



**VERSE BY VERSE MINISTRY**  
INTERNATIONAL

*TEACHING THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD*

# 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 *paraitomai* (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.