

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD
**IN HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE, WHICH GOD, THAT CANNOT LIE,
PROMISED BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.
SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021
SCRIPTURE READING: **TITUS 1:1-5**

Titus 1:2, In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please refer to the September 9, 2021 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Titus, like Timothy, was one of Paul's converts and one of his preacher boys.
- b. Titus was given the specific duty of strengthening a previously established local church on the Isle of Crete.
- c. When we think about Crete, we think of an island southeast of Greece about 150 miles long and 35 miles wide.
- d. It was considered the largest of the Mediterranean Islands.
- e. It consists of over 100 cities of mountains but had a very fertile valley.
- f. The Cretians were relatives of the Philistines.
- g. They had a reputation of being liars, evil beasts and slow bellies (lazy gluttons.) **Titus 1:12, One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.**
- h. The origin of the church there is unknown, however; we do know that on the Day of Pentecost there were Cretians present. **Acts 2:11, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.**
- i. It is believed that Titus accompanied Paul during his third missionary journey.
- j. We find the Apostle Paul presenting himself in a four-fold manner.
 1. In regard to the Father, he was a bond slave. **Titus 1:1, Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;**
 2. With regard to the Son, he was an apostle. **2 Timothy 1:1, Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,**
 3. In regard to the Word of God, he was a preacher. **Titus 1:3, But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;**
 - a. God ordained one method of communicating His Word and it is through preaching. **2 Timothy 4:2, Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**
 - b. The Lord said by the foolishness of preaching, people are saved. **1 Corinthians 1:21, For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.**
 4. In regard to Titus, Paul would be considered a spiritual parent. **Titus 1:4, To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.**
- k. We know that Titus was a Greek.
- l. In the first chapter, Paul greets Titus and then charges him to appoint qualified leaders for the

- churches of Crete.
- m. Paul also instructs Titus to rebuke false teachers or fake teachers if you will. **2 Peter 2:1, But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.**
 - n. He gets to the point of false teachers in **verse 15**, where we take our text this evening. **Unto the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.**
 - o. They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable. **Titus 1:16, They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.**
 - p. With that Introduction let's see what we can glean from God's Holy and precious Word today.

3. FIVE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- a. **Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ.**
 1. **Titus 1:1, Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;**
 2. Paul presents himself first as a servant of God.
 3. When we peruse the Old Testament, we find that this word actually means a bond-slave.
 4. In the Old Testament a bond-slave was one who chose to remain a slave of his master for life although he could have had freedom.
 5. I firmly believe that once God calls a man into the ministry, he is there for life, until breath leaves his body. **Psalms 92:14, They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;**
 6. We also notice Paul presents himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ.
 7. The reason why he defends his apostleship is because he is about to give instructions to the local church.
 8. These instructions come from an apostle; Jesus has already indicated to us that we must continue steadfast in the apostle's doctrine. **Acts 2:42, And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.** We must keep in mind that Paul was God's spokesman to the church.
 9. The Lord Jesus Christ gave this doctrine to the apostles and they in turn passed it on to us. **Galatians 1:11-12, But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12: For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.**
 10. **The Epistle to Titus** is a communication from Jesus through Paul to us written to Titus as well.
 11. The Word of God then says, **"according to the faith of God's elect,"**
 12. We know that elect normally speaks of the Nation Israel.
 13. Here it is used in a larger sense, to include saved people.
 14. The way a person gets saved is what they do with the Lord Jesus Christ. **John 1:12, But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:**
 15. We must believe the record that God hath given of His Son. **1 John 5:11-12, And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath life; hath the Son and he that hath not the Son, hath not the life.**
 16. Our key to Heaven is what we think and what we do with Christ.
 17. **"the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;"** – The Bible says we will know the truth and the truth will make us free. **John 8:32, And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**
 18. We must realize the salvation plan has not changed. **James 2:23, And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness; and he was called the Friend of God. Romans 4:3, For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Romans 3:22, Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:**
 19. Paul dwells on the theme that when the Gospel is believed it will lead to Godliness.
 20. I firmly believe the Word of God will straighten out every kind of lifestyle regardless of how wicked the person has been. **James 1:21, Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.**

21. If the Word of God does not speak to our hearts, then the word of man will do no good. When we reject the truth God will send us a strong delusion. **2 Thessalonians 2:11, And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:**
22. We can use the doctrine of the grace of God as an excuse to sin; but I will tell you the guard should be love for our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Galatians 5:13, For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.**
23. In the final analysis, salvation by grace should lead one to a Godly life.

b. In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie promised before the world began;

1. **Titus 1:2, In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;**
2. Salvation was in the mind of God before the world began. **1 Peter 1:20, Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,**
3. He did not wait until man sinned in order to develop a salvation plan; it has always been there.
4. Notice it says, "**In hope of eternal life,**"
5. Eternal life means life forever. **Hebrews 5:9, And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;**
6. In Titus, Paul speaks of grace in three time zones.
 - a. **Titus 2:11, For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,** – This is past.
 - b. **Titus 2:12, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;** – This is present.
 - c. **Titus 2:13, Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;** – This is future.
7. The Bible gives us confirmation that God cannot lie; this is a hope and a promise that He has made to us. **Titus 1:2, In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;**
8. There is no question that the Word of God is here, and the salvation plan has been established.
9. We say we believe something but many times we really don't act on our belief. We must remember the devil also believes and trembles. **James 2:19, Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. James 2:18, Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.**
10. Paul tells us up front that the promises that God made before the foundation of the world are the promises that we need to pay attention to. **2 Peter 1:19, We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:**
11. The Bible says in **2 Peter 1:4, Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**
12. Men and woman must understand it is a nature problem that God has to deal with; He is just and will never deceive, He is the only one in whom we can depend on. He is the only One we can depend on to provide salvation of the soul. **1 John 3:9, Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**

c. But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching.

1. **Titus 1:3, But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;**
2. In due time means according to God's own season.
3. If we will notice; everything in the universe appears to be very orderly.
4. We find God's program for the universe has perfect order. **1 Corinthians 14:33, For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.**
5. We have seasons of the year; the flowers know when to bloom, the trees know when to put forth their fruit. It is only man that does not know the day of salvation. **2 Corinthians 6:2, (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)**
6. "**in due times manifested his word through preaching,**" – The Word of God comes through preaching.

7. This is the reason why at Chesswood Baptist church, regardless of what our program happens to be; there must always be time for the preaching of the Word of God.
8. It is by preaching that people are saved.

d. **Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

1. **Titus 1:4, To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.**
2. Paul is acknowledging the fact that Titus is a genuine son as Timothy had also been.
3. Paul led Titus to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. **"after the common faith:"** – This is the faith that is shared by all. **Jude 1:3, Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**
5. It is a faith that all believers must have; a saving faith, the living faith and is no different for Jew or Gentile. **Romans 10:12, For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.**
6. **"Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour."**
7. The Bible tells us that the grace of God has appeared to all men. **Titus 2:11, For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,**
8. God extends His mercy to us.
9. Without the grace of God and His mercy no one would ever be saved. Concerning Israel, the Lord says, **Romans 10:21, But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.**
10. We are thankful that God has put forth a simple plan; grace, mercy and peace.
11. Notice the order in which He gives us: grace, mercy and then God will give His peace. **Romans 5:1, Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:** This peace with God speaks of a relationship with Christ that can never be broken. **Psalm 51:12, Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.**
12. The Bible tells us when God gives us peace it is beyond all understanding. **Philippians 4:7, And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Colossians 3:15, And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.** Peace of God speaks of fellowship with Jesus Christ that can be broken by sin. **Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6: In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**
13. All are from God; we must respect the divine order.

e. **For this cause left I in Crete.**

1. **Titus 1:5, For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:**
2. Paul lays out a mission for Titus and he is responsible for organizing this local church.
3. Specifically, he was working on the Isle of Crete.
4. Crete evidently was a pretty bad place filled with idol worshippers.
5. It is amazing that in this day and time we have people who consider themselves good but the Bible says in the sight of God none of us are good and all of our righteousness are filthy rags before Him. **Isaiah 64:6, But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. Proverbs 16:2, All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.**
6. This young man had a job of organizing a group of people; first of all sharing the Gospel message, getting them saved, and then putting them into the work of the local church.
7. **"set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city,"**
8. God is putting people in every local church that can do the job of accomplishing His will. **Acts 2:47, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**
9. It important for us to do the job to excellence that God has called us to do. **Ecclesiastes 9:10, Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor**

- knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.**
10. The church at Crete had elders who had never been ordained and set aside; they were men who had supervision of the church and were exercising that gift without authority.
 11. Titus is to set forth and ordain elders and appoint them to do whatever needs to be done.
 12. God has requirements for His local church.
 13. We must be very careful to not set aside people whom God has indeed called. **1 Corinthians 1:26-31, For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28: And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29: That no flesh should glory in his presence. 30: But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.**
 14. We must realize and refocus on the fact that God does not regulate the lives of unbelievers, He holds unbelievers to the message of the cross.
 15. When Saul, who persecuted the church, was called, there was no focus on his past life; He immediately went to work for God. **Philippians 3:13, Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,**
 16. We must not judge nor allow ourselves to enter into the process which God is solely in charge of.
 17. We cannot afford to be legalistic in any way, shape or form.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Friend, do you know Jesus as your personal Saviour?
- b. If you do not know Him today, you need to come to Him.
- c. The Bible says in **John 6:37, All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**
- d. **Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**
- e. **Romans 3:10, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:**
- f. **Romans 10:9-10, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
- g. Would you come to Jesus today and be saved?
- h. Please stand.

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