



*'Commit to the Bride!' Sermon Series*

**Sermon #1:**

***'Committed to Serving!'***

***Titus 1:1-4***

Sunday, January 14th, 2024

**Sermon in a Sentence:**

*Even from the greeting that the apostle Paul gives Titus we can learn to be committed to serving in the local Church when we Recognize our Servant Status, Realize our Sacred Role, and Respond to Special Friends.*

**Intro:**

- This morning we are beginning a brand new sermon series on the NT book of Titus.
  - ***Over the next 7 weeks we will look at 7 different areas that we need to be committed to the Local Bride, the Church.***

- Before we begin our verse-by-verse study in just a moment, let's look at several important factors concerning the book of Titus:
  - **Authorship:**
    - As the first verse in this letter states, this is a letter from Paul to Titus.
    - Titus was his coworker in the ministry.
  - **Date:**
    - It is believed that this letter was written in the mid 60s A.D., possibly along the lines of the same time that 1st Timothy was written due to the similarity between the two letters.
      - ***Dr. Daniel Aiken believes that Titus was written between 65-64 A.D.***
  - **Theme:**
    - The theme we find in Titus is ***Practicing what we believe about the Bible.***
      - ***This book provides great practicality for the NT Church and how we should practice the Gospel in our daily lives, specially related to the local Church.***
    - I tend to view Titus as a blueprint for how the NT Church can be healthy and remain healthy from a biblical perspective.

○ Purpose:

- The apostle Paul had recently returned from an island called ‘Crete’ which resulted in the planting of several new Churches.
  - *According to Acts 2:11, it is believed that there were some jews who were present at the Jerusalem council. There were also Gentiles on the island of Crete. We know that they had the Gospel there, but there were still issues there as well.*
- ***In order for these new Church plants to grow, thrive, and become healthy Paul left Titus in Crete to oversee and help stabilize these Churches.***
  - *False teachers must have been a big threat to the NT Church at this time, due to how much Paul warns Titus of false teachers in this letter.*
- *Since false teachers were a threat to the NT Churches, Paul shows Titus a portrait/blueprint of what healthy Churches are and look like.*
  - ***In my opinion, Titus shows us how we can be more***

***COMMITTED to the local Church as Church members.***

○ 7 Areas we can be more Committed to the Bride:

- Committed to *Serving. (Titus 1:1-4)*
  - Committed to *Proper Qualifications of Elders. (Titus 1:5-9)*
  - Committed to *Confrontation. (Titus 1:10-16)*
  - Committed to *Biblical Gender Roles in the Church. (Titus 2:1-10)*
  - Committed to *the Gospel. (Titus 2:11-15)*
  - Committed to *Spirit Led Living. (Titus 3:1-8)*
  - Committed to *Church Discipline. (Titus 3:9-15)*
- *Now that we quickly and briefly overviewed this letter, let's dive into the text as we look at how we can be Committed to Serving in the Local Church!*  
***\*Read Titus 1:1-4\****

**Question to Ask:**

*How does the apostle Paul show us in his greeting to Titus that we should be Committed to Serving in the local Church?*

**Point 1: *Recognizes his Servant Status. (V. 1)***

- ‘Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their

knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,'  
Titus 1:1

- ***Before Paul accepted Christ, he was known as a Saul.***
  - But Acts 13:9 shows us that his name was changed to Paul.
- ***Paul in the Greek literally means **Small, Little, or humble in the context of the Greek/Roman world.*****
  - Paul is believed to have been older at the time that he wrote this letter to Titus.
  - It is also believed that Paul's sight was failing him due to other letters indicating that someone else physically put pen to paper. But *theologically*, he was sharp and realized who he was.
- ***It's important to note that this opening/introduction is different from that of other Pauline epistles.***
  - In usual Pauline style, he opens up with his name, usually includes the addressee, and then an opening prayer and blessing before getting into the meat of his message.
  - ***There are **46** greek words between Paul and the word 'Titus'.***
    - ***The only other Pauline writing that has more greek words between Paul's name and the***

***Recipients name is Romans with 71 Greek words.***

- 1st Corinthians has 11 Greek words, 2nd Corinthians has 12 greek words, Philippians have 5 greek words between 'Paul' and the recipients name.
- ***Why is this significant to point out?***
  - Because it shows the amount of historical and doctrinal information that Paul squeezes into this greeting as opposed to others.
- ***One of the first things that Paul says to Titus is that he identifies **WHO** he is and **WHOSE** he is.***
  - ***\*Word Study\****
    - The word 'servant' in the english comes from the Greek word **Doulos** which occurs 126 times in the Bible and literally means a slave/bond servant.
  - Paul was a bond servant, he was indebted to the Lord.
    - ***Paul recognized the fact that he was a servant. God freed Him in order to serve Him in ministry.***
- ***How incredible would our local Churches be if we recognized that our status is to serve.***
  - Not to be SERVED, but to SERVE.

- *One of the greatest missionaries and theologians of the history of the world, identified himself as a slave to God.*
  - John McArthur *'There is a general sense in which every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has 'been freed from sin and enslaved to God,' a bondage that results 'in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.' To be a Christian is to be a bond-servant of God.'*
- I believe one important truth that verse 1 reveals to us is this.
- *Saved to Serve, in order to Share the Gospel.*
  - We are saved not just so that we can spend eternity with God in Heaven, but so that we can bring Heaven (God's presence) to others.
    - *Now there are many that will take the phrase 'for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth,' and try to prove their own belief of calvinism/predestination.*
  - *I personally believe and agree with W.W., that the word 'elect' is used to describe those that are saved, those that are believers.*
    - Not necessarily predestined, but just those that did choose Christ which God knew would happen, but not that He would predestin.

- *Either way we know that God has saved us in order that we might live for Him and serve Him, not that we would serve ourselves.*
  - Do you recognize yourself as a servant of the King?
- Realizing that you are a part of God's Kingdom not to build your own, but to build up the Kingdom of God for His Glory!
  - *First we see that we can be committed to serving the Lord in the local Church by Recognizing our Servant Status.*

**Point 2: *Realizes his Sacred Role. (V. 2-3)***

- 'in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began<sup>[b]</sup> 3 and at the proper time manifested in his word<sup>[c]</sup> through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;' Titus 1:2-3
  - *The role of serving God is a sacred role. It's a gift that He has given us in order to serve Him.*
    - *Sadly, we take this role for granted when we choose not to serve God in the opportunities that he gave us.*
  - I truly believe that the apostle Paul is a great example that God really and truly can use anyone.
    - *Paul was one who killed Christians and persecuted the Church, yet when God saved him, he was on fire and there was no looking back.*

- *Many of us today are too similar to Lot's wife back in **Genesis 19:26** who was turned into a pillar of salt, because she looked back at Sodom and Gomorrah.*
          - Looking back at a previous life.
      - ***You have a role, you have a job in God's family, how are you living out your sacred role as a Sold Out Servant for Him?***
        - I believe there are two important things we must consider as we recognize this Sacred Role God has given believers:
  - ***God's Promised Gift. (V. 2)***
    - 'in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began' Titus 1:2
    - ***God promises salvation to all who will believe in Him.***
      - The fact that Paul uses the phrase 'Eternal life' here, is obviously a reference to Heaven. Where a believer goes when they leave this life.
      - In the greek, 'Eternal life' is **Ainios Zoe** and literally means *Everlasting Existence.*
    - Paul only uses this greek phrase in Romans 2:7, Romans 5:21, Galatians 6:8, 1st Timothy 1:16 and 1st Timothy 6:12.
- ***Paul is following the example of Jesus. Jesus used this same phrase **Ainios Zoe** in Matthew 19:29.***
        - Eternal life with God, is something that only believers can have.
    - ***Paul clearly states here that God has promised this gift (for those that accept), since before time began and He (God), never lies.***
      - With this verse being found in a 'greeting', before we've even arrived to Titus's name being mentioned as the recipient, it can cause us to brush over and get to the 'meat' of the epistle.
        - ***But we can't miss the doctrinal truth that God has promised everlasting existence to those who trust in Him.***
    - ***Are you confident today in your **Ainios Zoe?*****
      - Robert W. Yarbrough said '***But the faith and knowledge given believers in the Gospel message introduce a transforming dynamic because they rest on what pertains to the age to come-God and His promises, which are already powerfully at work at the present time. Consciousness of this truth is necessary for Titus to face his situation with the optimism and courage***

*that his concrete circumstances require.'*

- **God's Purpose for each saved person. (V. 3)**
  - 'and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;' Titus 1:3
  - Paul realized that his purpose in God's kingdom was to preach and share the Gospel with others.
    - **For every person that is saved by Jesus in this room today, you have a purpose. God has something that He wants you to do for Him!**
      - Through prayer and self assessment we can find out what it is that God wants us to do with Him.
  - **'Manifested in His Word'**
    - **Shows us that God reveals His purpose for us oftentimes through His Word.**
      - So how can we know God's purpose for our lives if we aren't saturating ourselves in His Word? (This is another reason why the Bible reading plans are important).
  - **God's purpose for each of us is that we realize that we have a role in sharing the Gospel with others, so that they too, might be saved.**

- I love what Dr. Daniel Aiken said regarding this: **'Amazingly, God has placed His eternal plan of salvation in the hands of people like you and me. We as heralds of the Gospel are recipients of a divine trust, a sacred treasure. The message we preach is not our word; it is His Word. This is our Commitment. This is His Commandment.'**
- We are to go and share the Gospel with others.
  - I know there are many better preachers than I, but no one preaches a better Gospel than the one straight from the scriptures.
- The last phrase **'God our Savior'** in verse 3 is significant.
  - There are only 6 times in the NT that we find this phrase, meaning the Title of Savior is given to God, specifically.
  - **It is found twice in 1st Timothy and three times in Titus and once in Luke's Gospel.**
    - This phrase is a reflection of Paul's jewish upbringing, as this would have been a common jewish expression that is used often in the OT.
- Don't forget the word **'our' in verse 3.**

- Thomas D. Lea stated ***'Paul's use of the pronoun 'our' is significant, thus attributing the salvation of both Paul the Jew and Titus the Gentile to the same gracious and merciful God.'***
- God has a purpose for each saved person.
  - We have His promised gift of salvation, and a purpose for us to live out.
  - How are we living our Sacred Role for Him?

**Point 3: Responds to his Special Friend. (V. 4)**

- 'To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.'  
Titus 1:4
  - *We've seen the apostle Paul this morning Recognize his servant Status, Realize his Sacred role in God's Kingdom, but now, he turns his attention to his special friend and co-laborer in the ministry.*
  - *Verse 4 reveals to us the recipient of this letter, a young man by the name of Titus:*
  - ***Who is Titus within the context of the NT?***
    - Titus is mentioned by name a total of 13 times in the NT.
      - ***We find him in 2nd Corinthians 2:13, 7:6, 7:13-14, 8:6, 8:16, 8:23, 12:18 (twice), Galatians 2:1 and Galatians 2:3 and 2nd Timothy 4:10.***

- The way that Paul words verse 4 (similar to 1st Timothy 1:2), leads us to believe that at some point Paul was able to lead Titus to belief in Christ, which is why he calls him 'his child'.
- *Titus was different from Paul and from others that Paul had worked with in the ministry due to the fact that Titus was a **Greek, a non-jewish convert.***
  - Dr. Daniel Aiken made this observation about Titus being a Greek, *'(Titus) became something of a 'test case' for the Gospel and the fact that one does not need to become a Jew, evidenced by circumcision, to be saved.'*
- ***As we've learned and studied in other NT letters/books that Paul wrote, this was a big discussion at this time.***
  - Whether or not someone had to become a Jew in order to be saved.
  - Titus was a great example that you do not have to become a Jew, you simply accept Christ and ask Him to be your Lord & Savior.
- *In Galatians 2:3 (a book that deals with this very issue), Paul said this concerning Titus:*
  - ***'But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.'* Galatians 2:3**

- Now the rest of the NT reveals to us that Titus serving the Churches in Crete, was not his first rodeo in local Church ministry.
  - ***2 Corinthians will reveal that Titus worked closely with Paul in the troubled Church at Corinth.***
    - Perhaps the challenges Titus faced in the Church at Corinth prepared him for his upcoming ministry on the island of Crete.
    - In Corinth, 2nd Corinthians 7:6-7 reveals that Titus had to physically deliver the troubling letter to them.
    - In Corinth, 2nd Corinthians 8:6-24 shows us that his job was to encourage and administer the Church's contribution to the collection of the Jerusalem Church.
  - ***Based on the context and many situations that are revealed of Titus in 2nd Corinthians, we can infer he had great people skills and had great integrity.***
    - In order to be in charge of the financial resources, he had to be a man of integrity.
- ***Although you won't find the name of Titus in Acts, many scholars believe that Paul presented Titus to the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 as an example that circumcision or becoming a Jew was not necessary for salvation.***
  - ***Scholar Thomas D. Lea said 'This indicates that Titus had received the Holy Spirit and that this fact was clearly and undeniably evident to others.'***
    - ***And similar to Timothy, many people believe that Titus was also a young man who was a leader in the early NT Church.***
      - Titus was truly a 'hybrid', 'one of a kind', that God used mightily.
    - I feel there are three things that we can find in verse 4 that show us Paul's feelings towards Titus.
      - ***Dedication.***
        - 'My true child in a common faith'
        - ***Paul reveals here that he was dedicated to Titus, but realizes that the strong friendship and partnership they had, was due to their common faith in the Lord!***
          - They could be dedicated to each other in the work and ministry of the Lord, because they were brought together by



believing in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

- **\*Word Study\***
  - The English word 'Child' in verse 4 is translated from the Greek word **Teknon** *which is referring to a legitimate child, in contrast to a child that was born out of wedlock or something like that.*
- *This word being used here in addition to the word true (Gnesios in the Greek), shows the close relationship that Titus and Paul had.*
  - How close are you currently to your spiritual brothers and sisters?
  - Because we are dedicated to Christ, we should also be dedicated to our brothers and sisters in the faith.

- **Delicacy.**

- 'Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.'
- *Paul is dealing with the Gospel even as he opens up this letter to his co-worker in the faith.*
  - *Although Paul is going to get to some pretty important/serious material later on in Titus, he starts off delicately, by starting with the Gospel.*
- **Grace:**
  - Grace is the gift from God that brings salvation.

- **Peace:**
  - Peace is the blessing to believers that God bestows on them who are saved.
- **Both Grace and Peace combined together became a phrase in this time period that was used often.**
  - Paul uses this phrase quite frequently in his NT letters when opening up with a greeting.
- *Just because he uses it often, does not take away its significance that he is delicate when it comes to his relationship with others and putting the Gospel front and center.*
  - *In the first part we see grace and peace, but the end of verse 4 shows you who the source of ALL grace and peace is, 'Christ Jesus our Savior.'*

- **Discipleship.**

- *To me, verse 4 is a great example of the kind of Discipleship that you and I should be engaged in regularly, if not daily.*
- *Usually we hear the phrase 'everyone should have a Paul and a Timothy in their lives'*
  - But you could also say, everyone should have a Paul pouring into them, but a Titus to also pour into.
- *What kind of generational discipleship are you involved in right now with your walk with the Lord?*

**Conclusion:**

- As we were able to see this morning, being committed to serving the Lord in the local Church is an important thing.
  - *It was very important to the Apostle Paul and even in his greeting to one of his children in the faith and ministry, we can see just how much he prioritized serving in his ministry.*
    - *How high on the list is serving the Lord right here in the local Church to you?*
  - Like the apostle Paul, *have you recognized your status as a servant?*
  - Like the apostle Paul, *have you realized the Sacred Role you play in God's kingdom as a servant?*
  - Like the apostle Paul, *do you regularly respond and talk with your special friends serving with you in ministry and encourage them on?*
    - *This morning before we leave this place, may we be encouraged to be more committed to our service in the Lord this year.*