

Sunday, June 13, 2010—Titus: The Practice of Grace—Titus 1:1: Paul’s Unique Apostleship

Introduction

- Last week in our introduction we saw that the letter to Timothy and Titus form a three part handbook for how the local church is supposed to be organized and function.
- These three “Pastoral” epistles are really a trinity in unity, exhorting us to “guard” the precious “deposit” of the body of truth committed to the Apostle Paul.
- I Timothy—The local “Church” and its “Minister”
 - Charge: we are to protect it
- II Timothy—The True Minister and His Reactions
 - Challenge: we are to proclaim
- Titus—The Local Church—Its Leaders and Members
 - Caution— we are to practice it—a strong and urgent reminder that sound faith must be accompanied by good works.
- We presented the following outline for Titus:
 - Chapter One: the church is to be an orderly organization (Titus 1:5)
 - Saved by Grace
 - Chapter Two: the church is to teach and preach the word of God (Titus 2:1)
 - Live by Grace
 - Chapter Three: the church is supposed to produce good works (Titus 3:1)
 - Grace motivates believers to produce good works

Titus 1:1

- ***“Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ,”***
- This is the only time Paul uses the expression “servant of God” at the beginning of one of his letters. Most of the time he uses the expression “servant of Christ.”
- According to *Strong’s Concordance* the Greek word translated “servant” means:
 - a slave, bondman, man of servile condition
 - metaph., one who gives himself up to another's will those whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing his cause among men
 - devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests
- Revelation 6:15—Paul is the Lord’s bondman or servant because he given an apostleship by revelation of Christ himself.
- Galatians 1:1—Paul was given his apostleship by the resurrected and ascended Christ from heaven’s glory.
- Here is where the majority of professing Christendom makes a tremendous blunder in Bible study. They fail to recognize Christ has spoken again from heaven’s glory to and through the Apostle Paul.

- Matthew 10:5-6—during in his earthly ministry Jesus Christ commissioned his 12 apostles and told them there were not to go to the gentiles.
- Matthew 15:24—Jesus himself was to Israel
 - John 1:11—“he came unto his own”
 - Matthew 1:21—“shall save his people from their sins”
- Luke 24:27—in carrying out the so-called Great Commission Peter and boys were told to start in Jerusalem.
 - Acts 1:8—there is a progression they were supposed to be following
- Acts 5:31
- Romans 11:13—Paul was given the office of the Apostle of the gentiles. Paul is commissioned and sent to very people whom the 12 were not sent to.
- Galatians 1:11-17
- ***“according to the faith of God's elect”***
- Notice that Paul’s servant relationship to God and his apostleship were given to him by Christ were “according to” or in line with “the faith of God’s elect.”
- Election in the Bible is not talking about chosen in advance for salvation against your will. Rather it is discussing be chosen to a position of service.
- Isaiah 42:1—who is God’s elect in this verse?
- Ephesians 1:4—we are not elect or chosen for anything until we are in Christ. There is no election apart from being Christ.
- Romans 9:12—one is chose to serve the other. This verse is not even speaking about salvation.
- Galatians 1:15—Paul was chosen to be the servant of God just like Titus 1:1 plainly states.
- ***“and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness”***
- The word “acknowledge” means recognition. In this case it is the recognition of the truth, which is after godliness.
- When Paul uses the word “truth” he is referring to the body of truth revealed through the revelation of the mystery for the current dispensation of grace.
 - I Timothy 2:4, 7, 3:15, 4:3, 6:5
 - II Timothy 2:15, 18, 25, 3:7-8, 4:4

- Titus 1:14
- The Greek word translated godliness in this verse does not occur in Paul's writings until we come to the Pastoral Epistles, and there it occurs 11 times.
 - I Timothy 2:2, 3:16, 4:7-8, 6:3, 5-6, 11
 - II Timothy 3:5
- This should not be a surprise since one of the main jobs of Timothy and Titus as leaders of a local church is going to be to stem the tide of Apostasy.
- Titus 2:11-12— it is Paul's message alone for the dispensation of Grace that can produce godliness in the lives of believers.