

REVIEW...

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

THE SERVANT OF GOD... (4 POINTS)

- **1ST – PAUL WAS A SERVANT... VS. 1**
 - 1st – 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!**
 - 2nd - 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 3rd – 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!
- 2ND – PAUL WAS AN APOSTLE... VS. 1
 - o 1st – 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 think of people right now who are not going to heaven...
 - We know people lost in superstition / worthless religion / and empty sinful pleasures...
 - We are called to be APOSTLES – SENT OUT to tell them about Jesus - **Ephesians 4:11**

- o 2nd – 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...”
- 3rd – 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 2nd – 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 3rd - 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.”
- 4th – MANIFEST through preaching the Word... vs. 3
 - MANIFEST – *phaneroō* – 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.”
- 4th – THE INTRODUCTION OF TITUS... vs. 4
 - 1st – 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 disciplined 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.”
 - 2nd - 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!
 - 2nd - 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 3rd - 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!