

Titus-by Tommy Lee

Chapter 1

Paul tells us right off the bat that one purpose of his being *"a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ"* is to further both *"faith"* and a *"knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness"* among God's people. These are two essential and appropriate responses to hearing the gospel proclaimed! Let's pray that we might respond appropriately to the Word of God we find in Titus. In **vs.2-4** we are reminded that the Christian faith is wrapped up in a glorious future (and utterly trustworthy) promise as well as the present reality, all of which is rooted in God's declared intentions from eternity past... *and all of which is now manifested in the preaching about Jesus Christ.* In **vs.5-9** we find the necessary qualifications required of a man before he may be appointed to church office: moral blamelessness, godly home life, and a Bible-loving grasp of true and sound doctrine. In **vs.10-16**, we are taught how to deal with false teachers, known by their empty and deceptive talk, ruinous results, and financial motive.

Chapter 2

In v.1, Paul again uses the phrase *"sound [or healthy] doctrine"* (see 1.9,13; 2.1,2,8), which is to be contrasted with the "diseased" doctrine of the false teachers. Then he moves on to provide some very practical examples of teaching that is sound and healthy: giving particular instructions to older men, older women, younger women, and younger men. We would all be very wise to reflect long and hard today on the verses devoted to our particular group. Afterwards there are particular instructions for Pastor Titus himself and for bondservants, which can be wonderfully applied to all employees. In v.10 we find that when Christians are faithful at work, they *"adorn the doctrine of God our Savior."* The word *"adorn"* is used to refer to the setting of jewelry—that the jewel might be displayed in the most attractive way possible. Notice how vs.11-14 ground all this moral instruction in *"the grace of God,"* drawing our attention to the incarnation, the atonement, and the glorious second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter 3

In vs.1&2 Paul continues to describe the kind of behavior that commends the gospel, this time pointing to the Christian's relationship to rulers and authorities. And notice that Paul uses the word *"remind"*—which tells us that these particular instructions are things that we Christians can sometimes forget in our social relations out in the world. In vs.4-8 Paul again roots all that he is saying in the stunning doctrines of the Christian faith. Which reminds me of this quote from Dorothy Sayers: *"The Christian faith is the most exciting drama that ever staggered the imagination of man.... this terrifying drama of which God is the victim and the hero. If this is dull, then what, in Heaven's name, is worthy to be called exciting? The people who hanged Christ never, to do them justice, accused Him of being a bore – on the contrary; they thought Him too dynamic to be safe. It has been left for later generations to muffle up that shattering personality and surround Him with an atmosphere of tedium. We have very efficiently pared the claws of the Lion of Judah, certifying Him 'meek and mild', and recommended Him as a fitting household pet for pale curates and pious old ladies."*

-Reflecting on Titus-

Before moving on to our next book of the Bible, take some time today to reflect on what we've read in Titus. Perhaps re-visit a favorite chapter or an especially meaningful passage. Or read

the beginning chapter(s) again, now that you've read the whole. Or go back to a part of the book that struck you as curious and see if it makes more sense now. Or speed-read the whole thing again, seeking to reinforce its main themes. Or... perhaps you need a catch-up day to finish Titus before we move forward?

"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55.11