



Shared and Purposeful Mission in the World

For the people of Revolve Church, North Cape May County

By Reid S. Monaghan, Titus 1:1-4

Rapport and Revolving

My first interaction with Revolve involved a Facebook message I received from Bill Laky. I was down in Florida for a conference with our staff team and I got this interesting note have a guy who is looking to plant a church and was still working out a lot of the details

I later met Bill and Gina together in Philadelphia for their assessment with our Network. I loved the interaction with one another they had as a couple which for us is always a strong and good sign for a church planter.

For the first several years of Revolve I had the privilege of a Coaching relationship with Bill. During this season Bill was growing in clarity and hope, discovering who he was as a leader and therefore what sort of church he ought to lead in terms of ministry philosophy. I would share with you some of those initial ideas but I'll let you ask him.

I will say that I told him that running the kids check-in, greeting everyone, picking up the guitar and leading worship, putting down the guitar to preach the sermon, picking back up the guitar to lead worship and then to fall out exhausted wasn't the best game plan. In fact, I kind of fast at him and told him he was doing it wrong.

Bills heart, **to see all of life revolve around Jesus**, was so right and very contagious to me and I know with many of you from day 1.

So I have the humble privilege of being with you on your **5th anniversary, 5th birthday, 5th birthiversary** as a church family and if you are new today, I'm not humble bragging on my church – I'm the guest speaker guy who can brag on Revolve all I want... and welcome, you may just be an important part of the mission and ministry here over the next 5 years.

Introduction

Each of us, in our own ways as human beings, desires to have our lives involved in **important things**...everyone I believe desires for this to be true. Now whether or not our lives are ACTUALLY involved in significant, important, and valuable pursuits is another question entirely.

But the statement “**I want to live life that is only connected to worthless, trivial, meaningless things!**” Nobody says this...

Today what are important things:

- The Phillies or the Eagles upcoming season
- Whether Labron or Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player of all time. Michael Jordan went to UNC chapel hill so this discussion is over even before the NBA. MJ, greatest of all time.
- Others would like at money, value of their bank account or retirement benefits and see these as very important? Or money?
- Our own fame and popularity and the praise of people?
- The political posturing on all sides
- Are these important things?

An ancient teacher once wisely remarked to our own benefit in the wisdom literature of the Bible

“There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after.” - Ecclesiastes 1:11

As we begin this morning, I want us to turn to the Scriptures to see... that, if you are a follower of Jesus, we share a common mission in the world together and it is a **VERY IMPORTANT** thing.

This morning we will be traveling in the New Testament book of Titus; One of the New Testament books sometimes known as the **Pastoral Correspondence or Pastoral Epistles**.

The author of this letter, an early leader in the mission of Jesus named Paul, had some co-workers in the Gospel labors God gave him to do. Women and men who served the purposes of Jesus together as the Christian movement was formed and founded on the earth. Two you men who feature prominently in the Bible and in Pauls like are dudes named Timothy and Titus.

Titus was a young ministry associate of Paul who served with him in mission. He was given the crucial task of ordering early churches, his call, as we will see in this book together, was to put into order the ministry of Jesus on the cracked up, wiling, crazy Mediterranean island of Crete.

- Evangelism, start some trouble in town, wisdom, boldness
- Leadership needed to be put in place, set in to order, why?
- Servants to continue to march on mission under King Jesus
- This is how Paul, that leader of the early mission of Jesus and his church, begins his letter to Titus – he identifies himself as a servant.

PRAYER

The Identity of a Servant

This letter to Titus begins with Paul identifying himself and his work and by doing so he sets the pace and sets an example for us.

1 Paul, a **servant** of God and an **apostle** of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,

Who is Paul?

This is a guy that almost always makes it into the **lists of the most influential people in history**.

Jesus, Mohammed, Sidhartha Gutama aka The Buddha, Napoleon, Aristotle and our guy Paul.

1. First, he calls himself a **Servant** of God and he uses the word “doulos, a bond servant” someone bound to a Master. **It's not all about me in life, I am only a servant of God.**
2. Second, he calls himself an **apostle** – if you grew up around Roman Catholic tradition you may have known this guy as “St. Paul” or if around Protestant traditions “The Apostle Paul” here this word appears. He sees himself as an Apostle – the word means he is a messenger – **carrying the words and mission of another** to the world. **He is an apostle of Jesus.**

Why is Paul- for the sake of the faith of God's elect, their knowledge of the truth that accords with Godliness. His existence he saw for the sake of others...

Faith of the elect – those chosen by God and appointed to be a part of his kingdom, who come to faith through the preaching of the Gospel.

- **Every** from **Every** – Universalism
- **None** from **Some** – Tribalism
- **Some** from **Every** – Biblical

God has a people from every tribe, tongue and people that he will save. Salvation made possible for all, yet becomes actual when God saves a person through faith in Jesus.

He is for their faith, their knowledge of the truth, which leads to a certain flow and manner of being – living a life of reverence for God, a devoted life to God and his purposes.

Paul lives and is called FOR others. For their FAITH, for their knowledge of the TRUTH, knowledge of the GOSPEL that leads to Godly lives. We get later in Titus what Paul is after in **Titus 2:11-14**

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and **godly** lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 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.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). (Tt 2:11–15). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

FAITH, Knowledge of the **TRUTH**, a life lived in **GODLINESS** – **this is important, this is the way our lives are CHANGED and transformed.**

2 in **hope** of eternal life, which God, who never lies, **promised** before the ages began

The entire building of our lives has a foundation, a HOPE... Paul's work, his calling, in the lives of those who would be Christian is in the HOPE of eternal life PROMISED by God.

In **Hope** – What of HOPE?

- ☉ Hebrews 6 teaches us Hope is firm like an anchor for the soul, it gets us from being torn and tossed and thrown around in life.
- ☉ **Hope is future facing**, for we do not hope to have and experience simply what we have now. **Romans 8:24b,25** Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?
- ☉ Hope, the Scriptures tell us, does not disappoint... why?

Christian hope is based upon a promise

- ☉ Mark Dever's two volumes - Promises **Made**, Promises **Kept**

The promise of eternal life is significant. Why? **This is a promise from a person with a particular, and peculiar, and rare, character...**the promise is from one who NEVER lies.

God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? - Numbers 23:19

There is a promise made before the ages...before time began, before anyone was, the loving God purposes and promises eternal life...

*Now this is **ETERNAL LIFE**, to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent, John 17:3.*

Relationship with God, death defeated, people restored, ETERNAL Life, Promised, bank on it... **There are people in this world who's lives are involved in just such VERY IMPORTANT things... they are called CHRISTIANS.**

Manifested and Entrusted

3 and at the **proper time** manifested in **his word** through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

HIS word - not our word, not our words. Our words matter but they are not the definitive word. The words of preachers matters, but they are not the most important words. God's Word is important and his TRUTH is made known in the world through it being announced.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.19 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

This is eternal life. This plan and purpose of God to save those who are Called is made manifest through preaching

From preaching class...make a joke about finally taking homiletics...

A Christian pastor, is a servant leader with a Bible in his hand to point to the one we FOLLOW as KING. Albert Mohler

☉ **Manifested** - the gospel made known in the WORD, by the WORD, through the WORD and in the WORLD, through preaching

REPEAT - The gospel is made known in the WORD, by the WORD, through the WORD and in the WORLD, through preaching

☉ **Entrusted** - by the command of God our Savior

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. - James 3:1

4 To Titus, my true child in a **common** faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Titus, another name comes in here, not an APOSTLE... but someone else, the man named Titus and he is called **a true child** in a common faith

Some things in life are shared...

1. There is a reason my kids love comic books, marvel, with a tolerance for DC which does try ;-)
2. There is a reason our kids love soccer (it was not my influence and skill)
3. There is a reason our kids think, care about logic, theology, technology and a biblical worldview
4. There is a reason our kids, currently, and by the grace of God follow Jesus

We share some things...there are some things that are common to us.

Here Paul says Titus is family and they share a common faith...

The word here and its associated grouping in the New Testament (**Koinos**)

- ☞ The word for share in Philemon 1:6
- ☞ It is the word root for Fellowship in 1 John 1...they share a faith... we have fellowship with GOD and with one another. There is a shared life.

Titus and Paul are family they share in a common faith in Jesus – savior, God and King!

So he greets this dear brother in a very fitting way:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

The greeting is also common, in both senses of the word. This was his common greeting that he used often and we see it and other letters in the New Testament.

But it was much like than him saying. What's up my brother, I hope you are well. Halla at your boy, chiao

- ☞ **Grace** (God's kindness and utterly unmerited favor towards US) and
- ☞ **Peace** (the great shalom tradition of the covenant community - we have wholeness, reconciliation and right relationship) FROM the Father, from the Savior!!!

Conclusion

What we find in the Bible is instruction not only in this shared FAITH! **But in a shared calling...**

Sharing the gospel with others, mission, church planting, leadership training, elder identification, gospel ministry to others in the family, in the world, for the glory of his NAME! The rest of the Book of Titus unpacks these things. Very important things

Christians are in this together! We share it, we share this high and holy and deeply important calling. Who is sufficient for such things

14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. 15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

- 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

Manifest in the world, through preaching of the Apostolic Faith, the true and living Word of God. This is our shared and purposeful mission and the Lord has given us various parts to play.

Important Things

- 🕒 When you get out of bed and go to serve at your job you can bring the fragrance of Christ there
- 🕒 When you lovingly disciplining kids you are the fragrance of Christ there
- 🕒 When you choose to repent of sin and reconcile with your spouse the fragrance of Christ is there
- 🕒 When you serve in children's ministry or a discipleship group
- 🕒 When you obey Jesus in small and large decision there are very important things there

That you throw in together here at Revolve Church in Cape May County desiring to see all of life revolve around Jesus you are involved in the most important things

You share them in common with one another and God has graciously called you to share them with the world!

PRAY