



'Commit to the Bride!' Sermon Series

Sermon #5:

'Committed to the Gospel!'

Titus 2:11-15

Sunday, February 11th, 2024

Last week in Titus:

- Last week we were in Titus 2:1-10, as we looked at a sermon entitled ***'Committed to Biblical Gender Roles in the Church!'*** from *Titus 2:1-10*.
 - I asked the question: ***How does the Apostle Paul instruct Titus on how NT Church members should conduct themselves in accordance with their gender, age, and social status?***
 - **Point 1: *Follow God's Plan as an Older Man. (V. 1-2)***

- **Point 2: *Follow God's Plan as an Older Woman. (V. 3)***
- **Point 3: *Follow God's Plan as a Younger Woman. (V. 4-5)***
- **Point 4: *Follow God's Plan as a Younger Man. (V. 6-8)***
- **Point 5: *Follow God's Plan as a Slave for Him. (V. 9-10)***
- Based on last week's message, how did you feel God convicted you and wanted you to be a better ambassador for Him in the local Church?
 - Do you need to be a better Older man or woman in the Church?
 - Do you need to be a better younger man or younger woman in the Church?

'Committed to the Gospel!'

Titus 2:11-15

Sermon in a Sentence:

As a Church, we can be Committed to the Gospel when we see the Appearing of Grace, the Approaching Glory and the Authority of the Gospel.

Intro:

- In every letter that Paul writes in the New Testament, he gives a clear Gospel presentation.
 - ***The Gospel of Jesus Christ was the main motivation that the Apostle Paul had in his life.***

- *Here in Titus 2:11-15, we find that clear Gospel presentation in relation to how the local Church should be committed to the Gospel.*
- It's important that when we look at verse 1, we see the word 'for'. Which from the greek text, is coming from the Greek word 'Gar'.
 - *The usage of the word 'for' here, is significant because the apostle Paul is connecting the previous section which gave detailed guidance on various social, age and gender statuses.*
 - It's possible that Titus was reading what Paul had sent, and prior to reading these verses may have asked himself questions like:
 - *Why should I instruct the people like this?*
 - *How are they going to respond with such detailed instruction?*
 - *Why would these teachings make any difference on such a pagan place as the island of Crete?*
 - *The answer to those questions is found clearly in our text for today. God's Grace.*
 - *The Gospel of Jesus Christ is one of Grace.*
- *The Gospel is what separates Christians from every other group in the world. Being committed to the*

Gospel is what causes Churches to grow and lives to be changed.

- Not programs, preachers, politics, pamphlets, propaganda, or people, but just the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- *The apostle Paul uses the Greek (Charis) word that is translated to 'Grace' here, 13 times in his pastoral epistles.*
 - 6 of those 13 times, it is used in the greeting or ending.
 - *Robert Yarabourgouh said 'Grace will receive mention a few verses later as the means by which believers are 'justified' and 'become heirs having the hope of eternal life'. Grace lies at the very heart of God's saving work.'*
- *Illustration*
 - Earlier this week, I read the yearly resource guide that is written and published by the [North American Mission Board](#).
 - In that resource guide, they released results from a recent survey they conducted, and the statistics are quite alarming.
 - *As your Pastor, it is my goal for us to be a great commission minded Church and a Gospel centric Church.*
 - I want our Church, and all our members be to fully committed to the Gospel. Sadly, not all Churches have this mindset.

- Quite honestly, there are times when FBCG doesn't have this mindset like we should.
- **93%** of Christian adults say they're at least somewhat open to having a conversation about their faith with a friend.
- **64%** of Believers say they have prayed at least once in the past month for the salvation of a friend or family member who is not saved.
- In the past 6 months, only **38%** of Christians have shared the Gospel with a loved one. While only **30%** have shared the Gospel with a stranger in the last 6 months.
- **51%** of Churches see evangelism as a priority.
 - *I want each person that is here today, to know that this Church does in fact prioritize the Gospel. We see evangelism as a priority.*
 - *But, we can always improve.*
- This morning the Apostle Paul tells Titus and us, why we should be committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Read Titus 2:11-15

Question to Ask:

What does the local Church need to realize about the Gospel that Paul describes here so that we can be Committed to the Gospel?

Point 1: *The Appearing of Grace. (V. 11-12)*

- The most beautiful moment in the life of a believer, is the moment that Grace walked into the doors of your heart.
 - *I still remember quite vividly as a 6 year-old boy on a Thursday night, when the Grace of God walked into my heart.*
 - *Although I have failed, fallen short, strayed, and not always done my best for Christ, His grace still remains in my heart.*
 - *The appearance of Grace is something that only God almighty could do and did so when He sent His Son Jesus Christ.*
 - What we find here in Titus 2:11-12, is that belief does in fact follow behavior.
 - *The behavior that we are to be committed to that Paul has already discussed, is rooted in the doctrine that we find in Titus 2:11-12.*
 - Dr. Daniel Aiken said *'In this instance belief follows behavior, and yet, in a real sense, belief and behavior continue to be woven together in a beautiful tapestry of biblical teaching in the text before us. From this we are assured that what God demands of us is possible because of what He first has done for us and in us.'*
 - In these verses, I believe we find two things to point out concerning the appearing of Grace.

- ***The Offer of Salvation to All. (V. 11)***

- ‘For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,’ Titus 2:11
- ***The grace of God has appeared not because of anything that you and I have done and not because of who we are.***
 - ***The fact that God’s Grace has appeared and is available to all, shows us the very nature of the God that we serve.***
- John McArthur said this about the grace of God ***‘The very point of the redemptive grace of God through Jesus Christ is to save men from the corruption and damnation of sin-sin that debilitates and crushes human life, that separates sinners from a Holy God, and that persists in unredeemed mankind like an incurable and fatal disease.***
- But, mankind does not have to live a life of depravity and spend eternity separated from a Holy God, the offer of salvation is to all.
 - ***It’s important to realize that it’s because of God’s grace that salvation is available to all.***
 - ***We also need to realize that this verse is not referring to what some will call a ‘universal salvation’.***
 - What we find in verse 11 is not the salvation for every person in

the world, but ***universal opportunity*** for salvation.

- ***Everyone has the offer and opportunity to allow the grace of God to walk right into their heart through salvation.***
 - But the only ones who accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior are believers.
- ‘The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own,[b] and his own people[c] did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.’
 - ***We are not all God’s children, only those who have accepted the offer of salvation.***
- ***God has accomplished something for us (salvation), by sending His Son, something we could have never done on our own, He did it for us and has offered it to all people.***
 - Within the context that Paul is writing this, I believe that we can infer here that the Gospel does not ***discriminate***.

- ***'Bringing salvation for all people.'***
- The society that Paul was living in was similar to our society in the fact that people often discriminate based on age, class, gender and other things.
- Bryan Chappel said ***'Paul defuses the discriminatory objections of those who would deny their testimony to others on the basis of societal barriers.'***
 - We have no excuse to not share this Gospel because the OFFER is open to ALL.
- ****Word Study****
 - The word 'appeared' in the English comes from the Greek word ***'Epiphaino'*** which literally means to display and to be manifested.
 - This word occurs only 4 times in the NT. Once here in Titus 2:11, and also in Titus 3:4.
 - ***The only other times it occurs is in Luke 1:79 in a metaphorical way in regards to the birth of Christ.***
 - ***It also occurs in Acts 27:20 in reference to the appearing of the sun and stars.***
- It's possible that Paul used this particular Greek verb, to show God's dawning of the light of His Gospel on a dark world.
 - ***This opportunity is for all, but will we bring it to them?***
- Dr. Thomas D. Lea said ***'This appearing was not limited to his birth but refers to his entire life including his death, resurrection, and exaltation, which accomplished the salvation now offered to 'all men'.***
- ***The Obedience that follows. (V. 12)***
 - 'training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,' Titus 2:12
 - ***If grace has truly appeared in our heart and in our life, then it will transform our life to where obedience to God will come from it!***
 - ***If we are truly committed to the Gospel, then it will train us and transform us!***
 - I've said it many times before, but you cannot have a true encounter with God and stay the same.
 - ***When we truly understand the grace that God has given us and what He's rescued us from, our only reaction should be to seek and follow Him in obedience.***

- If God has truly touched you, the obedience that you show to Him on a daily basis will reflect that.
 - *In all of Paul's letters, one of his dreams, goals, and aspirations for the NT Church is that the Church allows God's grace to continually operate in them. Not just a one time thing. But continual.*
- ***Word Study***
 - The phrase 'training us' or 'teaches us' (depending on translation), is important to understanding that God's Grace is to be continual in our lives.
 - *This phrase in the greek is **Paideuo hemas** and is a present participle. Which means, it's a continuous action.*
 - *No matter how much you grow as a Christian, you never outgrow God's Grace, instead God's Grace should grow in you!*
- Dr. Daniel Aiken says '*Without calling for perfection, Paul says that a new direction in a person's life is the outgrowth and expectation of God for those experiencing His salvation.*'
 - If God's Grace is in you, it will change you by:

- **Renouncing Ungodliness & worldly passions.**
- **To live a self-controlled life.**
- **Upright.**
- **Godly/Holy life.**

- God doesn't expect us to be perfect, but His Grace does allow us to be obedient to Him and His Word.

Point 2: *The Approaching Glory. (V. 13-14)*

- *When you as an individual are committed to the Gospel you are **anxiously** awaiting the second return of Christ Jesus.*
 - The Approaching Glory of our God returning to earth will be like nothing you've ever seen before.
 - **And shouldn't this reality cause us to want to share the Gospel more?**
 - *If you say you 'love someone', are you willing to share the Gospel with them?*
 - Don't waste your time buying them gifts, taking them to eat, going on trips, just to show your love for them. Give them the greatest gift, Jesus Christ.
 - **The approaching Glory that Paul tells Titus of here, is seen in two specific ways in these two verses.**
- *The Second Coming. (V. 13)*

- ‘waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,’ Titus 2:13
- *Though Paul does not go into the details of Christ's return in this passage, I believe it is clear that we should be looking for the appearing of our coming Lord in the second coming.*
 - Dr. W.W. said ***‘This verse boldly affirms that Jesus Christ is God, for there is only one article in the greek: ‘the great God and our Savior.’***
- *For those who truly know Jesus as their Savior, we should not anticipate retirement, or the next football game, or the next pay day as much as we anticipate the second coming of our Lord.*
 - Folks, Christ is coming much quicker than you realize.
- ****Word Study****
 - The word ‘waiting’ in the english comes from the greek word ***‘Prosdechomai’*** *which literally means to wait or receive in a proactive, alert and expectant.*
 - Robert Yaraborough said ***‘It is ready to jump in and hasten, if possible, the coming of what awaits.’***
- ***This greek verb that is translated here to waiting is found in Luke 2:25, Luke 2:38, Luke 12:36, Luke 23:51, Acts 24:15, and Jude 21.***
 - In all of those cases, it’s not a waiting of passivity, but one of confidence in God.
 - ***Excitedly awaiting the Second Coming of the Lord.***
 - If you are really committed to the Gospel, you won’t be sitting back in your lawn chair just waiting for the arrival of the Lord.
 - No, you’ll be actively out sharing the Word preparing others for the great ‘appearing’ of our Lord.
- ***The Sacrifice Given. (V. 14)***
 - ‘who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.’ Titus 2:14
 - ***This verse very clearly reveals to us how this grace has been given to us.***
 - ***The one (Jesus), who gave Himself for all people.***
 - Titus 2:14, is very similar to Pauline language in other NT letters where Paul essentially said the same thing in the following scripture texts:

- *Galatians 1:4, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 5:25, and 1st Timothy 2:6.*

- *This verse shows us very clearly that the Gospel is all about Jesus.*

- Bryan Chappel said *'The work of salvation is His, and we are His.'*

- *What you see here in verse 14, is clear, Christ has Redeemed us* ('who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness') *Christ has Purified us* ('and to purify for Himself a people') *and Christ Keeps us* ('for his own possession who are zealous for good works').

- *When we are committed to the Gospel, we will be in awe of the Sacrifice that Christ has given on our behalf!*

Point 3: *The Authority of the Gospel. (V. 15)*

- What the Apostle Paul has shared with Titus, are amazing truths about the truth of the Gospel.

- *This is why the apostle Paul states that Titus is to declare these things.*

- *These are the things of the truth of the Gospel.*

- *Because the Gospel has been gifted to us by almighty God, the Gospel has authority.*

- Verse 15 is one of the strongest verses (especially in the greek text), when it comes to examining the authority that the Gospel carries.

- Authority that we often don't realize and neglect.

- John McArthur said *'(verse 15) is one of the clearest and strongest statements in Scripture about the spiritual authority of men whom God calls to minister His Word and shepherd His people.'*

- *I believe there are 3 specific things that we should be doing to LIVE in the Authority of the Gospel.*

- *Declare. (V. 15a)*

- 'Declare these things;'

- *What Paul tells Titus are not suggestions, but commands. In the greek text, there are 4 verbs that are all imperatives.*

- If we are truly committed to the Gospel, we will know the authority which which the Gospel has and is, and we'll declare it!

- **Word Study**

- The english word for 'declare' here is the greek word *'Laleo'* which literally means to speak or to make a vocal utterance.

- *In the Greek text, this verb is the second person singular imperative.*

- This gives us an indication that the things discussed in Chapter 2

and in all of Titus in general, are not just to be taught, like he said in Titus 2:1, but are to be spoken.

- *If you believe in the authority of the Gospel, you will declare not only the Gospel, but what the Bible teaches.*
 - Obviously in order to know what the Bible teaches, we must be in our Bibles!
- **Duty. (V. 15b)**
 - ‘exhort and rebuke with all authority.’
 - *It’s not enough to just speak that the Gospel is authoritative, but it’s our duty.*
 - As Christ followers, if God’s Grace has changed you then your duty is to share it!
 - **Word Study**
 - In the greek, declare, exhort, and rebuke are all in the present imperative form of the Greek verbs.
 - *Which simply means it is an ongoing emphasis of every person in your own personal Christian ministry.*
 - *We should never stop declaring God’s Grace.*
 - *We should never stop encouraging/exhorting/persuading others to come to Christ.*
 - *We should never stop refuting false doctrine.*

■ *To be committed to the Gospel is to live in the authority of the Gospel continually.*

- Certainly not a 1 time decision.

● **Dedication. (V. 15c)**

- ‘Let no one disregard you.’
- When we speak the truth of the Gospel, we will not always be popular.
 - *Speaking the truth does not guarantee you’ll have many friends.*
- But even so, we should be dedicated to never being silenced about the One who has saved us!
- Bryan Chappel said *‘some will accuse us of promoting license on one hand, and some will accuse us of being legalists on the other hand.’*
 - *You are not responsible for how others respond to the truth of the Gospel. But you are responsible for whether or not you share the Gospel with them.*

Conclusion:

- *This morning we’ve discussed straight from God’s Word, on what we as a Church body need to realize about the Gospel so that we can be better committed to the Gospel.*
 - *A Church that is committed to the Gospel will not wait for the Pastor or staff to tell someone about Christ, they will go ahead and share. Right then and there.*

- *A Church that is truly committed to the Gospel will be more concerned about souls than there are programs.*
- *A Church whose people are truly concerned and Committed to the Gospel is one where the members will regularly be sharing the Gospel every week.*

- If you haven't shared the Gospel at least 1 time in this past week with a friend, family member, co-worker or even a stranger, than you are not committed to the Gospel the way you should be.

- *The way that Grace appeared into your heart and life when you accepted Christ as your Savior is the way it can also appear in the lives of others.*

- In the North American Mission Board resource guide, they shared 5 tips on how Church members/Christians can share the Gospel of Jesus with compassion and conviction.

- #1: *Be Present.*
 - #2: *Share Stories.*
 - #3: *Learn about other cultures.*
 - #4: *Build authentic friendships.*
 - #5: *Define your terms.*

- *In your Bulletin, there's a space at the bottom. I want to challenge each person here today during this time of invitation to ask God to reveal someone you need to*

share the Gospel with. Write their name in that blank on your bulletin, pray over that name all week, and that God would give you an opportunity to share with them.

- *I am going to share the Gospel with*

this

week or in the coming weeks.

- It's time that we as individuals and as a collective Church body, become more committed to the Gospel. We can do this by realizing:

- **Point 1:** *The Appearing of Grace. (V. 11-12)*
 - **Point 2:** *The Approaching Glory. (V. 13-14)*
 - **Point 3:** *The Authority of the Gospel. (V. 15)*