

DOING GOOD: "Setting Things Straight"

"[The Epistle to Titus] is a **bargain basement letter**. You get more than your money's worth as Paul packs in so much truth, so much teaching, in such a short amount of space." (Danny Akin)

THE AUTHOR (TITUS 1:1)

- The Author of the Epistle to Titus is **the Apostle Paul**. This epistle was written sometime between Paul's first and second imprisonment

THE AUDIENCE (TITUS 1:4)

- **Titus** was an apostolic delegate, a "true child" in the faith (1:4). Titus was a *problem solver, trouble-shooter, bridge builder*. A trusted leader tasked with "**setting things straight**." (1:5)

THE AIMS (TITUS 1-3)

1. **Mentor Titus (1:4)** – "*my true child in a common faith*"
2. **Establish Godly Leadership (1:5)** – "*appoint elders in every town as I directed you*"
3. **Promote Sound Doctrine (1:9, 10-16)** – "*able to give instruction in sound doctrine*"
4. **Encourage Good Works (2:14, 3:1, 3:8)** – *God's people should be "zealous for good works" (2:14)*

THE ARRANGEMENT (TITUS 1-3)

- Chapter 1: Church Order
- Chapters 2-3: Christian Obligations

THE APPLICATIONS (TITUS 1-3)

1) Titus promotes Christian Leadership.

- 1:5 – The key to a church's health is spiritual leadership.
- 1:9 – The elder must be "able to teach": ability to teach *sound doctrine* and rebuke *false doctrine*.

Example of errors to be confronted today: Homosexuality, Transgender, Islam, Roman Catholicism, Egalitarianism, Charismatic Theology, Theistic Evolution, Open Theism, Social Justice.

2) Titus promotes Christian Learning

- It is the job of spiritual leaders to *teach sound doctrine*; it is job of the congregation to *come hear it*.
Titus 1:9; 1:13; 2:1-2; 2:7; 2:11-14; 3:3-8

"The consequences of this widespread dislike to doctrine are very serious in the present day. . . It produces what I must venture to call. . . a jellyfish Christianity." (J.C. Ryle)

3) Titus promotes Christian Living

- Titus 2-3 focus on the Christian's ethical behavior in a pagan culture.
- The Christian is called to be a **lover of what is good** (Titus 1:8, 2:7, 2:14, 3:1, 3:8, 3:14)

4) Titus promotes Christian Legacy

- Titus is one of Paul's last letters before his death. The letter is concerned with **godly continuity**.
- The Christian life begins with a **sprint**; it then becomes a **marathon** and a **relay race**.

"A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." (Jackie Robinson)

Sermon Application Questions

March 10, 2019

REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

What are you excited about learning from the book of Titus? What are some of your favorite passages from this wonderful epistle?

2

In the message Pastor Philip spoke strongly about the need for spiritual leaders to not only **instruct in sound doctrine** but also **rebuke false doctrine**. He then listed a number of theological trends and errors that are being circulated today. Among this list, what are the top 2-3 items that most concern you? (Circle any that apply)

Homosexuality

Transgender

Islam

Roman Catholicism

Egalitarianism

Charismatic Theology

Theistic Evolution

Open Theism

Social Justice

Others: _____

DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

Titus 2:7-8

Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

Titus 2:14

who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Titus 3:1-2

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

Titus 3:8

The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

2

Read Titus chapter 1 in preparation for the next sermon in Titus. What are some observations that you have about this text? Why do you think it is important for us to study the book of Titus?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

Pastor Philip exhorted us that the job of the spiritual leader is to teach sound doctrine, the job of the congregation is to come and hear it. Evaluate how well have you been listening to the teaching of God's Word. How would you rate yourself in the following areas? (Scale: 10 is strongest, 1 is weakest)

_____ I am regular and consistent in attending church on Sundays.

_____ I am disciplined with my schedule to arrive at service early so that I am not rushed.

_____ I spiritually prepare to receive God's Word through personal prayer and confession.

_____ I take the initiative to reconcile with people before hearing God's Word.

_____ I pray for those who are teaching and preaching that God would bless their ministry.

_____ I sing joyfully and enthusiastically to the Lord, thinking about the words that I am singing.

_____ I fight off distractions during the Bible teaching and make sure I am not distracting others.

_____ I take notes during the sermon so that I have something to take home and reflect upon.

_____ I review the sermon during the week and discuss with others what I have learned.

_____ I personally apply the Word in specific, measurable, practical ways throughout the week.

2

Reflect on the phrase "**a lover of good**" (1:8). Describe what you think this means in your own words. What are some of the "good things" that we are called to love in our Christian lives? Be practical and specific.