

A WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

August 13, 2017

Titus - Philimon

(PRAY)

Last week, we walked through 1&2 Timothy.

Two passages that sum up 1 & 2 Timothy...

2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season;
correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and
careful instruction.

KEY VERSES

2 Timothy 1:13-14

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching,
with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good deposit
that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy
Spirit who lives in us.

NOW LET'S GET INTO **TITUS**...

Paul's letter to Titus is the 3rd of the **PASTORAL EPISTLES**.

Titus was a **Greek follower of Jesus** and for years he was a
TRUSTED CO-WORKER & **TRAVELING COMPANION** of Paul.
(To check that out, see Galatians 2:1-3 & 2 Corinthians 8:23)

Paul has left Titus on the island of Crete to pastor and restore
order to a network of House Churches.

The island of Crete was a pretty rough place to live.

Have you ever heard somebody call someone a CRETAN?

That goes all the way back to CRETAN CULTURE.

In fact the Greek word meaning "to be a liar" is *kretizo*
or "to be a Cretan".

Most of the men on the island had served as mercenary soldiers to the highest bidder.

And the cities on the island were known to be unsafe, plagued by violence and sexual corruption.

So needless to say, Titus has his work cut out for him!

Somehow, the churches in Crete have come under the influence of some corrupt leaders.

They said they were Christians but they were actually spreading false doctrine and ruining the churches.

Titus's task is to confront these teachers and get the churches back on the right path and Paul's letter is his instructions for how to do this.

KEY VERSES

Titus 1:1b-2

I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives. ² This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began.

That last part, "God—who does not lie", is really important for 2 reasons: You would think that would be a given... but...

1. To be a Cretan is to be a _____? (liar)
2. One of the problems in the Cretan Church is that they had kind of combined their ideas about the Christian God/Jesus with their ideas about the Greek God's, specifically Zeus. The Cretans actually claim that Zeus was born on their island and they loved to tell stories and mythologies about Zeus's underhanded character and how he would seduce women and lie to get his own way.

Paul wants to be very clear that the God revealed through Jesus is totally different than Zeus.

Jesus' basic character traits are **FAITHFULNESS** & **TRUTH!**

Which means, **FAITHFUL** & **TRUE** are also the character traits that should describe every believer in Jesus.

So needless to say, Titus has his work cut out for him.

One of the first things that Titus is to do is appoint Elders/Pastors in each of the churches.

So Paul lays out a very specific description of what kind of person Titus needs to find to appoint as an Elder/Pastor.

Keep in mind that the titles Elder/Pastor/Overseer/Bishop are all synonymous.

This description still holds true today.

Titus 1:6-9

An elder must live a blameless life.

He must be faithful to his wife, and his children must be believers who don't have a reputation for being wild or rebellious.

⁷ A church leader/Elder/Pastor is a manager of God's household, so he must live a blameless life.

He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered; he must not be a heavy drinker, violent, or dishonest with money.

⁸ Rather, he must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must love what is good.

He must live wisely and be just.

He must live a devout and disciplined life.

⁹ He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught;

then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and

show those who oppose it where they are wrong.

This description is not just how they were to act when they were at church or around other believers. This is who they are!

Work, church, home, play, makes no difference.

In Paul's day, just like today, this type of leader is very **Counter-cultural** which is something that is not easy, but very necessary for leading the church of Jesus.

Then Paul goes on to talk about these corrupt leaders and how they are misleading people, telling them that believing in Jesus is great but you also need to follow the rules of the Torah. (circumcised, etc.)

Titus 1:14

They must stop listening to Jewish myths and the commands of people who have turned away from the truth.

CHAPTER 2

Paul gives instructions for how women and men should live. Older women and men living the example in front of the younger women and men and teaching them to do the same.

Then Paul even gives instructions for how slaves should conduct themselves.

Please understand that this is NOT a justification for slavery.

SLAVERY IS WRONG!

However, it was a hard part of life at that time and if you are in that position, this is how you should act. WHY?

"Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way."

These verses are not about whether slavery is right or wrong. These verses are about using whatever position you are in, great or small, to live out your faith in Jesus so that others would see the way you live and want to come to him too.

CHAPTER 3

Chapter 3 answers the question, **why should we live in this counter-cultural way?**

Paul answers this question by reminding the Cretans of 3 things.

1. Who they were before becoming followers of Jesus
2. What God did to save them
3. Who they are now because of it...

Titus 3:3-8

Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient.

We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other.

⁴ But—When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, ⁵ he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.

⁶ He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.

⁷ Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

⁸ This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good. These teachings are good and beneficial for everyone.

PHILEMON

I want to play an overview video from THE BIBLE PROJECT on Philemon.

Pay close attention because they do such a good job of getting to the heart of what this letter to Philemon is all about.

After you watch the video, I want to concentrate on a couple of things.

(PLAY VIDEO)

Paul's letter to Philemon is such a great picture of

1. **OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST.**

Rich or poor, slave or free, man or woman, high position or low position, no matter who you are, where you've been or what you've done, **AT THE CROSS, WE ALL STAND ON EQUAL GROUND.**

We are all sinners, in need of a savior!
And as believers in Jesus, we are also family.
Brothers and sisters in Christ.

2. **HOW TO BE JESUS TO OTHERS**

By the way we treat those around us with love and respect.
By forgiving and seeking to restore broken relationships
with God and each other.

That doesn't just mean when they come to you and ask for it.
We didn't come to Jesus, He came to us.
By helping others to do the same!

2 Corinthians 5:19-21

For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.