

Evenings: Titus

Titus 1:1-4

The beginnings of God's global franchise...

- *A successful mission trip*
- *A trusted Christian leader*
- *A culture where the gospel will really make a difference*

...guided by authorised first principles:

The Man:

Servant of God

Apostle of Jesus Christ

The Ministry:

For faith

And knowledge of the truth

...which accords with godliness

...in the hope of eternal life

The Method:

Paul's preaching of God's true Word

Taking the truth deeper:

How do these principles compare with life in your church or workplace group?

How do you think these principles should shape what you are looking for in church? What one thing do you want to change in your approach?

Titus 1:5-16

What would you do if you were Titus?

Appoint Godly leaders (v.5-9)

- Godly home life (v.6-7a)
- Godly character (v.7b-8)
- Holds firm to the trustworthy word (v.9)

...giving instruction in sound doctrine

...and rebuking those who contradict it

Because there are ungodly leaders

- Destroying homes (v.11)
- Ungodly characters (v.12)
- Turning away from the truth (v.13-14)

Taking the truth deeper:

How does this shape your expectations and priorities for Christian leaders?

How are Paul's priorities different from those we often see?

How can you play a part in seeing this stage of God's global strategy achieved? (think about your prayers, your gifts, your support...)

Titus 2:1-10

Now that Titus has appointed Godly leaders, what's next?

Compelling Christians vs Hypocritical Christians

Teach the transforming power of purification

"...give instruction in sound doctrine..." 1:9

Teach the transformed life of the Christian

"...teach what accords with sound doctrine..." 2:1

Older men

Older women

Younger women

Younger men

Titus and the church leader

Slaves

See the transformed witness to the world

Verses 5,8,10 "so that...."

Compelling Christians vs Hypocritical Christians

Taking the truth deeper:

What area of your life do you want to think more about in light of this teaching? How does what God has done for you help you to change?

How can you live out this godly life in the world around you? Are there ways you could be distinctively godly?

Titus 2:11-14

Godliness – How do you get it?

The Grace of God trains us in godliness:

The Grace of God appeared (v.11)

It trains us in godliness while we wait (v.12)

The Glory of Jesus will appear (v.13)

Because... The Grace of God has transformed us for godliness (v.14)

Redeemed so we renounce ungodliness (v.14a)

Purified so we pursue good works (v.14b)

So... Teach grace because grace teaches (v.15)

Taking the truth deeper:

How can you rethink who you are, your past, your present and your future to help grace be a bigger part of your thinking?

What aspect of your self-control do you want to bring grace to bear on?

How do you think grace can be more a part of your/our life?

Titus 3:1-8

Grace changes everything...

Be Gracious towards the world (v.1-2)

Because you were once like them (v.3)

But the grace of God appeared (v.4-7)

The transforming pattern of Grace

The transforming power of Grace

...So, Titus, teach these things (v.8)

Taking the truth deeper:
Choose one or two of the instructions and think through how they challenge your behaviour and relationships in your workplace.
How does the loving kindness of God to you change the way you act?
How does it help to know that you've been washed and renewed by the Holy Spirit as you step into your place of work?

Titus – the big picture

What about when the church is in a mess? What then? Different strategy?

Teach God's trustworthy revelation about Christ's gracious salvation:

An alternative method:

Teach speculation and myth (1:10-16 and 3:9)

...About external purity

God's method:

Teach God's trustworthy revelation (1:1-3;1:9;2:1;2:15;3:8)

...About Christ's gracious salvation (2:11-14;3:4-7)

Teach godliness that grows from grace:

Taking the truth deeper:

What's going to be your part in helping the Christian ministries (church, workplace, lunchtime...) you're part of to be ministries that always teach God's Word? And always teaches grace?

What's the one area of self-control and good works that you want to grow in by the grace of God?