## Review...

- Paul wrote 3 NT books to two men I & II Timothy / Titus...
  - o We call them the Pastoral Epistles because they were written to pastors...
  - o Titus was the Pastor of the church on the Island of Crete Mediterranean Sea...
  - o Timothy was the Pastor of the church in Ephesus...
  - o Paul wrote the books to encourage and instruct pastors / leaders in ministry...
- Too many pastors today do not know how to run a church...
  - o The book of Titus gives leaders instructions from GOD for HIS church...
  - o The theme of the book is the health and well being of the church...
  - o Chapter 1- Leadership the qualifications of leaders / dealing with false teachers!
  - o Chapter 2 People how to serve different groups of people in the church!
  - o Chapter 3 Government how a healthy church should interact with government!

## THE SERVANT OF GOD... (4 POINTS)

- $1^{ST}$  Paul was a servant... vs. 1
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Paul was a SERVANT...
    - SERVANT doulos 127x in NT used to describe a SLAVE!
    - **Deuteronomy 15:17** God defined the role of a doulos a bondservant...
      - If a servant was to be set free but CHOSE to stay he had his ear pierced on a doorpost...
      - He became a BONDSERVANT someone who CHOSE to be a slave for His master!
      - Jesus does not demand that we give our lives to Him it is our choice...
      - We can choose to live for ourselves live for this world in bondage to this world...
      - But the irony is when we give our lives to Jesus that is when we are truly free!
      - John 8:36 "If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."
    - A SLAVE is owned by their master...
      - We have been purchased God bought us with through the cross paid with His life!
      - I Peter 1:18-19 "For you know that God paid a ransom to save you... the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God."
      - We are not our own our lives are not ours to live as we choose...
      - We were purchased with the highest of prices the life of Jesus...
      - Our lives belong to Jesus we should live in a way that glorifies Him!
      - **I Corinthians 6:20** "You were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."
    - A SLAVE can only serve one master...
      - You cannot go in two directions at the same time you cannot serve two people...
      - Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters..."
      - We choose who we serve in the simple seemingly insignificant choices of life...
      - We are either going to be serve the world to the pursuit of money / pleasure...
      - Or we are going to be serve the Lord worshiping and following Him!
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul was a SERVANT of God...
    - Paul is giving his QUALIFICATIONS by stating WHO he worked for...
    - He was a SERVANT of God meaning he came in with in the AUTHORITY of God Almighty!

- Every day when we walk out our front door we REPRESENT the one we work for...
- We do not speak in our AUTHORITY we come in the POWER of the one who sent us!
- Many times we are shy to stand up for Jesus intimidated by the world...
- Or we fret about what we are going to say afraid we do not have the right words...
- But we do not go in our STRENGTH we ROAR with the POWER of God...
- We just need to open our mouths God will speak through us!
- Matthew 10:19-20 "Do not worry about what to say... it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you!"
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> Greatest in the Kingdom...
  - A SLAVE was the lowest position you could have…
    - Paul worked for God Almighty but he was just a lowly SLAVE!
    - In the world those who are GREAT have all the authority and often ABUSE it!
    - In the workplace those who have the power tell everyone else what to do...
    - In government those who have the power tell everyone else what to do...
    - But the Bible contrasts the world to how things should work in church...
    - To be GREAT in the church of God you must be a SERVANT!
    - Mark 10:43-44 "Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your SERVANT. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be SLAVE of all."
    - Greatness to us is riches/ power / influence / having SERVANTS...
    - Not the person who empties the trash / cleans / is the servant!
    - We would call that a SERVANT but God calls them GREAT!
    - So to be GREAT in church pick up the trash / clean a table / change a diaper!
  - If you want to be FIRST (the greatest of all) then be a SLAVE (doulos)!
    - The same word the Apostle Paul uses to describe himself...
    - Those who desire to be LEADER in the church the GREATEST be the SLAVE of ALL!
    - Leadership in the church should not look like the leadership in the world...
    - It should be the opposite a leader in the church does not tell others what to do...
    - A leader is the one who lives his life to serve (slave to) everyone else...
    - The GREATER we become in the Kingdom of God the more of a SERVANT we become!
  - The Greatest of all servants was Jesus Christ...
    - Mark 10:45 "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
    - Jesus had every right to be served He was God almighty!
    - But instead He came to SERVE and to give His life as a RANSOM for many -
    - RANSOM price paid to purchase a SLAVE / we were all SLAVES to sin Romans 6:18
    - The price Jesus paid to save us was to give His life for us!
    - Jesus gave us the example of Godly greatness to give our lives for others!
- $2^{ND}$  Paul was an apostle... vs. 1
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> An Apostle of Jesus Christ...
    - The word APOSTLE simply means someone who is SENT OUT to preach the Gospel...
    - The picture is that of an ambassador a representative of God to the world!
    - **II Corinthians 5:20** "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us..."
    - Because people do not know Jesus they are lost in darkness and sin...
    - We can all can think of people right now who are not going to heaven...
    - We know people lost in superstation / worthless religion / and empty sinful pleasures...
    - We are called to be APOSTLES SENT OUT to tell them about Jesus Ephesians 4:11

- o 2<sup>nd</sup> THE Apostle to the Gentiles...
  - Saul was given authority from the priest to arrest anyone who confessed Jesus **Acts 9:2** 
    - But as Saul was nearing Damascus a brilliant light beamed down on him...
    - A voice from Heaven called out saying Saul why are you persecuting me...
    - When he came to the city a man named Ananias came to pray for him...
    - The Lord had told Ananias Saul is my chosen vessel Acts 9:15
    - Chosen to be THE Apostle the Gentles Romans 11:13 / I Timothy 2:7 / Galatians 2:7
  - Peter was the Apostle to the Jews Galatians 2:8
    - Yet Peter was the working man Paul was a Pharisee of Pharisees...
    - Simple logic would tell us that God would have called Paul to the Jews...
    - Paul knew Judaism inside and out he was perfect to minister to the Jews...
    - Peter was a working man he could have easily related to the Gentiles...
    - Yet God called them to the exact opposite ministries!
    - We are not always SENT OUT where we think we are the strongest...
    - If God called us to our strengths then we would trust in our own abilities...
    - More often than not God calls us to our weaknesses so that we trust in Him...
    - Never be afraid to step out in faith especially if it seems impossible!
    - Remember God a simple man to build the ark while the experts built the Titanic!
  - Chosen to bear fruit that lasts...
    - Paul wrote 1/3 of the New Testament and his fruit can still be seen today!
    - Because if God is the one who calls / anoints a person the results are dynamic...
    - We might come up with Great ideas BUT only the ideas God comes up with work...
    - If God is doing the work then even if I am not there the work continues fruit remains!
    - **John 15:16** "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain..."
- 3<sup>RD</sup> THE MESSAGE OF PAUL... vs. 1-3
  - o 1st Encourage the FAITH to those God had ELECTED... vs. 1
    - According (*kata*) to the FAITH of the ELECT of God...
      - ELECT *eklektos* 23x in NT speaks of the sovereignty of God He chose us...
      - Paul certainly understood this because he was ELECTED by God!
      - Acts 9:15 "The Lord said unto him go thy way: for he is a chosen [same word] vessel..."
      - This can be a hard concept for us to comprehend God chooses those who go to heaven!
      - **John 15:16** "You did not choose Me, but I chose you..."
    - God CHOOSES based on His foreknowledge...
      - Romans 8:29 "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined..."
      - God is eternal which means He has no beginning or end Revelation 1:8
      - God does not have an endless amount of time God is outside of time!
      - God sees all of time from **Genesis 1:1** to **Revelation 22:21** all at once!
      - **Isaiah 46:10 -** "Declaring the end from the beginning..."
      - In a sense God cheats He knows every ones choice before they every make it...
      - God sees EVERYTHING He knows exactly who will believe in / receive Jesus...
      - So He chooses those who He knows will choose Him!
    - What if you do not want to choose to believe in Jesus...
      - Then you are NOT one of those whom God has CHOSEN to be saved to go to heaven...
      - You might say but I want to go to heaven then CHOSE to believe in Jesus...
      - When you do you will find out God had already CHOSEN you!
      - Joshua 24:15 "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve..."
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> Teach the truth to know how to live Godly... vs. 1

- The ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the truth which accords with Godliness...
  - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *epignōsis* to have the COMPLETE and TOTAL understanding...
  - Of THE (definite article) truth THE truth that Paul was teaching was the Word of God!
  - We live in a world that would love to question TRUTH there are no absolutes...
  - What is right for you / may not be what is right for me everything is RELATIVE...
  - Event Pontius Pilate famously said to Jesus what is TRUTH John 18:38
  - It does not matter what MEN say the only place we can find TRUTH is in the WORD!
  - Romans 3:4 "Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar."
  - John 17:17 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." Psalm 119:160
- The TRUTH of the WORD teaches us how to be GODLY...
  - People have a lot of ideas on how they are supposed to live their lives...
  - Living for Jesus is almost always the exact opposite of what the world says...
  - The world says to seek riches the Bible says to be content **Hebrews 13:5**
  - The world says to focus on yourself the Bible says to die to ourselves Luke 9:23
  - The word says to be strong the Bible says we need to be weak II Corinthians 12:9
  - It can be hard to accept it is so different from everything we were taught...
  - But the TRUTH what the world misses is found in Christ!
  - The only way we can know how God intends for us to live is by studying the Word!
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> Bring the HOPE of eternal life... vs. 2
  - God who CANNOT lie...
    - **Hebrews 6:18** "It is impossible for God to lie..."
    - People can make all the promises in the world but they will break them...
    - People can make all the threats in the world but they cannot keep them...
    - But whatever the Lord says that you can guarantee will come to pass!
    - **Numbers 23:19** "God is not a man, that he should lie... or change his mind. He has never spoken and failed to act. He has never promised and not carried it through."
  - Promised BEFORE the world began...
    - Before God created the world Adam and Eve God had a PLAN for salvation...
    - If you knew that making a decision would cost your life would you still do it...
    - God knows all things He sees the end from the beginning **Isaiah 46:10**
    - God knew that by creating man it would mean He had to die Isaiah 53:7
    - The Lamb of God slain before the foundations of the World- **Revelation 13:8**
    - **Romans 5:8** "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
    - How much does God love you and me...
    - So much He created us knowing it would cost Him His life!
  - Therefore we have the HOPE of eternal life...
    - HOPE 54x in NT carries the idea of expectation what we EXPECT to happen...
    - Hope is trusting God for the future the amazing promises that God has given to us!
    - We cannot see God have never been to heaven have not seen Jesus...
    - It is only through HOPE we believe the Gospel is true has the power to save us...
    - By HOPE we believe that life is not only about living here on earth...
    - By HOPE we believe one day God will take us to be with Him forever in heaven!
    - **Hebrews 11:1** "Faith is the substance of things HOPED for, the evidence of things not seen."
  - Therefore we do NOT fear death...
    - The world watches us because they see in us something different they see hope...
    - We know death is not the end in fact it is just the beginning of eternal life...
    - Those who are in the world live in constant fear of death it terrifies them...

- And they want that same hope peace we have because of Jesus!
- I Corinthians 15:55-57 "Death, where is your sting... thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- o 4<sup>th</sup> MANIEST through preaching the Word... vs. 3
  - MANIEST *phanero* $\bar{o}$  49x in NT to reveal or make visible...
    - The HOPE of ETERNAL LIFE was MANIFEST through the preaching of the WORD...
    - Which was committed to Paul according to the command of God our Savior!
  - Many churches today have neglected PREACHING the Bible...
    - Too many pastors today spend too little time PREACHING the Word...
    - Instead they tell funny stories to entertain sprinkled with the occasional Bible verse!
    - But it is not our words / or funny stories people need to hear...
    - They need to know about the dangers of hell and the reward of heaven...
    - About the coming judgment of God and the amazing hope of Jesus!
    - But they do not know these things because they do not know the Word!
    - And the ones who should be teaching them the pastors do not...
    - The biggest problem in the church today there is a famine in the Land!
    - Amos 8:11 "Not a famine of bread or water but of hearing the words of the LORD."
- 4<sup>TH</sup> THE INTRODUCTION OF TITUS... vs. 4
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Titus was a TRUE son in common faith...
    - Titus was actually a son of Paul he was a son through their COMMON faith...
      - This is the identical greeting that Paul gave to Timothy I Timothy 1:2
      - Because Paul had taken them BOTH under his wings and discipled them in the Lord!
    - Some of us are blessed with CHILDREN who we are called to bring in the FAITH…
      - It is also the responsibility of the Dad to teach the kids about Jesus!
      - Too often fathers forget that they are to be the spiritual leaders of their homes
      - Take the time to read the Bible with your children / pray with them...
      - If we do not teach our kids to have a relationship with Jesus who will!
      - **Ephesians 6:4** "Fathers... bring [your kids] up in the training and admonition of the Lord."
    - Others are like Paul they have sons in the FAITH…
      - We are all called to DISCIPLE others raise up the next generation...
      - God brings people sons and daughters in the FAITH into our lives...
      - We pour into their lives desiring to see them blossom in their walks!
      - Being an example for them on how to live for and follow Jesus!
      - I Corinthians 11:1 "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul wanted Titus to walk in Grace...
    - From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior!
    - Titus was chosen by God not because of whom he was it was by Grace!
    - Maybe we think I am pretty sure God did not choose me…
    - Because we are looking at how messed up we are and how few talents we have…
    - But we need to remember God do not choose us because of who we are...
    - He chooses by Grace looking at who He is going to make us to be!
    - $2^{\rm nd}$  Paul adds Mercy to his common greeting in all his Pastoral Epistles...
      - Because Paul wanted God to hold back have MERCY what these pastors!
      - My pastor once told me Dave do not know why God made me a pastor…
      - He knew if it was not my job I might never read the Bible!
      - We get the idea that LEADERS are somehow holier / more righteous than the rest...
      - Chances are God choose us because He knows us all too well...
      - And he knows that if He does not keep us extra close we would get in a LOT of trouble!

- o 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul wanted Titus to have peace...
  - Knowing we are chosen by God by His Grace not because of our gifts...
  - Knowing that we have mercy God will not give us what we deserve...
  - We can have peace knowing God will stand with us as we LEAD others to Him!
  - Because there is no greater calling or purpose in life than to share Jesus with the world!