

Ministry of The Holy Spirit Titus 1

Last time...concluding the Epistle to the Philippians, we, having been instructed to be content, must learn contentment, by experience

This time...another epistle recorded by Paul, the Epistle to Titus

Inspired and written after Nero released the Apostle Paul from prison
In *Ante-Nicean Fathers*, the writings of the disciples of the Apostles,
Theodore of Mopsuestia wrote plainly of Paul's two visits to Rome during the
reign of Nero
Paul's 1st visit ended when he was set free by the judgment of Nero and ordered to
depart in safety.

Where did Paul go?

He wrote to the church at Rome of his desire to go to Spain
Romans 15:24, 28 When I take my journey to Spain...I will come by you into
Spain

Clement of Rome (Phil 4:3) who studied under the Apostle Peter and was an eyewitness
of the Apostles John and Paul wrote:
"Paul was a teacher of righteousness unto the whole world and before his death,
reached the furthest boundaries of the West and bore testimony before the
ruling powers."

Faithful to his calling as the Apostle to the Gentiles

As stated previously, the chronology of Acts thru Revelation is imprecise, but it seems
that Paul wrote this letter to Titus between his two imprisonments in Rome

Note: The subscriptions after the Pauline epistles are thought to have been the
work of Ethalius, the bishop of Sulca in Egypt, in the 5th Century
They are often incorrect therefore they are not inspired by God
subscription after Titus

- there was no Nicopolis in Macedonia but in Epirus
- "the first bishop of" betrays this to be post-apostolic
i.e. not recorded by Paul

Internal evidence to consider: Tychicus is still with Paul
Mentioned by name in Eph 6 and Col 4
(epistles recorded during 1st imprisonment in Rome)
Mentioned again in Titus 3:12
(Since not there yet, the subscription is in error)

This is the 12th of Paul's 14 epistles; 2 epistles of Paul remain after Titus:

- Hebrews
- 2 Tim

Titus

- a Gentile (Gal 2:3)
- a trustworthy and beloved friend, travel companion, and helper of Paul's (mentioned 9x in 2 Cor and 2x in Gal)
- Paul's messenger to the church at Corinth (2 Cor)
- left in Crete to bring order to the church there

[map]

Acts 27:6-9 And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein. And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone; And, hardly passing it, came unto a place which is called The fair havens; nigh whereunto was the city *of* Lasea. Now when much time was spent,

What did Paul do with his time?!

- later, will be in Rome with Paul during 2nd imprisonment (2 Tim 4:10)

The Epistle to Titus

- a pastoral letter like 1 Tim and 2 Tim
- Theme: Order
 - sound doctrine
 - consistent and genuine Christ-like living (faith in action)

v1-3 In his greeting to Titus, Paul says real mouthful!

1. a servant of God
2. an apostle of Jesus Christ

According to

- the faith of God's elect (how we must approach God)

Gen 15:6

Heb 11:6

Matt 16:16

Acts 26:18

receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me.

Phil 3:9

be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Eph 2:8-9

faith in Jesus' merit and performance, a gift received, NOT self-righteousness

- acknowledging of the Truth (how we must approach God)
 - 1 Tim 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth (John 14:6).
 - 2 Tim:2-24-26 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

- in hope/confident expectation/certainty of eternal life (our reward)
 - John 3:36 He that believeth on (trusts, leans on) the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.
 - John 5:24 **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.**

- promised
 - by God who cannot lie
 - 1 John 2:25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life.
 - Heb 6:17-19 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable (unchangeable) things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast,
 - Joshua 21:45 There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.

1 Kings 8:56 Blessed *be* the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.
Is 42:1-4 (nor can He fail or be discouraged)

▪ before the world began

2 Tim 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began

○ manifested in the fulness of time

▪ His Word

John 1:1, 14

Heb 1:1-3

1 Tim 2:5-6 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

▪ through preaching

Rom 10:9-15

The “11 + 1” were sent,
Matt 28:18-20

▪ committed (entrusted) to him

According to the commandment of God our Savior

Jesus Christ is God

v4

Phil 3:20

2 Tim 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

v4 Titus, like Timothy, is Paul’s son in the shared faith of Jesus Christ

Grace, mercy, and peace...mercy/compassion, only to his 2 sons in the faith
Pastors have a great need for God’s mercy!

v5-6 The 1st order of business, and the very reason Paul left Titus in Crete, was to bring order to the church in the midst of a very disorderly and unruly environment
In the absence of order there is confusion, which attacks the precious unity of the Church
1 Cor 14:33 For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. (peace and confusion are contrary)
1 Cor 14:40

Establish order (peace) by ordaining orderly senior men in all the cities to minister to the spiritual needs of the people
Echoing his instruction to Timothy in 1 Tim 3

The candidates for elders/seniors, who
been around the block more than a few times, having the wisdom that comes only by experience

1 Tim 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

1 Tim 5:22a Lay hands suddenly on no man
are to be

- blameless
 - not accused of any wrong-doing
 - above reproach
 - (not perfect)
- the husband of one wife
 - a faithful, dedicated, loving, Godly husband
 - orderly, head of the household as God designed it
 - 1 Cor 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman *is* the man; and the head of Christ *is* God.
 - 1 Tim 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.
 - 1 Cor 14:34-35 ask husbands at home as he Eph 5:26
- having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly
 - a faithful, dedicated, loving, nurturing, Godly father running an orderly home (Eph 6:4, Col 3:22)
 - orderly kids not accused of riot/excess or being unruly/rebellious

1 Peter 5:1-3

v7-9 To qualify for the ministry of a bishop/overseer

(a ministry given by the Lord, not a title to be coveted),
the man must be

- blameless
- a steward of God...faithful house manager like Joseph, 1 Cor 4:2
- not self-willed...arrogant, “my way or the highway”, “smartest guy in the room” just ask him
- not soon angry...irascible, irritable, easily provoked, a “loose cannon” “flying off the handle” but measured and calm
- not given (to excess) to wine...a drunk, a wino
- not a striker...abuser, quarrelsome, contentious
- not given to filthy lucre...money-hungry, money-motivated, greedy
- a lover of hospitality...loves to have the church in his house
- a lover of good men...loves the church, loves the people, a people-person (NOT to be twisted into “homosexual”)
- sober...clear-minded, self-controlled
- holy...set apart from the world and unto the Living God
- temperate...self-controlled (again so must be important!)
- holding fast the faithful word...clinging to, adhering to, submitting to the Word of God
- able/capable, with sound doctrine (by rightly dividing the Word of Truth), of exhorting and rebuking gainsayers who deny or dispute the Word and ways of God

Able/capable of doing spiritual battle with

- money-hungry false teachers
 - false gospels
 - ear-ticklers appealing to the flesh vs the Spirit
 - feel-good preachers
- unending winds of false doctrines that blow thru the church that toss the spiritually immature to and fro by the sleight of man and cunning craftiness

Current day gainsaying: women pastors/elders

The Word of God, the God of order, speaks plainly against that

“Well, I don’t believe that.”

So do you believe the Word of God or the commandments of men?

Your not believing what God has said does not change either what God said or your accountability to obey it.

“It is wrong, that was for then, but not for today in 2024!”

How can the Word of God that was from before the foundation of the world and will outlast this world not apply to every point in time between, including 2024?

“Well, that is just your opinion and your interpretation.”

Actually it isn't either. Scripture interprets Scripture, man does not. And all the opinions of man are burned in God's fire, either refining or consuming.

We are given a choice: to believe the testimony (Word) of God or to not believe it. And we believe it all or we don't believe any of it, we are not given to pick-and-choose what is true.

YOUR opinion and YOUR interpretation and your decision to not believe the testimony of God make you the judge of the Word of God rather than the Word of God being your judge. I pray you reconsider that!

- v10-11 An overseer must be able to v9 because there are MANY such people in the Church!
Many unruly and disorderly, as worldliness invades the Church
Many vain talkers, “empty suits” speaking nonsense
Many deceivers/seducers, instruments of the adversary attacking the unity in the Body
Paul highlights one that followed him everywhere, the Judaizers with a
“Jesus Plus gospel”

All of them are in dire need of something for the spiritual and relational health of the Church – to have their mouths stopped!

These mercenaries must not be allowed to continue to spew their subversive poison that destroys entire families!

2 Peter 2:1-3

1 Tim 4:1-2 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

They are to be gagged and rebuked

Motive and purpose: correction and instruction in righteousness

With repentance, PTL!

Without repentance, the Lord will shut their mouths

Ps 63:11b the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

And don't think God cannot or will not!

2 Peter 2:13-19

v12-13a One of themselves...sounds like it is directed at the Judaizers that plagued Paul
says the Cretians are always

- liars...untruthful and deceitful
- evil beasts...dangerous and riotous
- slow bellies...unemployed, lazy gluttons

And it's true!

Roman and Greek historians agreed: Cretans had this reputation

They were vulgar, insensitive clods

They were stupid, self-indulgent, and sexually promiscuous

Untruthful and deceitful

Dangerous and riotous

Vulgar, insensitive clods

Stupid, self-indulgent, and sexually promiscuous

Now we know!

The Paris Olympics Opening Ceremony was conducted by a bunch of Cretans!

- sin has dominion over them, they are servants of sin
- they obey sin unto death
- they have the look of...death

Stooges for the spiritual wickedness (demonic power) in high places

Western Civilization, the foundation of which was the Bible, is crumbling
(just wait for the closing ceremonies!)

And this nation has Cretans running all over the place, including in the halls of
Government, in these days of

- Days of Noah
 - lawlessness with no fear of retribution or consequences from
“defunded” and Woke-run law enforcement agencies
 - violent vandals hellbent on destruction
 - professional protesters and rioters
- Days of Lot
 - attackers of the image of God celebrating LGBTQ+/Drag
proudly in broad daylight
 - “Chickens for KFC”
 - “Is 5:20”-ers
- days of deception (self-deception being the strongest form)
 - lying about everything they say, believing their own lies
 - agents of spiritual disease

And, just as a destroying spiritual disease has invaded Western Civilization,
spiritual disease has also infiltrated the Church
(false teachers not teaching sound doctrine)

v13b-14 Therefore, rebuke them, not mildly but sharply/abruptly, assertively in way that leaves no opportunity for denial or refusal
For their spiritual good, so they will also stand on the Word of Truth and not on man's words/opinions/interpretations

Mark 7:6-8, 13

v15 Establish order to confront confusion and make peace/unity

To the pure (cleansed by the blood of the Lamb), all things are pure
Matt 5:8 **Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God.**

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Rom 14:20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed *are* pure

To the defiled and unbelieving (by sin), nothing is pure, everything is defiled/corrupt including their minds (way of thinking, worldview) and conscience (moral code)

v16 They say they know God, but they do not

James 1:22-25

Their "said" faith has no fruit, so it is artificial

They may know about Jesus but they do not know (relationship) Jesus

Matt 7:21-27

They, in God's eyes, are

- abominable...detestable
- disobedient
- reprobate...unapproved, disapproved

For the blessing of God's order and peace in the church, these disorderly must be rebuked sharply, and then either corrected or shown the front door.

The Church is to be like Christ, not like society

"Cretans" run the world but they are to have no place in the Church