

Paul's Introduction & Declaration of His Mission
& His Description of Godly Leadership
Titus 1:1-9
2/12/25

A quick intro to the book of Titus:

Author: Paul as a pastoral epistle after his first Roman imprisonment and following the book of Acts.

Audience: Titus after being left behind to continue missions work on the island of Crete by Paul. (1:5)

Time Frame: ~60 A.D. During Paul's third missionary journey.

Purpose: Paul's instructions for how to establish the church once the gospel has been preached and new believers are made. This book could also be seen as a "how to" manual on supporting your church and living as a Christian within it and within a corrupt culture.

Read Titus 1:1-4

(vs. 1) Paul begins his letter to Titus by stating who he is and giving the most important description of himself he could make. He actually does this at the beginning of every letter he writes.

He says he is a servant of God, and apostle of Jesus Christ, working for the benefit of his brothers and sisters in Christ.

We see clearly how important this description is to Paul, and secondly how important knowledge is.

"God's elect", or those who were called to be saved by the grace of God should be earnestly pursuing truth and godliness.

Take a moment and think about the time/day you were saved. The moment you became a slave to God. How has that moment made you who you are today and is the description of your life the same as that of Paul (minus the apostle part)?

Romans 8: 28-30

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

1 Peter 1: 3

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”

2 Peter 1: 3

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence”

Galatians 1: 5

“And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles,”

(vs. 2-3) God is sovereign and knows the proper time for everything. He had a plan for the redemption of His beloved children even before “the ages began”.

We, like Paul, have been entrusted with the Word of God and are to preach it to the world. God has chosen and uses His elect as instruments in the salvation of other elect people. This should give us such a confidence and excitement when it comes to evangelism and missions. God has chosen

out of His goodness to save sinners and we have an opportunity, if taken, to play a role in that.

Do not be discouraged, however, when some reject your message. We do not know exactly, who, how or when someone may come to Christ.

Think about the possible seeds you have planted. Pray for those you've talked to about Christ and rejoice with the angels over those who have received your message.

Luke 15: 10

"Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Romans 10: 14-15

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

(vs. 4) Paul addresses the intended receiver of his letter - Titus, calling him "my true child". This is referring to the fact that he was a like minded believer as well as someone Paul himself trained and taught.

Read Titus 1: 5-8

(vs. 5) Paul has left Titus in Crete to provide leadership when it comes to setting up lasting leadership in the established church. This was to ensure the new believers were well cared for.

Paul knew and pushed the importance of believers gathering together to worship and build each other up in the faith. He knew we were never meant to just hear the Word and be left alone but one of God's many gifts to His children are deep, meaningful and godly relationship. Also, that we need leadership.

Romans 1: 11-12

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.”

Hebrews 10: 24-25

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Proverbs 27: 17

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”

Galatians 6: 2

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

(vs. 6-8) Qualifications for the leadership Paul is looking for:

Crete was a very corrupt culture, very similar to what we even can experience today in our own culture.

One way God shades us and protects His people from being swept up in a worldly lifestyle is by giving us godly leaders in our church that guide the church as a whole, ensuring Christ is honored and His word is upheld properly.

These qualifications Paul gives Titus are very similar to the ones he gives Timothy in 1 Timothy 3: 1-13.

1. Must be above reproach

This is an important attribute for all believers, but leaders and elders may need to take on a slightly more conservative approach, keeping in mind that their church flock is watching them for guidance.

This may be acting more like Paul in 1 Corinthians 9 where he talks about being “all things to all people”.

For us more specifically, being above reproach is a great reminder of what God calls us to be.

Leviticus 19:2

“Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.’”

1 Peter 1:16

“since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”

1 Thessalonians 4:7

“For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.”

What does being above reproach look like in your life? Are there areas where you could be more mindful of what picture you are painting for others even if what you are doing is not sin?

2. Husband to one wife

A man who upholds the sanctity and importance of his marriage to his wife. This does not disqualify single men however.

3. Children are believers and are not in open rebellion.

In 1 Timothy 3: 4, Paul states this slightly different and seems to target younger children that are still living in the home. He says, “...manage his own household well...keeping his children submissive, for if someone doesn’t know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?”

The take home principle should be that a church leader should be a faithful parent that disciplines his children and overall manages his household in a God-honoring way. Obviously teaching their children the gospel at home and praying for their future salvation.

4. Above reproach again!

The “do not” begin:

1. Not arrogant

Proverbs 8:13

“To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech”

2. Not quick tempered
3. Not a drunkard

Galatians 5: 19-21

“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are... outbursts of anger, ... drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

4. Not violent

Proverbs 3: 29

“Do not devise harm against your neighbor,”

5. Not greedy

Luke 12: 15

“But He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one is affluent does his life consist of his possessions.”

From this “do not” list, which one do you struggle with personally? What steps can you take to combat it?

The “dos” begin:

6. Be hospitable

Peter 4: 9

“Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint.”

7. Lover of good

Romans 12: 9

“Love *must be* free of hypocrisy. Detest what is evil; cling to what is good.”

8. Self-controlled

2 Timothy 1: 7

“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.”

Proverbs 25: 8

“*Like* a city that is broken into *and* without walls, so is a person who has no self-control over his spirit.”

9. Upright

10. Holy

see verses from 1 Peter and 1 Thessalonians above

11. Disciplined

Proverbs 12: 1

“One who loves discipline loves knowledge,
But one who hates rebuke is stupid.”

From this “do” list, which one do you see the most success in personally?
How can you make sure you are continuing to lean on the Lord for strength in this area?

Paul’s really not leaving a lot of room for error.

Notice that even though these things are under the label of “Elder Qualifications” they are not anything special to leaders but are things all Christians are called to be. These are the fruit of the reality that you are a new creature in Christ. We all know works do not save us.

As woman who love the Lord this is about the reality that if we are new creatures in Christ, we are called to walk in a manner worthy of our calling, and when we do that, it puts the glory of the gospel on display in a way that is compelling and convincing.

In a church, that display starts with spiritual leaders and allows for an effective witness, but this is very much true of each of our individual lives.

Are you purposely striving to bear a character of godliness and a conduct that flows out of Christ likeness? How does this list of requirements and attributes affirm or convict your day to day life?

Read Titus 1: 9

(vs. 9) We not only know the truth but we exemplify it.

How firm we hold the word of God is seen in how seriously we take its teachings and how we play it out for others.

How can we exemplify Christ or even share the gospel with others if we aren't planted firmly in God's word? We even could disqualify ourselves from being able to give sound teaching or counseling.

“...rebuke those who contradict it.” Of course church leaders should be able to give clear and sound biblical teaching and counsel those in their congregation who may be living contradictory. But again, all believers who love God's word also love to see it protected and upheld. We are good listeners and sifters of everything we hear so that we may be like the Bereans who search the word and know what is true.

Acts 17: 10-11

“Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

Do you feel confident that if you heard something contradictory to Scripture you would know and be able to defend it even just in your own mind? Are you able to rebuke your own thinking when your thoughts sway toward sin?