

Truth and Life in Titus

Titus 1:1-5

June 30th, 2019

Intro

Appeal of time travel –

Parents think, if we could just skip ahead 30 years and see how our parenting pans out we could breath a little easier now

Teenager might wish they could skip ahead past high school and college and get to the working world (little do they know what awaits them)

Economists might wish they could skip ahead 30 years to see the long term affects of fiscal policy.

What will Pocatello be like in 30 years? One estimate from the Northgate development planning stages had our community doubling in size.

Jumping from Matthew 28 to the book of Titus in the New Testament we are jumping forward 30 years.

How is the Great Commission of Christ being fulfilled?

What challenges are they facing?

1. The author of Titus: Paul, a bond-servant and an apostle (1:1-3)

a. Paul was a bond-servant and an apostle (v. 1a)

i. A bond-servant reflects his position as one committed to the agenda of God in service of God.

1. **Galatians 1:10** For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.
2. James, Peter, and Jude also describe themselves as bond-servants of God or Christ.

ii. Apostle reflects his authority

1. **1 Corinthians 9:1** Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? 2 If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.
2. **Galatians 1:1** Paul, an apostle (not *sent* from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead),
3. But even in his apostleship role there wasn't pride and lording it, but he attributed it to God's grace and didn't feel fit to be called an apostle

- a. **1 Corinthians 15:6-10** After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, ...

iii. Paul probably wrote this letter while he was between his two imprisonments.

1. His first imprisonment is described in the book of Acts and resulted in the "prison epistles" of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.
2. The only clue within the letter for where he is when he wrote is in 3:12 where he asks Titus to make every effort to come to him at Nicopolis, a city in Greece near Corinth.

- iv. Paul was the embodiment of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20.
 1. **Matthew 28:19-20** ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
 2. When Jesus gave that closing command, Paul was far from following Christ. He was a young man rising through the ranks of prominence in Jewish religious circles as the disciple of a famous rabbi named Gamaliel.
 3. We first meet Paul in the book of Acts as he is zealously attempting to stamp out the fledgling Christian church by chasing down followers of "the way" and having them imprisoned or even killed.
 4. But then God changed the course of his life, he became a disciple who would then go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them.
 5. He poured himself into others.
 - a. He calls Titus his true child in a common faith (1:4), not because he was Paul's biological child but because he was like a spiritual son to him. Paul likely shared the gospel with Titus and then trained him to follow Christ.
 - b. To the believers in Thessalonica Paul wrote,
 - i. **1 Thessalonians 2:8** Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.
 6. He took the gospel to the "nations," traveling to modern day Turkey, Cyprus, Greece, Macedonia, and Rome; planting churches in Ephesus, Corinth, Philippi, and Thessalonica.
- b. The goal of his ministry is to further ***faith*** and ***knowledge*** in people and is built on the ***Word*** of God. (vv. 1b-3)
 - i. His position is not for his own glory or power. It is to serve people.
 1. **2 Corinthians 4:5** For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.
 2. Always a concern that people in authority will use it to benefit themselves and line their pockets.
 - ii. *For the faith of those chosen of God*
 1. God's sovereignty and man's responsibility wedded together not in competition with one another.
 2. **2 Timothy 2:10** For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.
 3. Convinced commitment to God's sovereignty in choosing motivates evangelism, it doesn't squelch it.
 4. Paul is casting the gospel net broad, laboring wherever he is at, but trusting that those whom God is drawing will respond.
 - iii. *And the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness*
 1. ***How do you find the theme of a book?*** Look for repeated ideas

2. Verses in Titus on doctrine

- a. **Titus 1:9** holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.
- b. **Titus 1:11** who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.
- c. **Titus 1:13** This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith,
- d. **Titus 1:14** not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.
- e. **Titus 2:1** But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.
- f. **Titus 2:2** Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.
- g. **Titus 2:7** in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,
- h. Makes sense that a young church would need to emphasize what they believe.

3. Verses in Titus on godly living

- a. **Titus 1:7** For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,
- b. **Titus 1:16** They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.
- c. **Titus 2:3** Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,
- d. **Titus 2:7** in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,
- e. **Titus 2:12** instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,
- f. **Titus 2:14** who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.
- g. **Titus 3:1** Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,
- h. **Titus 3:8-9** This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.
- i. **Titus 3:14** Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

iv. The theme of Titus is that belief and behavior go together

1. Mental exercise – two things that go together
 - a. peanut butter and ... Jelly
 - b. cookies and ... milk
 - c. mashed potatoes and ... gravy
 2. Confession and conduct, doctrine and duty, truth and life
 3. They go together in healthy churches with healthy leadership (ch 1)
 4. They go together in healthy homes (ch 2)
 5. They go together in public life as the church interacts with the world (ch 3)
 6. Consider the qualities of a disciple from last week
 - a. Matthew 28:19-20 – the disciples are to make disciples, teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded
 - b. We talked about it in terms of knowledge, character, and practice – what we know, who we are, and what we do.
- c. This service of Paul as well as their faith and knowledge are built on the hope of eternal life.
- i. There is a convinced commitment that this life isn't the end but is rather a small but very significant blip on a much bigger timeline.
 1. **John 5:24** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.
 2. **John 6:47** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.
 3. **John 10:27-28** "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.
 4. **John 17:1-3** Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ² even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. ³ "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
 - ii. There is an earthly benefit to the Christian faith with earthly application – It even ends with the exhortation:
 1. **Titus 3:14** Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.
 - iii. But there is a consistent appeal to look to the long tomorrow, to eternity, to life after death, to eternal life. There is a trend, I think, to downplay that today and focus merely on the earthly implications of the faith rather than the eternal benefits. Perhaps because it is more tangible and immediate.
 1. The Bible doesn't pit being "heavenly minded" against being of "earthly good." The two go hand in hand.
 2. I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death; I must never let it get snowed under or turned aside; I must make it the main

object of life to press on to that other country and to help others to do the same. - C.S. Lewis

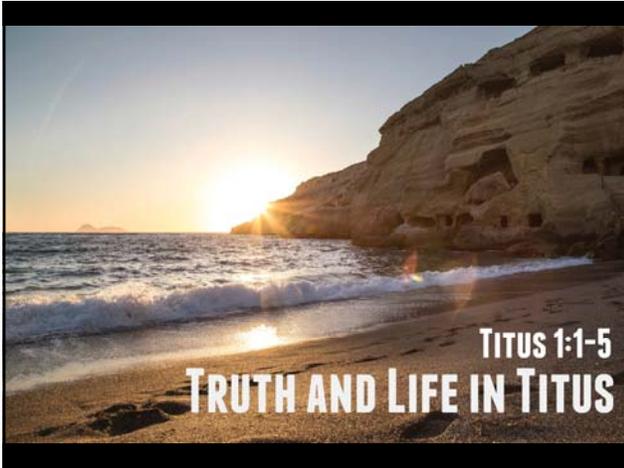
- iv. This hope of eternal life is not vague and mystical but is built on the promises of God who cannot lie.
 - 1. God is bound by His own character. It's not that there is something bigger than God, some moral code outside of Himself that is greater than Him. Rather, it's His own self-existing character that He cannot violate.
 - 2. And we should be so glad.
- v. This hope was promised long ago – literally before the beginning of time
- vi. But was manifested now, at the proper time, in His word.

2. The recipient of Titus: a faithful co-**laborer** (1:4-5)

- a. He first comes up in the book of Galatians in connection with the controversy over whether Gentile converts needed to be circumcised.
 - i. **Acts 15:1-2** Some men came down from Judea and *began* teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." ² And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, *the brethren* determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.
 - ii. He was with Paul when he went to Jerusalem for the Jerusalem council
 - 1. **Galatians 2:1** Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking **Titus** along also.
 - 2. **Galatians 2:3** But not even **Titus**, who was with me, **though he was a Greek**, was compelled to be circumcised.
 - 3. **Galatians 2:4-5** But *it was* because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage. ⁵ But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.
 - iii. Titus knew controversy and along with Paul had withstood it for the sake of the clarity of the gospel.
- b. He is mentioned most in the book of 2 Corinthians because Paul had sent him there with a letter, to minister, and then to report back. Paul waited anxiously for Titus to come back with a report because he was concerned and burdened for the church in Corinth.
 - i. Notice the way he is described in 2 Corinthians as it tells us about the man:
 - ii. **2 Corinthians 2:12-13** Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord, ¹³ I had no rest for my spirit, not finding **Titus** my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia.
 - iii. **2 Corinthians 7:6-7** But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of **Titus**; ⁷ and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more.
 - iv. **2 Corinthians 7:13-15** For this reason we have been comforted. And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of **Titus**, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. ¹⁴

For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I was not put to shame; but as we spoke all things to you in truth, so also our boasting before Titus proved to be the truth. ¹⁵ His affection abounds all the more toward you, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling.

- v. **2 Corinthians 8:23** As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brethren, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ.
 - c. The last reference to Titus comes in Paul's last letter, the one to Timothy just before Paul is executed
 - i. **2 Timothy 4:9-10** Make every effort to come to me soon; ¹⁰ for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.
 - ii. He is being sent again on another mission, this time to Dalmatia, a region in modern day Croatia.
 - d. Crete was an island with **churches** in need of **help** (v. 5)
 - i. Those experiences prepared Titus well for this present challenge.
 - ii. He was left by Paul in Crete so that he would "set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city."
 - 1. But he is warned that this won't be an easy task.
 - 2. **Titus 1:10-11** For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach* for the sake of sordid gain.
 - 3. **Titus 1:12-13a** One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³ This testimony is true.
 - iii. Crete is an island about 160 miles long, about the distance from Pocatello to Salt Lake City, ranges from 7-35 miles wide, currently part of Greece.
3. Why should you care about the book of Titus this summer?
- a. Do you want to know what healthy **church leadership** should look like? (chapter 1)
 - i. People get skeptical about leadership, maybe because they have had a bad experience with dominating leaders.
 - b. Do you want to study God's input for your **stage of life**? (chapter 2)
 - i. Younger women, older women, younger men, older men – specific instruction is given to both
 - c. Do you want to know how to interact as a Christian in **society**? (chapter 3)
 - i. How should we respond to those in authority?
 - ii. How should we treat people who don't agree with us and don't believe what we believe?
 - d. Consider reading through Titus 5 times this week.
 - i. I timed it using a Bible app that reads the passage out loud and it took it 6 minutes and 27 seconds to read the whole book of Titus.
 - ii. Circle every reference to the importance of doctrine/teaching/truth and underline every reference to the importance of conduct/behavior/life.



1

1. The author of Titus: Paul, a **bond-servant** and an **apostle** (1:1-3)

Galatians 1:10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

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2. The recipient of Titus: a faithful co-laborer (1:4-5)

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