

****READ THE TEXT****

INTRO-

Introductory Illustration

- High up on the list of *urgent needs* in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is **HOLY, QUALIFIED, Servant-minded, COURAGEOUS MEN of Integrity!**
 - ✓ Men who don't flinch in the face of opposition.
 - ✓ Men who don't shy away from the outspoken & divisive with differing opinions.
 - ✓ Men who don't run from needed confrontation/reproof.
 - ✓ Men who CARE about the truth & preservation of the *pure* gospel.
 - ✓ Men who DESIRE the spread of Truth & evangelization of the lost.
 - ✓ Men who LOVE the local church & the purity of Christ's Bride!
- TITUS: a man who comforts believers (2 Cor 7.6), he refreshes the spirit of the saints (2 Cor 7.13), a man of great earnestness & zeal for gospel purity (2 Cor 8.16), a partner & fellow worker for the Truth (2 Cor 8.23), a courageous laborer in the church for God!!
- **we need men to purely live for the gospel**
 - ✓ to perpetuate the gospel [propagate it]
 - ✓ to preach the gospel
 - ✓ to protect the purity of the gospel
 - ✓ to be persecuted FOR the gospel's sake
 - ✓ to praise GOD for the gospel!
 - ✓ to prioritize leadership development in the church [pour into men]
 - ✓ to pure integrity in all dealings of life. **Titus was** That Guy!

Background to Titus 1:4

- ✓ With such a long INTRODUCTION, Paul now gives a word to the RECIPIENT and a GREETING. ANE greco/roman letters (Hellenistic writing style)
 - (1) Sender (Paul); (2) Recipient (To Titus); (3) Greeting (Grace & peace...)
 - Paul spoke of Titus 9x — always favorable and positive! Paul refers to TITUS as the Partner and Fellow Worker among believers. (2 Cor 8:23)

THESIS — In this brief verse Paul explicates *WHO* he's writing to with a brief Christian greeting. We can learn from Titus & *plead w/ God* that he would give us MANLY & GODLY MEN for His glory... we learn from **Titus in 4 ways...**

I. HE WAS A COURAGEOUS MAN! (4a)

- A. “To Titus” -- let me give you a little NT bio of this man of God. A little bio:

- **Tradition** tells us that: Titus was Cretan of a noble & wealthy & royal family. Titus was a relative of Rustulus, the Roman proconsul/governor in Crete.
- Titus was well-educated and spent some time in Jerusalem where, interestingly enough tradition has it, that he became an eye-witness of the crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. [still remained unconverted, however].
- Titus was a **Gentile** and came into contact with Paul & was converted under Paul's ministry. Then, he became a co-worker of Paul's.
- Titus was NOT mentioned by name in Acts -- but we know from Paul's epistles that Titus traveled & labored with Paul (**so--** some suggest that he was a cousin/relative of Luke the author and just so well known)
- Titus was with Paul in Acts 15 at Jerusalem council
- **Amazingly!! >>>** A visible proof of faith alone (Acts 15 - Jerusalem council) - TITUS IS LIVING PROOF THAT CIRCUMCISION IS *NOT* NECESSARY FOR SALVATION (Gal 2.1-3)
 - TITUS is a walking portrait & living representation of justification by faith alone! A gentile - saved by faith alone!
 - Titus represented all the other non-Jewish people who became Christians and were completely accepted by God through their faith in Jesus Christ—like many in the church today (no circumcision needed! Faith alone!)
- At Ephesus: A fellow-worker with Paul (2 Cor 8:23; Acts 19:10 for the years of ministry)
- At Corinth: a Peacemaker in much division & chaos, conflict, schisms, corruption, bad doctrine (2 Cor 7) -- how would **YOU** like to be "that guy" to reprove, confront & call the church to repent -- in CORINTH!
- Paul also commissioned Titus to gather & collect money for the saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor 8:18-22)
- Just before Paul's execution in prison, 2 Timothy tells us that Paul's traveling companions left him -- Demas (loved the present world), Crescens (went to Galatia) and Titus went to Dalmatia. Evidently it was for gospel-work!
- Paul's recommendation of TITUS: He writes, "Titus is my partner and fellow worker concerning you." (2 Cor 8.23) >>
- ❖ *TITUS was NOT a man-pleaser, he had unashamed transparency before God, he invited open scrutiny, he served with spiritual courage, he saturated himself with God's Word & boldly went on God's assignments for Him! WOW!*

B. Steven Davey says that TITUS had become Paul's personal TROUBLESHOOTER. Titus seemed to be the man for Paul that he sent on the "**Toughest Assignments**". He was the 'go-to' guy for important, urgent, critical moments in the early church!

1. he must have been a man of (1) courage, (2) integrity, (3) truth, (4) peace & a peacemaker, and (5) faithfulness/diligence!! As a commentator said: evidently Titus had considerable people skills and was a man of "unquestioned integrity, especially with regard to financial resources".

II. HE WAS A CONVERTED MAN! (4b)

A. γνησίω τέκνω- my true/genuine child. This speaks of Titus' conversion (under Paul's ministry). Paul was his spiritual father.

1. True - the idea of legitimate. It carries three-fold notion
 - a) (1) **intimacy**- spiritual child & closeness/intimacy in relationship (what deep affection Paul the pastor had for Titus; may all ministers have affection like this, intimate love & care & nurturing of those in his care).
 - b) (2) Apostolic **authority** (of Paul) - Titus as his son.
 - c) (3) **Loyalty** and fidelity to the Truth - in it *with Paul*.

- B. See the importance of **conversion & discipleship**. He's not just a convert, but a *genuine disciple -- a follower, a learner, a daily servant of God*. Learned from & followed Paul!
1. O the grace of God converts **Gentile sinners!** O the grace of God saves **Jewish sinners!** O the grace of God **changes your nature!** O the grace of God **gives you a LOVE for the TRUTH!** You're a loyal warrior in the King's army!

III. HE WAS A COMMITTED MAN! (4c)

- A. κοινήν πίστιν- in a common faith --sense of orthodoxy; "Common salvation" (Jude 3). It's what binds Jews and Greeks together.
- B. Notice 2 things: **(1)** Paul was a JEW & TITUS was a Gentile -- and they're in a **common faith** together. The two are now **ONE** in Christ! And also **(2)**, this shows that while Titus was Paul's spiritual son, they were both on equal footing. Paul was the mature saint; Titus was a young disciple. But they're in a *common, sharing, a like-minded faith -- all ground is level at Calvary! Great commonality.*

1.2 Pet 1.1!! - committed to this glorious faith: Christ saves sinners all by grace!
Committed to this! O may God give us 10,000 more committed to this!

IV. HE WAS A COMMISSIONED/COMPETENT MAN! (4d)

- Titus was a leader on Crete appointing elders for the churches. Tradition has it that he played a leadership role in founding/leading 9 churches on Crete. According to the tradition, Titus died 94 years old in about 105 AD
 - **How** do you carry out the task? **You're** weak, inadequate, powerless.
- A. χάρις καὶ εἰρήνη- How will he do this commissioned work? The **power** given him to do the assignment is **grace!** And the peace of God will be *with him* in a culture of deception, idolatry.
1. GRACE (what God has given in Christ and strength to do the impossible) and peace (to preserve him in protective calm when needed). **From where???**
- B. **ἀπὸ** θεοῦ πατρὸς καὶ Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ τοῦ **σωτῆρος** ἡμῶν.- origin, giver, fountain!
1. This grace & peace *all is sourced in/comes from* God & **from** Christ!
- C. He's our **Savior** -- in TITUS, CHRIST is Savior (Titus 1:4; 2:13; 3:6). GOD is savior (Titus 1:3; 2:11; 3:4). CHRIST and GOD together work hand in hand in salvation. CHRIST IS GOD > high Christology. **O what a glorious Savior! Worship, elevate, bow, exalt Him!**
- D. Again, a subtle polemic against the Emperors who proclaimed themselves to be savior. **Not Zeus, not an Emperor, but ONLY CHRIST** is Savior:
1. the INCARNATION of this Savior (2:11)
 2. the RETURN of this Savior (2:13)
 3. the SUBSTITUTION of this Savior (2:14a)
 4. the SANCTIFICATION from this Savior (2:14b)
 5. the PREACHING about this Savior (2:15)

6. the BLESSINGS from this Savior (3:5-6)
7. the JUSTIFYING-GRACE of this Savior (3:7)
8. the PRIORITIZATION of this Savior (3:9)
9. the BEAUTY of this Savior (3:10b)
10. the DEITY of this Savior (1:3-4)

The words and instructions in this letter show Paul's HIGH regard for Titus:

1. Missionary zeal
 2. Organizational/peaceful abilities
 3. biblical leadership
 4. gospel fidelity [integrity/above-reproach]
- **So**, in a day when many Christian organizations have been marred by financial *irresponsibility*, lack of *integrity*, *division* over nonessential issues, and the ever-present threat of false doctrine, The integrity & fidelity of **TITUS** serves as a challenging example of a ***man of CHARACTER*** who was consistently available to do God's Work (in God's way and before Gods' watchful eye, with God's help!).

CONCL-

Concluding Illustration

- Like the testimony of Robert Chapman, 19th c. pastor of the small church called: "Ebenezer Chapel". He said: "The Servant of the LORD JESUS must see that he is to be continually ministering to others, he must be receiving fresh supplies from the God of all grace thru all channels ... seeking in every way to magnify Christ and abase the creature!" Titus fit that description. May God raise up 10,000 godly & holy men who fit that description. ***Do you?***