sake of being “canceled” because of saying the right and sensible thing.
  - Paul gives Titus the permission to have the backbone to stand up straight, without compromise, and to speak the truth with all apostolic authority in grace.
    - A church that does not stand on the truth of God’s word and fails to preach the whole counsel of God is, dare I say it, a weak church.
  - A church must build up where people need growth, tear down where there needs to be correction, and teach the whole counsel of God.
    - Friends, this is the work that Paul gave to young Titus and this is the work that God has given our church leadership.
    - Paul ends Chapter 2 by telling Titus, “Let no one disregard you.”
  - Regardless of your age, Titus, you know what the truth is. You know what this great grace has accomplished.
    - Live well, teach well, and do well Titus! Because believers are watching you.
    - And non-believers can come to know our Great God and Savior through seeing your life.
  - Friends, may your lives be marked by the grace of God so that those who see you will want to know the Great God that saves: Jesus Christ, our Lord!
    - Let’s pray.



**VERSE BY VERSE MINISTRY**  
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*TEACHING THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD*

# Titus 3A

## Chapter 3:1-8

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- In our last teaching of Titus, we experienced Paul’s overwhelming emphasis on God’s grace.
  - He mentioned several things regarding God’s grace.
    - I would like to briefly recap them as this recognition of grace will bear weight to today’s teaching.
  - Paul mentioned in the previous five verses of Titus 2:11-15, that grace does the following things:
    - Grace makes known the great gift of salvation
    - Grace disciplines us and grace teaches us
    - Grace allows us to look back in humble adoration while looking forward with great anticipation.
    - Grace frees us and keeps us
    - Grace commissions us
  - On the heels of the power of God’s grace, Paul will implore Titus to remind the believers in Crete of what grace looks like applied in godly living.
    - If I were to put a tag on the text this morning, it would simply be “Remember These Things”
    - Pick me up in Titus 3:1-8

**Titus 3:1** Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

**Titus 3:2** to slander no one, not to be contentious, to be gentle, showing every consideration for all people.

**Titus 3:3** For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

**Titus 3:4** But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,

**Titus 3:5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

**Titus 3:6** whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior,

**Titus 3:7** so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Titus 3:8** This statement is trustworthy; 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 beneficial for people.

- Let’s Pray
- This 1994 Disney Classic film could be known as one of the most well-known movies of its time.
  - One of the most memorable scenes from this film, “The Lion King” is where Simba

hears the voice of his father as he stares at his reflection in the water.

- As Simba hears his father’s voice from above, he looks up into these forming clouds that are shaped in his father’s image.
- It’s at this moment where Mufasa reminds Simba that he has forgotten who he is, and before Mufasa fades away he repeats these words to his son:
  - “Remember who you are” Remember, Remember, Remember.
- Every once and again, we as believers in Jesus must be reminded of what Christ has done for us and who we are in Him.
  - We have this natural tendency to forget who we are in Christ due to our natural proclivity to sin.
- It is in Chapter 3 of Titus that the Apostle Paul will make evident in the text to Titus and us today that we too must be reminded.
  - Paul will mention to Titus that we must be reminded of “These Things” which will help us in living well in this present age.
    - And as we live well in this present age, live in such a way that brings attention to the person of Christ.
    - Pick me up in verse 1 of Chapter 3 as Paul starts out with what we as believers are reminded to do.

**Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,**

- Right off the cusp of Paul’s emphatic focus on the grace of God, he begins the very next line with an emphatic command, “Remind them”.
  - This urgent command is what we oftentimes need as believers in Christ.
    - We need this consistent and constant reminder of how we are to live.
    - As we discussed in our recent teaching, we must not forget the weight of what Christ did and the price that was paid for our lives.
  - The phrase “Remind them” here in the Greek is written in the perfect tense.
    - It is the word *hypomimnēskō*. It is the act of causing someone else to remember.
    - This Greek word was used when someone in authority was reminding people to act properly.
  - It’s that reminder my mom would give my sister and I before we go into a store of fine taste.
    - Before our feet hit the floor of the store she would look us sternly in the eyes and say “ Don’t touch anything and don’t you break anything.”
    - We see Peter’s use of the same word in 2 Peter 1:10-12.

**2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choice of you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;**

**2 Peter 1:11** for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

**2 Peter 1:12** Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them and have been established in the truth which is present with you.

- We too, no matter how long we have believed, must be reminded to live well in the here and now.
  - Paul will inform Titus of what we are to be reminded of. He mentions:
    - “To be” subject to rulers, authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed.
  - Before we dive into the list of “to-be’s”, I want you to see how many times “to be” is found in this first sentence alone.
    - If we include verse two in our count you will see the grouping “to be” is listed four times.
    - At first glance it may not seem like a huge detail, however, it brings about a question.
    - What is Paul emphasizing with these repeated phrases?
  - “To be” is a command. It is imperative. It is not suggestive or to simply be considered.
    - Paul’s point here is simple: As believers who have been saved by this amazing grace, we MUST put on and do these things.
  - Paul’s focus here is on a Christian’s ethical obligations to governments and civic authority.
    - He says, *“to be subject to rulers and to authorities”*.
  - It was a common “household code” during the 1st century for people to be subject to their governing rulers.
    - It is clear in the text that the believer is to also remain subject to governing authority.
    - Paul states in Romans 13:1:

**Romans 13:1** Every person is to be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

- Not only should the believer who lives in this present age live well as a citizen of this world, but their ultimate and supreme subjection is to the Lord, Himself.
  - And because God Himself has in fact established all authorities in the earth, our proper response is to submit ourselves to His work and will.
    - Might I suggest that regardless of our political bent, God is still in control regardless of who is voted in or out of any civic office?
    - Our biblical response must be to submit to God’s working and will.
  - The Apostle Peter would mention this regarding submitting to governing

authorities in 1 Peter 2:13-15.

**1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,**

**1 Peter 2:14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.**

**1 Peter 2:15 For such is the will of God, that by doing right you silence the ignorance of foolish people.**

- The later part of verse 1 mentions that “believers must be obedient and ready for every good deed.”
  - In other words, our ability as Christians to live well should not only be reflected in that of the church regarding submission to Christ, but also in society.
    - Our lives as believers are not to be divorced from the very world that we live in.
    - There was a statement I used to hear the older generation say. They would say we can’t be so heavenly-minded that we are no earthly good.
  - What this means is that because we have our eyes set on eternal things, we must live, serve, and love now with that eternal mindset fully realized.
    - Eternal perspective is never to be divorced from current issues that demand biblical truth to be heard and seen in the present age.
  - In the same sentence, Paul continues with what the believer MUST be reminded of.
    - Check out verse 2.

**Titus 3:2 to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.**

- Paul moves from discussing the way in which we should deal with governing authorities to how we should deal with secular society.
  - And as he shifts the focus from governing authorities to the secular society,
    - He mentions the believer should malign no one.
  - The word “malign” here in the text comes from the Greek word *blasphēmeō* where we get the English word, blaspheme.
    - This word sometimes can refer to reviling a human being, but in most references, it means blaspheming God.
    - In this particular context, it refers to individuals slandering one another rather than being kind to one another.
  - Paul also mentions that the believer is to avoid quarreling.
    - What is interesting is that Paul mentions total opposite characteristics of who Cretans are according to Titus 1:12.
    - If the Cretan is known as being liars, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons, then the

believer in Crete should be the complete opposite.

- Paul’s application in this part of the text deals specifically with how believers deal with all people in a horizontal fashion and how they should live with all people.
  - It is without question that the believer in Christ will have to deal with non-believers in the workplace, governing institutions, and communities.
- Paul’s primary point regarding people is that every believer in Christ on that island should reflect the kindness and love of Christ.
  - That regardless of how we feel about someone based upon what we see from their life, that each person is created in the *Imago Dei*.
- This is confirmed in the latter half of verse 2 where Paul says to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for “all men”.
  - This is what Paul is urgently informing Titus about in regards to reminding the believer on how to live well.
  - But the implications of this truth go beyond just the life of believers themselves.
- If the world looks at the church and they can not see the difference between us and them, does the Gospel message become attractive?
  - When the church is not the church in the sense of being the church, we begin to lack the effectiveness that Christ has called us to.
- If gossip, maligning, evil intent, and the like fester in the believer who makes up the church...
  - How are we to be the salt of the earth, if we have in fact become tasteless?
- I love what John Calvin once said regarding doctrine and living:

**“The Gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. It cannot be grasped by reason and memory only, but it is fully understood when it possesses the whole soul and penetrates to the inner recesses of the heart.”**

- ◦ Check out what Matthew 5:16 says:

**Matthew 5:16 Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.**

- What we are capturing from the text here is how Jesus takes jacked up people and brings them to a new life in Him apart from who they used to be?
  - This is something that Paul addresses in Romans 14 regarding the formation of the church with both Jews and Gentiles, alike.
    - Within the first century church, bringing into the family Jewish believers and Gentile believers under one roof was difficult to say the least.
    - Each group brings in their own traditions, cultural backgrounds, and the like.
  - Paul’s emphasis in Romans 14 is to bring these 2 groups together as one people under Christ, the One in Who has called them all.

- We see this cultural clash in Acts 10:1-48 with Peter at Cornelius' house.
- Peter has this dream regarding what he deemed as “unclean foods”, coming down from the ceiling like a great sheet.
- Peter then hears this voice from Heaven saying “Rise, Peter, Kill and Eat”, and Peter, who is a Jew, responds to the voice of the Lord.
  - Check out Peter's response in Acts 10:14:

**Acts 10:14 But Peter said, “By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean.”**

- Peter is then told a significant thing and I don't want you to miss it.
  - Check out the very next verse, verse 15:

**Acts 10:15 Again a voice came to him a second time, “What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.”**

- Peter is, in essence, checked by God regarding who Peter deems as clean or unclean.
  - God is showing Peter that His choosing of those in whom He will save goes beyond Jewish prospects.
    - That salvation is provided to both the Jew and the Gentile, the slave and the free, the rich and the poor.
  - What I pray you see in the text this morning regarding Paul's blunt dealings with Titus, is we too, in the 21st century tend to develop spiritual amnesia.
    - As believers, we can forget that we are called by God not to be His salvation police, but we are in fact recipients of His grace, too.
  - We tend to forget that it is God's grace that saved us and it was the Father that chose us.
    - The reality is that like others who come to the church and come to faith, they will need the patience of people and grace to be shown too.
    - Paul says it this way in Romans 2:4

**Romans 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and restraint and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?**

- We are to be kind, gentle and show perfect courtesy towards all people because God in His goodness has shown us the same measure of kindness.
  - Paul says at the end of verse 2, “showing every consideration for all men”.
    - We can't miss what Paul is showing us here.
  - This word consideration in the Greek is *prautēs*. It means gentleness or humility.
    - The gentleness that the believer is to show comes from a place of humility.
    - They too realize it is God who is at work in them that has brought them to this newness in Christ.

- It is what we know as sanctification. That the Spirit of God is moving us from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity.
  - Friends, this is not a work we can stake a claim for ourselves, but rather a work that the Father has chosen to do in us for His glory.
  - When we recognize that this life we have in Christ doesn't stem from what we have done, but who God is, it changes everything.
- It changes how we see people who may be less spiritually mature or even non-believers who haven't heard the Gospel message.
  - It allows us to respond with compassion and gentleness because we have been shown compassion by Christ as well.
  - As Paul mentions in Colossians 3:12

**Colossians 3:12** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience;

- As we show consideration and humility to all men that we come across, may we be cautious not to stick our theological noses in the air and forget we were once lost.
  - Check out the reminder that Paul gives to Titus as the Pastor/leader of these home churches.
    - And might I add this same message is for us as believers, today.

**Titus 3:3** For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

- Paul hits Titus with this gut-punching reality. He states “For we also were once foolish ourselves”
  - Why must we show compassion, kindness, humility, and gentleness and patience to others – because Christ did the same for us.
    - Paul yet again reminds Titus that these things must be consistently repeated into the hearing and hearts of the believer.
    - We must remember what has been graciously given to us and shown to us.
  - The moment that we forget how foolish we once were, is the moment that pride begins to settle in our hearts.
    - Not only were we once foolish, but the text shows us that these were things that we relished in.
    - Paul mentions this very truth in Colossians 3:7 regarding the foolish things we once walked in:

**Colossians 3:6** For it is because of these things that the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,  
**Colossians 3:7** and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

- We see further along in verse 3, this exhaustive list of foolish things we did before Christ called us. Paul states we were:
  - Disobedient
  - Deceived
  - Enslaved to various lusts and pleasures
  - Spending our life in malice (the intention or desire to do evil) and envy
  - Hateful
  - Hating one another
  - For some of us now, even hearing this list probably shocks you to the point that you clutch your pearls.
    - But if we are brutally honest with ourselves, with a humble heart we can accurately say, “Yes, this was me”
  - May I suggest this morning that it is biblically healthy to be reminded that we once were these things and at times still struggle with these things?
    - Why? Because this reality within the life of believers produces a few things:
      - It produces humility in recognizing God chose us and brought us out of darkness and into His marvelous light to escape foolish behavior.
      - It produces gratitude in that we are saved from the wrath of God, knowing that Christ took the hit for us and satisfied the very wrath of God.
      - It provides us with peace knowing that we are no longer enemies of God and helplessly foolish but have been made alive in Jesus.
  - Titus is reminded to stir the believers to remember for themselves what their lives looked like without Christ.
    - Friends, I urge you today...remember where Christ found you and met you.
  - I love these next 4 verses. They are packed with theological richness while in the same breath should leave us in awestruck wonder.
    - Paul moves from reminding the believer to live well to providing a theological basis for proper living.
    - Check out the text in verses 4-7

**Titus 3:4** But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,

**Titus 3:5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

**Titus 3:6** whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

**Titus 3:7** so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- As a student of the text we know that whatever we see after the word “But” is greater than what comes before it.
  - We just read that we at one point prior to Christ calling us by name were sinking

deep into sin, incapable of knowing God and His goodness.

- And then Paul hits us with this beautiful conjunction “But”
- Paul mentions that it was the kindness of God our Savior that appeared. This glorious grace of God entered into human history.
  - He wraps Himself in flesh and blood as we are and comes in the form of a baby.
  - If this isn’t humility in and of itself I don’t know what is.
  - He lived a sinless life, died a perfect death, yet was raised in perfect power.
- Friends, it is this kindness that appeared.
  - But not only did He appear and make Himself known. The bible says that He came (grace and truth) with a purpose.
  - Luke documents in Luke 19:10 these words from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”**

- What Paul shows us within these 4 verses is that the way in which salvation came was not only a divine manner, but the way in which we have come to faith is divine.
  - This presupposes that you and I had absolutely nothing to do with coming to faith in Jesus.
    - This reality eliminates the idea that saying the sinner’s prayer saved you, or
    - You telling Jesus He can come into your heart or
    - That you went to Jesus on your own to somehow initiate salvation
  - The text makes explicitly clear that it is God who saved US!
    - Not our merit, not our feeble attempts to look perfect or do good deeds.
    - It was God alone that initiated this relationship because only He alone could take a jacked-up person like us and make us whole.
  - In John 6:65 Jesus, the Messiah, our Lord said this:

**John 6:65 And He was saying, “For this reason, I have told you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”**

- If no one can come to Jesus unless it has been granted by the Father, that means that the Father had to choose whom the Son would receive.
  - The beauty of the Doctrine of Election is this: You didn’t do anything to get God’s attention.
    - This work of salvation is initiated by God, accomplished in God, completed by God, giving all glory to God.
  - This gracious gift of salvation was accomplished, as Paul mentions in verse 5, “according to God’s mercy.”

- His mercy is evident by His divine compassion towards us.
- Paul paints for us a beautiful picture of how this mercy is executed within the life of the one in who God has called His own.
  - He mentions in v6 it is “By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit”.
  - This phrase “washing of regeneration” for many people has been connected to baptism, especially those in the Catholic faith.
- However, this is not the case. Baptism does not save. It is simply an outward sign of an inward change.
  - This inward change is what the bible indicates as the “New Birth”.
  - We often do not discuss much of this reality, however it is essential to understanding our faith in Jesus.
- The rebirth is recognizing that God himself by the Holy Spirit has brought us from Spiritual Death to Spiritual Life.
  - Jesus places emphasis on the “New Birth” with Nicodemus in John 3:3, check it out:

**John 3:3 Jesus responded and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

- Nicodemus had a hard time understanding this New Birth because He asked Jesus how can someone be born again when they are old?
  - He continues by saying that no one can enter back into their mother’s womb.
    - Then Jesus hits him with a similar statement that Paul makes to Titus regarding this “New Birth”
    - Jesus says in John 3:5-6:

**John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**

**John 3:6 That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit.**

- Ultimately, Nicodemus was coming from a pharisaical understanding of being born again in a sense of accomplishing certain work in Jewish tradition.
  - However, Jesus’ emphasis on this “New Birth” required water (spiritual washing and cleansing) and the Spirit (spiritual transformation).
    - In this same way, Paul lets Titus know this regeneration and rebirth is accomplished not by works of righteousness but by God Himself.
  - And Paul wraps up this fact in verse 6, that this gracious gift of salvation and this washing and renewal is all accomplished through the work of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection.
- It is here in verse 7 that we see who is in charge of willing this work of grace to be

possible for broken humanity.

- Check out what Paul says:

**Titus 3:7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

- Paul informs Titus and this congregation that this gift of grace has been accomplished through the will of the Father and that we are justified because of Christ’s atoning work.
  - We see Paul uses the two words “so that” at the beginning of verse 7.
    - “So that” is used to conclude everything that has been previously stated in verses 4-6.
    - You can say that Paul is wrapping up this theological mystery of the workings of salvation.
  - I love what Paul says in Romans 8:29-30. He expresses this logical flow by which the workings of God’s grace is accomplished in the lives of those He chooses.
    - Check it out:

**Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters;**

**Romans 8:30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.**

- Here is a graphic to explain how this work has been accomplished. [Slide 1A]
  - God the Father in eternity past foreknew us and predestined us to be conformed to the image of Jesus.
    - Prior to faith in Christ, we all were enemies of God and spiritually dead.
    - At the appointed time God by His Spirit illuminated our hearts to know Him and Christ crucified (Regeneration, Salvation, Justification)
    - At that moment we are eternally kept and in the hands of Jesus and will have eternal life which is the hope that we have with a promise.
  - Do you see the work that God accomplished to bring those in who He has called to Himself?
    - And may I say that this plan is by no means a plan “b” or “c”.
    - This plan was intentional and planned in eternity’s past.
    - I love what Paul says in Ephesians 2:8-10

**Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;**

**Ephesians 2:9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

**Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good**

## **works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**

- This friends is the point that Paul is making to Titus to remind those who are in these home churches in Crete.
  - And this is what Paul is reminding us in the church today as well.
    - Remember what has been done for us so that we may grow in our affections for Christ and serve Him well.
    - God in His grace gives us the opportunity to participate in helping reach lost souls for Christ.
  - We must also remember what has been mercifully promised to us – eternal life through Christ!
    - This is what Titus is to remind the men and women in these churches in Crete.
  - Regardless of the wickedness that was around them and amongst them in Crete, the Gospel was strong enough to meet the most broken person.
    - And it is strong enough to pierce the darkest and most broken hearts today.
    - Why do we have confidence in this? Because we are the evidence of the very power of the Gospel at work!
- Here is the reality of what you and I must wrestle with as believers: Because we don't know who God has chosen and has foreknown, what must we do?
  - Clearly, the work of bringing people to salvation is not resting upon our shoulders...thank God!
    - However, God gives us the opportunity to participate in this glorious work of ministry.
    - God has given us the opportunity to walk in these good works.
  - The question I have for you this morning church is, are you walking in these good works or as my wife would ask are you simply sitting on your blessed assurance?
    - May we all be participators in this work and obey Jesus because we understand the weight of what He did!
  - Lastly, check out what Paul tells young Titus in verse 8 as we wrap up this morning.

**Titus 3:8 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.**

- Paul drops the mic here for the reader and the hearer of this letter. He summarizes by saying this truth is a trustworthy statement.
  - This statement is trustworthy and true beyond the reality of what Epemenides shared regarding the truthful reality of his own people (Titus 1:13).
    - This statement that Paul makes is trustworthy because it was a divine message that was made manifest in the flesh.
    - This statement that Paul makes is trustworthy because it is sealed with a

promise.

- Paul mentions what this trustworthy statement is in 1 Timothy 1:15:
  - Here is what he says:

**1 Timothy 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost.**

- And because this statement is trustworthy, Paul reminds Titus to speak confidently about these things to the churches.
- I love watching news commentators debate certain issues of the day.
  - The way you know that the debate is going to be a good one is when they begin to discuss the facts of the matter.
    - Facts can be debated, but they can never be dismissed.
  - The Apostle Paul presents to the church the facts. He presents to them the whole truth and nothing but the truth.
    - And he then provides evidence to his facts with proven data.
    - He reminds them to think about the very faith that they have and possess.
    - He provides the data that points them to the reality that they could not experience the joys of this faith and newness of life apart from God.
    - That our ability to even engage in this faith is solely predicated on God’s sovereign doing.
  - Paul makes it certain that this life we have in Christ must be lived with regards to the reality of what it cost Christ on the cross.
    - When you think about what was done for you, it should change your behaviors and responses.
  - When you have that temptation to give in to your sin nature, remember the cross.
    - When you have the desire to slip back into your old way of life, remember the cross.
    - When you want to respond in an evil way towards someone you know, remember the cross.
    - And even when you fall into sin, remember the cross because His kindness will ALWAYS lead us to repentance.
  - Remembering what was done on calvary is not a guilt trip, it’s a grace gift!
- Wallis Wilber, a New Testament professor who wrote a commentary on “The Epistle to Titus” said this:

**“The inculcation of Gospel truth requires patient repetition.”**

- May each of us remember these things as Paul implores Titus to teach the Cretan home churches to do the same.
  - For remembering these things and living out the truth of the Gospel in humility,

kindness, and love produces good fruit!

- And that fruitfulness will be shown in and through your life, but only if you remember, remember, remember.
- Let's Pray.



**VERSE BY VERSE MINISTRY**  
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# Titus 3B

## Chapter 3:9-15

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- This morning, we will complete the book of Titus.
  - It is my prayer that this book has given you and I some insight into the importance of Church organization, the need for Elders, sound teaching, and...
    - The dangers of false teaching.
- If you were not with us last week, we witnessed Paul imploring Titus to remind the believers in Crete of what grace looks like applied in godly living.
  - We contrasted the faithfulness of those who remain in the faith versus those whose hearts become turned from the truth of the Gospel.
    - Paul’s focus in last week’s study showed us that it was God’s grace and kindness that initiated this new life.
  - You and I as believers in Jesus must recognize that the fruitfulness of our lives is a result of the faithfulness and kindness of God.
    - We came to bear with the reality that this grace of God reached the worst of us.
    - And if it could reach the worst of us, it most certainly reached the Cretan and therefore could reach what we would deem the worst in society.
  - We also realized that the need to perform as Christians is not only tiring work but it is unnecessary work.
    - Why? Because everything that we are in Christ and everything that we do for Christ is because of Christ.
    - The reality is, the truth of the Gospel realized in our hearts and minds transforms our way of life and thinking.
  - Paul concluded in verse 8 that what is profitable and good for the believer is a right Gospel accompanied with right living.
  - And because the Gospel demands a response, it demands not just partial obedience but full obedience and will render a whole-life change.
    - If I were to put a tag on the text this morning it would be “Fruitfulness in Faithfulness”
    - Pick me up in Titus 3:9-15

**Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are useless and worthless.**

**Titus 3:10 Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning,**

**Titus 3:11 knowing that such a person has deviated from what is right and is sinning, being self-condemned.**

**Titus 3:12 When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.**

**Titus 3:13 Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way so that nothing is lacking for them.**

**Titus 3:14 Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs so that they will not be unproductive.**

**Titus 3:15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.**

- Let's Pray
- If you were to ask a horticulturist what is the most exciting and rewarding moments within their profession, you will more than likely hear two things.
  - The first will be planting and the second, seeing the harvest.
    - Planting because there is excitement in what is being sown with the hope that with the right love, care, and cultivation that it will bear fruit.
  - Being able to witness the harvest and see the fruit or result that comes from it is a testament to the grace and care that was provided.
    - If you don't tend to the garden it becomes susceptible to weeds and other irritants that can cause disruption and distress.
    - Ultimately resulting in hindrance to the growth.
  - These last seven verses of the letter of Paul to Titus will show the contrasting results between sound teaching versus false teaching.
    - And it will describe in a very vivid and concise manner, what obedience and submission to the scriptures look like...
    - Versus disobedience and rebellion to the scriptures.
  - What we will witness this morning is, if we do not take sound teaching, church organization, and the whole counsel of God seriously
    - It can lead down a terrible path of confusion, isolation, and destruction.
    - But before we get ahead of ourselves, pick me up in verse 9 of Titus Chapter 3.

**Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are useless and worthless.**

- Our pick-up point this morning sets us in the middle of a hard break.
  - We recently discussed the various things that Paul commands Titus to remind the believers in these home churches in Crete.
    - These things were not only to be remembered but to be practiced and lived out.
  - It is towards the end of verse 8 that the Apostle Paul makes mention that "...These things are good and profitable for men."
    - If you weren't with us last week, "these things" that Paul is referring to is:
      - Being submissive to governing authorities, to be obedient ready for every good deed, and to be gentle and considerable to all men.
  - Paul juxtaposes the things that we should be reminded of and the things that we are to do (v.1-8) with that of the things that the believer should avoid doing.
    - Paul mentions that the believer should avoid doing several things:
  - The believer should avoid:
    - Foolish controversies
    - Genealogies
    - Strife, and

- Disputes about the Law
- Towards the beginning of our study, we mentioned a group of people within this body of believers called Judaizers.
  - These false teachers would use the Gospel message as a means to cause new believers to observe the Law versus that of grace.
  - The false teacher’s primary motive centered on the idea of religious babble versus the supremacy of Christ and His work on the cross.
- Apparently, these false teachers were so skillful at what they did that there were some believers who fell victim to their empty talk.
  - As believers, we must be cautious of people who place unnecessary burdens upon believers in Christ.
  - Especially false teachers that use the gift of gab and oratory skills to infiltrate the church with false teaching.
- Paul mentions this same thing to Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:3-4, check it out.

**1 Timothy 1:3 Just as I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, to remain on at Ephesus so that you would instruct certain people not to teach strange doctrines,**

**1 Timothy 1:4 nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to useless speculation rather than advance the plan of God, which is by faith, so I urge you now.**

- Paul’s instructions for Titus regarding the false teacher are very straightforward.
  - Pay these men no mind, for the things that they say are useless and are not profitable for anyone to hear.
    - Not only is the heretical teaching of the false teacher useless, but it is dangerous.
  - This is why it is so important that any man that the pastor invites into this pulpit must be a man of sound teaching and right living.
    - False teaching is so dangerous to those that hear it, especially those who are new to the faith, that it can cause what Paul says, “ruin” to the hearer.

**2 Timothy 2:14 Remind them of these things and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers.**

- To avoid such men becomes beneficial to the believer as it keeps them in alignment with the truth.
  - The word “avoid” in Greek is a harsh word. It is *periistēmi*. It means to stand around or to shun.
  - The imagery here is someone being accused of something and those who find odds with what is being stated surround them with disapproval.
  - Paul continues in verses 10 and 11.

**Titus 3:10** Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning,  
**Titus 3:11** knowing that such a person has deviated from what is right and is sinning, being self-condemned.

- I need us to pay careful attention here to the text. This is paramount for us to understand the importance of sound teaching and church discipline.
  - We have discussed that it is biblical and necessary for Elders to be established in churches because they bring about order and governance to protect the flock.
    - Church discipline is a subject that to some is extremely sensitive because in some places this was abused.
    - In another sense, the proper actions were not accomplished in grace.
    - So it is my prayer that we can understand the importance of church discipline and its desired result.
- Paul starts off by saying that the believer in the body is to “reject a divisive person...”
  - This word “reject” in the Greek is *paraiteomai* (par-ahee-teh'-om-ahee). It means to not associate with or to reject this person, to shun.
  - But I want you to pay close attention to the later half of this verse. Paul mentions “after a first and second warning”.
    - This person that Paul is speaking about has clearly heard the truth of the Gospel but has shown no repentance.
- This brings up an interesting question. Was this person in this gospel community ever a believer in Jesus in the first place?
  - I want to go back to our previous encounter with Simon the Magician and share some revelation that the Lord showed me in my study.
    - The text will be a bit lengthy but bear with me:

**Acts 8:9** Now a man named Simon had previously been practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great;  
**Acts 8:10** and all the people, from small to great, were paying attention to him, saying, “This man is the Power of God that is called Great.”

**Acts 8:11** And they were paying attention to him because for a long time he had astounded them with his magic arts.

**Acts 8:12** But when they believed Philip as he was preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were being baptized.

**Acts 8:13** Now even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was repeatedly amazed.

**Acts 8:14** Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John,

**Acts 8:15** who came down and prayed for them that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 8:16** (For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been

baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

**Acts 8:17** Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 8:18** Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

**Acts 8:19** saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

**Acts 8:20** But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could acquire the gift of God with money!

**Acts 8:21** You have no part or share in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

**Acts 8:22** Therefore, repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart will be forgiven you.

**Acts 8:23** For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of unrighteousness."

**Acts 8:24** But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

- Friends, after spending some time in the text and examining the words and actions of Simon the magician it became very clear – Simon never really believed.
  - Simon the Magician came across information about the Gospel on an intellectual level, probably saw some emotional response, and went along with what he saw.
    - This becomes confirmed because verse 17 shows us that the Apostles were laying hands for folks to receive the Holy Spirit.
  - Remember in our previous teaching, the Holy Spirit provides rebirth and the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin and conforms us to the image of Jesus.
    - But what we see with Simon is completely opposite. Instead, Simon sees the gift of the Spirit and seeks to gain it by financial means.
    - This is why Peter's rebuke is so harsh and is why in verse 22, Peter tells Simon to repent.
  - However, Simon's response is different. Check out verse 24:

**Acts 8:24** But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

- Friends, there is no demonstration of relationship nor a repentant heart from Simon the magician. Rather than Simon seeking repentance himself (which he can't because he doesn't have the Holy Spirit) he seeks Peter to pray for him instead.
  - Simon the magician was simply in the crowd but not a part of the gospel community.
    - And just like that, we can witness men and women who claim to know God on an intellectual level, but their hearts are far from Him.
  - These men that Paul is speaking about in Titus 3:10-11 are either one or two

things:

- 1) They are at best misguided carnal Christians who will need to be disciplined by the Lord and repent or,
  - 2) Unbelieving wolves in sheep's clothing
- Friends, in all of this I want you to see the grace of God regarding those in whom are the Lord's but have been caught up in lies.
  - These individuals within this body who have been caught up in false teaching are given the opportunity to be restored into the community.
    - This shows us something for certain: Church discipline is intended to restore a brother or sister in Christ and not lose them in fellowship.
  - If grace is not the first means to bring that person back to the fold, then we are operating outside of the scriptures.
- Pay attention to what happens if this believer does not come to grips with the reality that their divisiveness is causing chaos.
  - Paul says after you have given them opportunity twice and tried to win them over, but they are not repentant, reject them. Have nothing to do with them.
    - Paul makes it extremely clear, there is nothing that can be done after that.
  - If they do not heed to the discipline of leadership in the church, you hand them over to their devices in hopes that repentance is the result.
    - If repentance is not the result, friends there was no belief to begin with.
    - True repentance, not emotionalism or intellectualism, is the indication of a truly changed behavior.
  - Check out how Paul had to deal with two individuals who were once a part of a church community according to 1 Timothy 1:18-20.
    - Here is what Paul said:

**1 Timothy 1:18 This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight,**

**1 Timothy 1:19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.**

**1 Timothy 1:20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.**

- Not much is known regarding Hymenaeus or Alexander, but what is known about these men is that they were examples of a shipwrecked faith.
  - Some scholars record that Hymenaeus may be the heretic that Paul calls out in 2 Timothy.
    - We also see a more personal pain that Paul experienced by Alexander in 2 Timothy 4:14.

**2 Timothy 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will**

## repay him according to his deeds.

- What we see here from the text, is that the Lord's means of discipline for these individuals is much harsher than 2 warnings.
  - They are to be handed over to the Lord.
  - The goal is to restore that brother or sister into right relationship with God if they have truly been called of God.
  - And it becomes clear that this means of discipline will be accomplished by God Himself if they are truly His.

## **1 Corinthians 5:5** I have decided to turn such a person over to Satan for the destruction of his body, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

- Here is the question we have to ask ourselves this morning regarding sound teaching. What should be the result of right teaching?
  - That answer, hopefully over the course of this study should be clear... and that is Right Living.
    - That there should be good fruit that is displayed from the right teaching that is being taught in churches, more specifically the churches in Crete.
  - The opposite of this is also true. The result of false teaching leads to unprofitable and unproductive lives.
    - What type of witness does this give people who are non-believers looking at the church?
    - How does wrong living and wrong teaching make the Gospel message attractive?
  - Friends, false teaching not only makes the Gospel non-attractive, but it leaves those who hear and follow it, self-condemned.
    - If the Gospel frees us from condemnation according to Romans 8:1, then a false Gospel permits sin and keeps you slave to it.
    - But understand how this self-condemnation comes about. It comes about because that individual submits to their own desires and truth.
  - Rather than submitting to the truth of the Gospel that they have heard soundly through the Apostle's teaching.
    - They ultimately become condemned by their own actions and abuse the grace of God that has been richly shown.
  - Paul mentions this very thing in Romans 6:1

## **Romans 6:1** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

## **Romans 6:2** Far from it! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

- ◦ This is why we must warrant against false teaching and feel-good preaching.

- If we are not sound and sensible in our theology, we open the door for corrosion and self-condemnation.
- I want to paint one more picture for us regarding false teaching and how serious we need to be about weeding it out and tearing it down within the church.
  - Check out what Paul says in 2 Timothy 2:16-18, regarding the result of false teaching.

**2 Timothy 2:16 But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness,**

**2 Timothy 2:17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,**

**2 Timothy 2:18 men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.**

- There's that word again, "avoid". Avoid these things, because they lead to further ungodliness.
  - But check out what Paul mentions regarding what this type of talk does. He says it spreads like gangrene.
    - For those of you who are not familiar with Gangrene it is death of body tissue due to a lack of blood flow or a serious bacterial infection.
    - I believe this type of infection paints the most accurate picture of how false teaching corrupts believers.
  - Here is a graphic provided by 7Orange Hospital to illustrate how gangrene develops. [ Slide 1A]
    - As you can see, Stage 0 is very inconspicuous, to the point where it is not even noticeable.
    - Stage 1, you can see something has developed but it looks familiar. In this image it's just an ulcer.
    - By the time you get to Stage 2 and 3, your tissue is already corroding from the inside out, until eventually your tissue is rotted out and bone is exposed.
  - If this doesn't paint a picture for you regarding false teaching, I don't know what will.
    - False teaching starts off in the same way. Very subtle, very inconspicuous.
    - It will sound normal, look normal, and even feel normal.
  - This is why the Apostle Paul mentions that not being sound in the faith can cause your faith to be shipwrecked.
    - The Gospel does not change. The word of God does not shift to and fro. The word of God stands forever.
    - Isaiah 40:8 says this:

**Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.**

- The followers of these false teachers, by the grace of God, are given the opportunity to repent (1st and 2nd warning) and to commune back with the fellowship.
  - However, if the false teaching they have heard has settled into their hearts and minds, it was recommended that they be removed from the fellowship.
    - Because once you have one who is seeped in false teaching, like gangrene, if not rooted out, will spread like wildfire.
  - It is here that Paul moves towards his closing remarks and personal concerns. Check out verse 12 and 13.

**Titus 3:12** When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

**Titus 3:13** Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way so that nothing is lacking for them.

- Verse 12 introduces us to some men that were not previously mentioned in this book.
  - These two men are Artemas and Tychicus.
    - These two men, unlike the false teachers we previously discussed, are men that Paul is considering to take over for Titus while he is with Paul.
    - I want to briefly contrast Artemas and Tychicus with that of Hymenaeus and Alexander because Artemas and Tychicus have not abandoned the faith.
  - We see that Paul is mentioning to Titus that he will either send Artemas or Tychicus to relieve Titus of his duties.
    - One could imagine that the weight and the responsibility of what Titus had to take on was a heavy burden to say the least.
    - And with Paul requesting Titus to come with him to Nicopolis it would mean that someone faithful, beloved, and sound would have to step up.
  - In antiquity, this would be known as a “letter of recommendation”.
    - Individuals of high stature would recommend individuals based upon their character and ability to do a certain task.
    - In this case, Paul shares with Titus and the congregation that will be hearing this that the one in whom will be recommended to take over for Titus is not a “b team” or “c team” kind of member.
- When I was a high school teacher one of the most painful things to witness in the classrooms was when another teacher was absent and they had a substitute.
  - The students knew that the moment they had a substitute teacher that it was fair game to act up and act out however they wanted.
    - The reason being is because the students did not see that substitute teacher as a person who carried the same weight, authority, and honor as their teacher.
    - So when you have a substitute teacher in the mix of unruly high school students, it’s a recipe for disaster.
  - So imagine for a moment what could have been spinning in the minds of these false teachers and heretics within these gospel communities as they hear Titus will

be visiting Paul.

- They see this as an opportunity to continue in their ways of promoting and preaching false doctrine.
- However, Paul is already ahead of the game here.
- So Paul addresses in this letter to Titus that is being read aloud to all the network of churches that there will be someone who is just as competent as Titus.
  - What we can surmise from the text is that Paul's recommendation to send either Artemas or Tychicus was well thought out.
- This brings out an interesting point in the text. When it comes down to training and equipping the next generation of ministers and Pastors, they must be observed.
  - If time is not poured into these men that will lead these churches and their lives observed in light of the text, then these are not worthy men.
  - 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul says it this way:

**2 Timothy 2:2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful people who will be able to teach others also.**

- Entrusting the work of the ministry to faithful men requires that their lives have been observed and examined.
  - This does not mean that they live perfect lives. There is no perfect person.
    - However, what this does mean is that these men are anchored in sound doctrine and teaching and when they do sin they are repentant.
    - Their hearts are not warped with their own desires and worldly pleasures but they fully submit themselves under the scriptures.
    - They make their lives available to the spiritual authority that God has established in the Elders and church leadership.
  - Not only are the lives of these men faithful to the text but they are faithful to the work of the Spirit in their hearts and lives.
    - So the man that Paul will send to relieve Titus is a man that Paul has walked with them, equipped them, trained them, and when needed, corrected them.
    - I hope that you see the organization within the church is meant to steer you into a deeper love for Jesus and need to grow in His grace.
  - We can deduce from reading through the scriptures that Artemas would be the one Paul sends to Titus.
    - We come to this conclusion based upon the scriptures, wherein 2 Timothy 4:12, Paul says this:

**2 Timothy 4:12 But I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus.**

- Paul mentions to Titus in verse 12 of Chapter 3 that he is to meet him there at

Nicopolis.

- What the Greek wording suggests here is that Paul is not yet at Nicopolis, himself, however that is where he desires to go for the winter.
  - Some scholars suggest that this letter to Titus was written during the summer which would allow Titus ample time to travel there.
- Before we move forward from this part of the text, there is a question that we should be asking ourselves.
  - Why does the text provide the location for meeting at Nicopolis? What is the significance in Paul including this here.
  - As we know, everything in the bible from every small detail to every large detail is there for a purpose and a reason.
  - Nicopolis is not a vacation spot for Paul to stay at and relax for a time, but it is a place of great missional and evangelical work.
- The name Nicopolis means “city of victory” and was the largest city on the northwest coast of the Ambracian Gulf, off the Adriatic Sea. [ Slide 2A]
  - This was ultimately a strategic place for Paul to continue furthering the Gospel message further west.
  - And who better to accompany Paul to establish this work of organization once again in a secular city, than Titus himself.
- If there is something that we should see from the text here it is that:
  - 1. Sound men must be taught well to accomplish the missional work of God in planting churches and leading churches.
  - 2. The work of sharing the Gospel is never over.
  - 3. Active participation in Gospel ministry provides opportunities to engage in the salvific work that God has orchestrated in eternity past.
- Paul continues in verse 13 by saying “Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way so that nothing is lacking for them.”
  - Here we have again, other faithful men who have been faithful to the teaching of the Apostles and committed to the faith.
  - We know this because Paul has included their names in this letter to give honor to these men who are faithful to the work of the ministry.
- Check out what Paul tells Titus regarding their needs.
  - He says help Zenas and Apollos on their way so that they “lack nothing”.
  - This language should sound familiar to us as the church just finished teaching through the book of Philippians.
- We became familiar with a church in Philippi that were known for their participation in Gospel ministry in their giving and meeting needs.
  - Paul mentions here to Titus and to those hearing the letter read aloud that the needs of these brothers need to be met.
  - And Paul makes mention that they should lack nothing in their need.
- What do you see Paul doing here?

- He is giving these believers in Crete the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned and what they believe.
- Not only does Paul provide examples of godly, faithful men before them in an incarnational manner but he also shows them in practice how to serve needs.
- We cannot just be a church known by our theology but not known by our love for one another!
  - We cannot be a church known by our expository preaching but yet we don't want to submit to church discipline and correction.
  - We can't just be a redeemed church called out by God but yet not bear the fruit of a church that is marked by God.
- Paul puts it out on the table for the Christians in Crete: Who are you going to be?
  - Are you going to live in a way that reflects what Christ has done richly in you by saving you and redeeming you?
  - Or are you going to enjoy the benefits of knowing you are saved without living like you are saved?
- I love how Paul leads right on into verse 14. Paul says:

**Titus 3:14 Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs so that they will not be unproductive.**

- “Our people”, meaning those in the body, apart of the fellowship, who have been saved and are following sound teaching. They must learn to engage in good deeds.
  - The Greek word for “learn” here is *manthanō*. It simply means to learn by study, by practice, and by experience.
    - How can any of us learn if we have never been given the opportunity to exercise the ability to engage in the work of ministry?
  - This is why Pastor Steve never believed in doing spiritual gifts classes or tests.
    - You will come to know how God has gifted you not by a mere exam but by you putting yourself to the test and participating in the body.
    - How can you participate in the missional work in the world? You put your resources where your mouth is.
    - How can you see God impact the children in Children's ministry? Get up and volunteer.
  - There is work to be done and there are heavenly rewards to be attained, but you'll never know until you get out there and participate.
    - The Gospel giants that we know in the bible who God used in a mighty way weren't extraordinary people.
    - They were sinful, jacked up, and failed time and time again.
  - But the moment that Jesus provided an opportunity to engage and participate in the Gospel ministry, they jumped in head first.
    - We can look around our church and see that there are urgent needs to be addressed. One we know of is Children's ministry needs volunteers.

- Another need that is there is assisting with preparing the baptistry every 3rd Sunday of the month.
- But then there are many needs outside of the church. Missional needs, communal needs, and the list can go on and on.
  - But if we are not helping meet the needs of those around us by living in a way that reflects this glorious life in Christ, we miss the point.
  - You were not saved to sit. You were saved to serve your Master, Jesus Christ in obedience.
- There is always fruitfulness in faithfulness!
  - As I always pray, we MUST be effectual doers of the word of God and not simply hearers that delude themselves.
- Paul leaves us with this last verse as he does in a typical Pauline way.

**Titus 3:15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.**

- You have to love Paul’s straightforwardness in the text, I hope you see it here.
  - He starts by saying all who are with me, that are growing in grace and the knowledge of Christ extend a warm greeting to you.
    - But then he mentions the next part:
    - “Greet those who love us in the faith”
  - Clearly, Paul is talking directly to the men and women in these Cretan churches who are sound in the faith.
    - Paul’s greeting completely removes and even fails to extend greetings and love to the false teachers in the mix.
    - It’s that nice gut punch reality that Paul has nothing to extend or to give the false teacher, except for a warm foot to the behind.
  - You can feel the warmth and genuineness of Paul’s love for the Cretan Christians who have stayed the course and are committed to church discipline.
    - You can feel the love that Paul has for each member to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.
    - He then says “Grace be with you all.”
- It is my prayer that each of us will continue to have our eyes fixed on this eternal hope of Christ and his promise to us of eternal life.
  - That as we continue this faith walk in Christ that we remain faithful to the text and sound teaching of Doctrine.
    - It will be God’s grace that keeps us in all things and may you always remember that.
    - Let’s pray.