

A Life Filled with Purpose

Titus 1:1-5

In Paul's letter to Titus, he expresses his own sense of purpose and what God called him to do. In addition, he explains to Titus how to live a life of purpose and how to lead a church that lives out its purpose in the world. If we want to live a life of purpose, if we want to fulfill our mission as a church, this is a letter we need to pay attention to.

□ Background of the Epistle

• Author (1)

“Servant of God” – Gentile cultures in the Roman Empire prized autonomy and self-determination, and considered servitude a fate worse than death. Yet, Paul saw no honor in the world greater than bearing the title “bond-servant of God,” and found no greater freedom than slavery to the Almighty.

“Apostle of Jesus Christ” – Paul's authority was not based on his resume, but upon the command of the One who sent him—Jesus Christ himself.

• Recipient (4)

Titus was a Gentile believer, whose name means “honorable.” He apparently came to faith through Paul's ministry (Titus 1:4).

Titus accompanied Paul & Barnabas on their first missionary journey (Galatians 2:1-5) and to the council in Jerusalem (Acts 15:1-35).

Paul sent Titus to minister to churches experiencing difficulties (2 Corinthians 2:12-13; 7:4-9, 13-15; 8:1-6, 16-17, 23; 12:14-18; 2 Timothy 4:9-15).

Paul described Titus as enthusiastic for service (2 Corinthians 8:17), motivated by love (2 Corinthians 7:13), and sensitive to wounded sensibilities (2 Corinthians 12:18). He called Titus a “true child in a common faith” (Titus 1:4), a “brother” (2 Corinthians 2:13), and his “partner and fellow worker” (2 Corinthians 8:23).

• The Church in Crete

The island first heard about Christ from Jewish pilgrims returning from Jerusalem with amazing stories of Pentecost (Acts 2:11).

Paul first encountered the people of Crete while being transported to Rome for his audience before Caesar (Acts 27:1-13).

The church was unorganized (Titus 1:5) and plagued by false teachers (Titus 1:10).

The people of the island were known for their low culture, brutish behavior, and an enthusiasm for everything but work (Titus 1:12).

- **Purpose/Theme (1:5)**

Titus was left in Crete to organize the church. Chapter 1 deals with the qualifications for church leadership, their theology, personal character, and conduct. Chapter 2 focuses on the character and conduct of church members. Chapter 3 examines the character and conduct of both leaders and members before the unbelieving world in which they lived and to which they witnessed.

The dominant theme in Titus is that sound doctrine should result in godly living which results in a more effective witness. If we want to be more intentional in our outreach as a church, we need to pay attention to what Paul says in this letter.

- ☐ **Knowing our salvation is secure, we should strive to share the gospel and help people grow spiritually (1-3).**

- **Paul's life mission was to preach the gospel and bring people to maturity in Christ (1).**

Paul lived in the tension of God's sovereignty and human responsibility. While God elected or chose people for salvation (1), Paul knew he was to preach the gospel so they could respond (3).

Truth is transforming. Greater knowledge should lead to greater godliness. The Scriptures were not given for our information only, but for our transformation.

- **Our salvation is secure because it rests on God's character (2).**

Biblical hope is not doubtful, wishful thinking of what may or may not occur. Biblical hope of eternal life is based on the immutable nature and promise of God, and therefore results in encouragement, confidence, strength, and security for us as believers.

- **God has chosen the method of preaching to bring people to saving faith, to build them up in truth, and to strengthen them for daily living (3).**

Preaching was not Paul's idea, but rather was God's choice. Preaching must center on God's Word, explaining what the Scriptures mean and how to live it out in daily life.

- ☐ **Who are you and what is your purpose?**

What is your identity?

What is your purpose for living?

Where do you place your confidence?

What is your calling? Is there anything that keeps you from fulfilling your purpose?

Who are you investing in? Who is part of your team?