

Discussion Guide

Week of May 4, 2014

Titus 1

Passage Overview: For many of us, Paul's letter to Titus is something that we don't study often, and when we do, it's a bit difficult to know how to apply—there's a lot of personal and specific guidance for Titus and his situation is different than ours. However, in another sense, Titus and the church that he pastored on the island of Crete are not so different from us at all. They struggled with immorality and error among church leaders; they strived to live as Christians in a culture hostile to the gospel; they needed encouraging about the basis and motivation of their lives; and they needed detailed teaching about proper Christian living. In other words, though their physical and cultural circumstances were quite different, their spiritual lives are very similar to our own.

Understanding God's Word—Read Titus 1

- Read vv.1-4. Paul sees his ministry as being “for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth” (v.1).
 - What is the result of this faith and knowledge?
 - What is this faith and knowledge based on?
 - God has promised all this, but where do we hear this promise? How is it made known?
 - How does all this help explain God's attitude towards false teachers?
- What are the marks of a godly pastor/elder/overseer (vv.5-9)? In behavior? In relation to doctrine? *Note: All three terms are used interchangeably in the NT to refer to the same office.*
- What are the marks of a false teacher (vv.10-16)? In behavior? In relation to doctrine? What were the special characteristics of the false teachers in Crete?
- How does Paul tell Titus to deal with false teachers? Why? According to v.16, how can you determine whether someone truly knows God?

Living and Applying God's Word

- What does it mean that a pastor should be “above reproach”? Does this imply perfection or near perfection? Why or why not?
- Why is it important that a church can see the lives of its pastors?
- In appointing pastors, what personal qualities should we look for? What characteristics do we often look for instead?
 - How does this apply to leaders in the church other than pastors? *(For example: teachers for Sunday morning classes, missionaries, people who teach our children and youth, CG leaders.)*
- Although this passage speaks directly about pastors (godly pastors and false teachers), what does it tell us about the lives of all Christians?
- Why are false teachers so dangerous? Who are some of the more well-known false teachers of our day? How do you know that what they teach is false? How would you talk to a friend who is following a false teacher?
- What does this passage stir us to pray for?

Prayer: Pray for your pastors and other leaders at CrossPointe. Ask God to help them live lives above reproach and strengthen them so that they “contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). Pray for other pastors in our area as well.

Announcements

- Children's Ministry Orientation (May 18 at 9am; RSVP to Rachel)
- “One Another” Member Meeting (May 18 at 6pm)
- Memorial Day Picnic (May 26 from 11am-3pm; at Flat Rock Park)