

Titus 3:1-15

REVIEW...

- Paul wrote the book of Titus to address the HEALTH of the church...
- Raise up Elders in every church – because God does not work in chaos...
 - He was given 12 qualifications to recognize who God had ANOINTED!
 - The command for these new LEADERS – protect the people from False Teachers!
- SOUND doctrine for the people in the church...
 - 5 classes of people – old men / women – young women / men – servants...
 - Paul encouraged each group to be SELF CONTROLLED – be an example to others...
 - SOUND in their FAITH – SOUND in their words – so the church could be HEALTHY!
- Paul emphasized the ONLY way to do this – by the GRACE of God!
 - GRACE that APPEARED for the salvation of ALL men – who choose to believe...
 - GRACE that TEACHES us what to DENY – how to LIVE – what to HOPE for – what to SEE...
 - GRACE that TEACHES us to be BOLD in proclaiming the GRACE of God!

ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT... (4 KA PUNTO)

- 1ST – ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT... vs. 1-2
 - 1ST – REMIND (*imperative*) them to be SUBJECT... vs. 1
 - SUBJECT (*present*) – *hypotassō* - to be under the authority of another...
 - We are to be under the authority – RULERS and AUTHORITIES...
 - Because all authority comes from God - no government is there by accident!
 - **Roma 13:1** – “Ang kada isa sa inyo dapat magmatinumanon sa mga nagadumala sa gobyerno, kay ang tanan nga paggobyerno halin sa Dios kag ang mga manugdumala ginbutang sang Dios sa ila puwesto.”
 - We have a hard time with this concept – we might think – not our government
 - We look at the corruption – poor policies – the injustice all around us...
 - And what about evil governments – Muslim / Communist / Iran / North Korea...
 - Surely God cannot approve of these governments – much less be responsible!
 - Paul wrote this during the time Caesar Nero was the emperor of Rome...
 - The ruler who clothed Christians in animal skins – then fed them alive to the lions...
 - Who rode his chariot down the road lined with burning Christians for light...
 - This was the Government of Paul – the one he was saying to SUBMIT to!
 - If we want all people to have a rich and easy life – all governments should be PERFECT...
 - But if we want people in heaven - BAD governments work best!
 - If governments were PERFECT – we would never learn to look to and trust in God...
 - It is in the imperfections of our governments we see our NEED for the Lord!
 - It is NOT that all the governments are good – God just USES them all for our GOOD!
 - 2ND – OBEY - to follow the commands of a RULER... vs. 1
 - We OBEY – because God has given the Government authority over us ...
 - If we RESIST the government – we RESIST God – and will be judged...
 - If we do evil – we will be in danger of being judged by the law...
 - The government carries the sword of God – the authority to judge – even death penalty!
 - As a general rule - if we do bad things – steal / cheat / NOT pay taxes...
 - We have good reason to FEAR the government – because we are going to get caught...

- And when we are caught – the government has the authority to punish us!
- If we obey the law – do GOOD - we will instead receive praise from the government...
 - Therefore we should obey out of fear of consequence and for conscience sake...
 - Someone who has done nothing wrong does NOT FEAR a police officer...
 - Someone who only does what is GOOD – does not jump at the sound of a siren...
 - Good motivation to live a good life with a clear conscience – no reason to FEAR!
 - **Roma 13:2-5** – “Gani dapat magpasakop kita *sa aton gobyerno*; indi lang tungod sa kahadlok naton sa silot, kundi tungod nga nahibalan ta nga amo ini ang dapat naton nga himuon.”
- This INCLUDES paying taxes...
 - **Roma 13:7** - “Gani bayaran ninyo ang inyo nagkalain-lain nga klase sang buhis. Kag tahura ninyo kag padunggi ang mga may awtoridad.”
 - Again we might have a hard time with this – we know where those taxes go...
 - We might think – the money will only go to the pockets of corrupt politicians...
 - We are not responsible for what the government does with our taxes!
 - When asked by the religious leaders if Jews should pay taxes to Rome...
 - Jesus answered whose FACE and words are on the coin – Caesar...
 - Then give back (*restore*) to Caesar what is his - **Mateo 22:19-21**
 - Should we pay taxes – look at a peso – whose picture...
 - Give back to the government what is theirs - but give to God what is His...
 - We were created in the image of God – we carry His writing – the WORD...
 - We are to give our lives back to the Lord – they are His anyways!
- Is there a time when we should NOT obey...
 - In China today it is Illegal to go to church – to own / read a Bible!
 - We are to obey the Law of God – BEFORE we are to obey the laws of MEN...
 - When the laws of MEN contradict the Law of GOD – we obey God!
- o 3rd – Be ready for every GOOD work... vs. 1
 - ALWAYS be (*present*) ready – our life is to be defined by...
 - Every GOOD work – *agathos* - emphasizes the moral goodness of something or someone...
 - It is NOT external works – but genuine GOOD works from a transformed heart!
 - If we as believers are known for committing crimes / getting in trouble...
 - What kind of example would we be giving to a world that does not know Jesus...
 - Come to church / learn about the Bible – so you can end up in prison!
 - We as believers should be ready to do GOOD works – obey the LAW / pay TAXES...
 - Being a good citizen – helping out those in need – being an example for Jesus!
 - **Tito 3:14** – “Tudlui ang aton mga utod dira nga magtinguha nga mag-obra sing maayo agod indi sila pagkulangan sa ila mga kinahanglanon. Sa sini nga paagi indi sila magakabuhi nga wala sing pulos.”
 - We are equipped to do GOOD works – by the power of the WORD...
 - If we are unsure ourselves about the Truth of Word of God...
 - We are not going to be very effective in sharing that Truth with others...
 - But as we grow in our faith - are strengthened by reading the Word...
 - We will have the answer when others question us – tell them the Truth of Jesus!
 - **2 Timoteo 3:16-17** – “Ang bug-os nga Kasulatan ginsulat paagi sa gahom sang Dios... agod nga ang tawo nga nagaalagad sa Dios matudluan sa paghimo sang tanan nga klase sang kaayuhan.”
- o 4th – Do not SPEAK EVIL of anyone... vs. 2

- SPEAK EVIL – *blasphēmō* – to talk about in a negative way...
 - It is REALLY easy to talk BAD about those who are in the government...
 - It can be easy to get frustrated with the decisions of our leaders / politicians...
 - We can judge them for their foolish rules – blame them for our problems...
 - But we need to remember they are ultimately NOT in control – God is!
 - And we need to remember they are just men – who also NEED Jesus!
- o 5th – Be PEACEABLE... vs. 2
- PEACEABLE – 2x NT – avoid getting into a FIGHT...
 - That does not mean we are just to accept whatever a government does...
 - We are not to idly stand by and do NOTHING when faced with EVIL leaders...
 - BAD people are allowed to rule – because GOOD people do NOTHING about them!
 - When a government stops listening to obeying the commands of God...
 - It is our responsibility as Christians – is to PEACFULLY stand up to the government!
- o 6th – Be GENTLE - showing all HUMILITY to all men... vs. 2
- GENTLE – 5x in NT – from the root word - to be LIKE them – we UNDERSTAND them!
 - HUMILITY – 9x in NT – most often translated as MEEK – POWER under control...
 - We represent GOD – we have POWER – but we UNDERSTAND all men are sinners!
 - It is not our harsh words / or convincing arguments that will bring people to Jesus...
 - It is possible for us to win a battle – only to lose the war...
 - Our harsh words can close the ears of people to the message of the Gospel!
 - So we need to be gentle / humble as we reach out to a lost world!
- 2ND – WHERE OUR ATTITUDE COMES FROM... vs. 3-8
- o 1st – Because of who we were... vs. 3
- Before we knew Jesus - we ALSO were (*imperfect*) – continually were...
 - FOOLISH – to literally NOT THINK – we acted without thought of consequence...
 - DISOBEDIENT – the opposite of TRUST – we did not TRUST God...
 - DECEIVED – *planao* – to be led away from the TRUTH – wander from God...
 - SERVING (*doulos*) various lusts and pleasures – we were SLAVES to our sin...
 - Living in MALICE / ENVY – living an EVIL life – ENVYING what everyone else had...
 - HATEFUL / HATING one another - a life of HATE for God – HATRED for others!
 - We ONCE were – but NO longer are...
 - In order to really appreciate what God has done - we need to look at who we were...
 - Placed on the black backdrop of our past - with the light of Christ shining on us...
 - We see the magnificence of what God has transformed us into!
 - Efeso 2:4-5 – “Pero maluluy-on gid ang Dios, kag dako ang iya paghigugma sa aton. Bisan patay kita sa iya panulok tungod sang aton mga sala, ginbuhi niya kita upod kay Cristo.”
 - It is easy to forget who we were before Christ...
 - If we do not remember what we were saved from – we might want to go back...
 - We think back on all the GOOD times we had – all the FUN - before we knew Jesus...
 - But forget about the hangovers / the conviction / the lack of purpose in life...
 - When we remember what we were saved from – sin and death – power of satan...
 - We hold on all the tighter to Jesus – determined never to go back!
 - If we do not remember – we think we are better than others...
 - There is also the danger of forgetting we are no better than any other sinner...
 - We become judgmental of others – HOLIER than others - super spiritual...
 - Forgetting we were just as much a sinner – but have been redeemed from the world!
- o 2nd – Because of who we are... vs. 4-7

- When the KINDNESS and LOVE of God toward man APPEARED ...
 - KINDNESS – most often translated GOODNESS – the GOOD thing God did because of the...
 - LOVE of God – *philanthrōpia* – phileo anthropos – friendship with man...
 - APPEARED – speaking of the crucifixion of Christ on the CROSS!
- NOT by WORKS of righteousness we have done...
 - According to His MERCY – not giving us what we deserved – He SAVED us!
 - NO ONE else could save us - there was NOTHING we could do to save ourselves...
 - It was ONLY God who could step in and change our fate - SAVE us from our sin!
 - Our old man – our old sinful nature – was crucified and buried with Jesus!
 - **Galatia 2:20** – “Napatay ako kaupod ni Cristo sa krus. Indi na ako ang nagakabuhi subong, kundi si Cristo na ang nagakabuhi sa akon...”
- SAVED - through the WASHING and REGENERATION and RENEWING of the Holy Spirit!
 - WASHING – literally to take a bath – we are washed by His Word...
 - **Ephesians 5:26** – “...agod batunon ini sang Dios, pagkatapos nga natinluan paagi sa pagbautiso nga kaupod sang pulong sang Dios.”
 - REGENERATION – compound word – NEW GENESIS – a new beginning!
 - RENEWING – a COMPLETE change for the better!
 - In prisons the goal is to rehabilitate SINFUL men – and make them BETTER...
 - Yet statistically within five years of release – more than 75% end up BACK in prison!
 - Because REHABILITATION does NOT work – we need REGENERATION!
 - The Holy Spirit does NOT improve our sinful nature – He crucifies it!
 - We are CLEANED from our PAST sins – given a NEW start – CHANGED for the better...
 - All by the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT – who transformed our lives!
 - We were given NEW LIFE – freed from sin – so we can live for God!
 - **2 Corinto 5:17** – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
- “Ang bisan sin-o nga ara kay Cristo bag-o na nga tawo. Wala na ang iya daan nga pagkatawo, kundi bag-o na siya.”
 - Whom He POURED out on us ABUNDANTLY...
 - We did not just get a little bit of the Holy Spirit – He was POURED out on us!
 - The Baptism of the Holy Spirit / the baptism of fire – **Mateo 3:11**
 - On the day of Pentecost – the Holy Spirit was POURED out on the church...
 - Making a group of fishermen – an unstoppable force for Jesus in a lost world!
 - We are called to be a light in a dark world – **Mateo 5:14**
 - God POURS us His Holy Spirit to give us the POWER to SHINE!
 - Not just once – we need Him ABUNDANTLY - daily filling us so we have His Power!
 - HEIRS to eternal life...
 - Having been (*passive*) JUSTIFIED by His GRACE – we should become (*subjunctive*) HEIRS...
 - HEIRS – LEGAL term describes our INTERITANCE - according to the HOPE of Eternal Life!
 - **Roma 8:15-17** – “...Kag tungod nga kita mga anak na sang Dios, mga manunubli kita sang mga butang nga ginatigana sang Dios para sa aton. Mga manunubli kita kaupod ni Cristo...”
 - Roman culture - adoption was a very common practice...
 - The adopted child became an HEIR of his new Father!
 - We have become heirs to all that God has - joint heirs with Jesus Christ!
 - That means God desires to give us EVERYTHING - His KINGDOM - **Lucas 12:32**
 - To the extent we will even sit on the throne of Jesus with Him - **Pahayag 3:21**
 - Often times we are left to wonder if God can/will take care of our needs...
 - God does not just want to provide for our needs - we are heirs to His Kingdom!

- o 3rd – Faithful saying... vs. 8
 - Paul told Titus to CONSTANTLY affirm these things – how to interact with Government...
 - Those who have BELIEVED (*perfect*) in God – new creations – heirs of eternal life...
 - Should be (*subjunctive*) careful to maintain GOOD (*kalos*) works...
 - Not speaking EVIL about our government – instead being an EXAMPLE to them!
 - So that the CHURCH has a HEALTHY relationship with the GOVERNMENT!
- 3RD – THINGS TO AVOID... vs. 9-11
 - o 1st – FOOLISH questions... vs. 9
 - In light of maintaining GOOD works – Paul gave Titus FIVE things to AVIOD...
 - FOOLISH (*mōros*) questions – there are GOOD and BAD questions...
 - More often than not when people do not understand something - they ASSUME...
 - And more often than not their ASSUMPTIONS are WAY OFF!
 - There are always going to be things in the Bible / about God we do not understands...
 - If we have a hard time understanding the Word of God – it is GOOD to ask questions!
 - ASSUMPTIONS will only get us into trouble - answered questions give us the truth!
 - But there are GENUINE questions – then there are FOOLISH questions...
 - People will try and get you to argue over silly things – that are a waste of time...
 - The important questions we should be answering - how can we get to heaven!
 - o 2nd – GENELOGIES... vs. 9
 - GENELOGIES - prioritizing family lineage – I am the son of so and so...
 - I am saved because of who my family is – or because of my country!
 - God has NO grandchildren – and only ONE citizenship counts – belonging to heaven!
 - Therefore - we are told to avoid both of these – because they focus on MEN!
 - And the ideas and pedigree of men have NO POWER to save us from our sins!
 - o 3rd – CONTENTIONS – those who want to cause STRIFE / looking for a DEBATE... vs. 9
 - o 4th – STRIVINGS about the law... vs. 9
 - This is not talking about the LAW of God...
 - This is talking about the RULES people make up – arguing their STANDARDS!
 - Can we watch movies – what rating – can we listen to secular music!
 - All of these RULES are UNPROFITABLE and USELESS – they do NOT change the heart!
 - People STIVE over RULES – rather than pointing people to the answer – Jesus!
 - o 5th – DIVISIVE men... vs. 10-11
 - DIVISIVE – *hairetikos* – someone who teaches of follows FALSE doctrine...
 - We are to ADMONISH them – SHOW them the TRUTH from the Word...
 - But if they do NOT listen – after the SECOND time – REJECT (*imperative*) them!
 - KNOWING (*perfect*) such a person is WARPED and sinning...
 - WARPED – only here NT – to be twisted and bent out of shape!
 - And is SELF CONDEMNED – only here NT – already JUDGED!
 - We ADMONISH them NOT to be mean - but to CORRECT their FALSE doctrines...
 - To bring him back to the simplicity of the Word – point them to Jesus!
 - Warn them the FIRST time - but if they continue to cause division - REJECT them!
 - Because they do NOT want to hear the TRUTH – they are only there to DISTRACT...
 - We know they do NOT want to listen – because they REJECT the Word!
- 4TH – CLOSING INSTRUCTIONS... vs. 12-15
 - o 1st – Good Examples... vs. 12-13
 - Paul concludes his short epistle to Titus by giving instructions to FOUR men...
 - Artemas – gift of Artimus - only mentioned here in the Bible...
 - Presumably from Ephesus – were the temple of Artimus / Diana stood...

- Perhaps a convert to Christianity from one of the missionary journeys of Paul
- Tychicus was from the province of Asia - where Ephesus was the capital - **Binuhatan 20:4**
 - He carried the letter to the Colossians - **Colosas 4:7**
 - It also delivered the second epistle to Timothy - **2 Timoteo 4:12**
 - Paul would send EITHER - Artemas or Tychicus to help Titus on Crete...
 - So Titus could come (*imperative*) to come Nicopolis where Paul would spend the winter!
 - Nicopolis - City of VICTORY- city in western Greece named by Caesar Augustus...
 - Commemorated the Battle of Actium - Augustus victory over Mark Anthony and Cleopatra!
 - In the place the Roman Empire was forged – Paul was planning how to send out men...
 - Three of whom were named after Greek Gods – Artimus / Zeus / and Apollo...
 - But now SERVED the one TRUE God – going out to forge His KINGDOM!
- Zenas the Lawyer – gift of Zeus - like Artemas is only mentioned here in the Bible...
- Apollos is the powerful speaker Paul met in Ephesus – **Binuhatan 19**
 - He became an important and much loved pastor in the church at Corinth...
 - Titus was to send (*imperative*) these two men on their JOURNEY – so they lacked nothing!
- o 2nd – LEARN to maintain GOOD (*kalos*) works... vs. 14-15
 - LEARN (*imperative*) – to learn by using or practice...
 - To meet URGENT need of others – that they may not be (*subjunctive*) UNFRUITFUL...
 - Get the whole picture – we are to be SUBJECT to the government...
 - Not saying BAD about them – instead being an EXAMPLE of GOOD works for them...
 - HELPING others – so that we can be FRUITFUL...
 - BECAUSE we have been SAVED – given a NEW LIFE by Jesus...
 - And now God wants to USE us – like Artemas / Zenas / Apollo...
 - To go out and be a part of setting up His KINGDOM – bring SALVATION to a lost world!
 - Greet (*imperative*) those who love (*phileo*) us in the faith...
 - Paul closes his letter to Titus - the GRACE of God be with you all – Amen!