

# **TRUTH & GODLINESS IN A DECEITFUL & UNGODLY WORLD**

Titus 1:1-4

## **INTRODUCTION**

- Chronologically, Titus was written about the same time as 1 Timothy, sometime after Paul was released from his first imprisonment, about 64 AD.
- Titus was a Greek believer (Galatians 2:3)
- He was converted through Paul's ministry (1:4)
- He was heavily involved with the Corinthian church (2 Corinthians 2:12-13; 7:5-16; 8:16-24)
- After Paul's release from his first Roman imprisonment, Titus was left on the island of Crete to organize the churches that were planted there (Titus 1:5).
- In accordance with Paul's request, Titus remained on Crete until other preachers arrived to continue his work. Then he met up with Paul at Nicopolis. (Titus 3:12)
- When Paul was in his second imprisonment, Titus went to Dalmatia (2 Timothy 4:10)
- Titus was Paul's 'troubleshooter'
- One of the themes of Paul's letter to Titus is that of adorning the doctrine of grace with godliness and good works. (Titus 2:10; 3:8)
- As Paul introduces his letter to Titus, before pointing out the problems he faced, and before giving the duties he must perform, he directs Titus' attention heavenward to God who is above all and before all else.

## **I. THE GOD WHO PRESIDES OVER HIS SERVANTS (1)**

A. Servant of God

1. *doulos* – bondservant
2. Many OT figures were *servants* of the Lord - Moses (Joshua 14:7), David (Psalm 89:3; cf. 2 Samuel 7:5,8) and Elijah (2 Kings 10:10)
3. This term was a favoured self-description of a number of NT writers (James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1)
4. Can we accurately describe ourselves as servants (slaves) of God?

#### B. Apostle of Jesus Christ

1. *Apostle* means messenger or envoy (cf. Hebrews 3:1; John 20:21)
2. Paul felt he was not worthy to be called an apostle (1 Corinthians 15:9)
3. The reference to his apostleship was a statement of his authority (cf. Galatians 1:1,11-12)

#### C. The work of the servant of God

1. Evangelism – *the faith of God's elect*
  - a. The elect are those who hear and believe the gospel (John 6:40; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)
  - b. Those who are not actively involved in evangelism cannot be called servants of God
2. Education – *acknowledging of the truth*
  - a. The truth of God's word is the foundation of the Christian life
  - b. This truth produces godliness/piety in the lives of those who believe it (cf. James 1:26; 2:17)
  - c. "Good works" are emphasised in Titus (1:16; 2:7,14; 3:1, 5, 8, 14)

3. This is the essence of The Great Commission – *teach* (make disciples), *baptize*, *teach* (disciple the believers) (Matthew 28:18-20)

## II. THE GOD WHOSE PROMISES ARE SURE (2-3)

- A. The believer has absolute certainty
  1. The gospel promises eternal life to those who believe (John 3:16; 1 John 5:11-12)
  2. The 'hope' of the New Testament is a confident expectation (Hebrews 6:18-19; 2 Thessalonians 2:16; 1 Peter 1:3)
  3. The promises of the gospel are made by the God who cannot lie (Numbers 23:19)
    - a. The Quran actually teaches that Allah is “the best of deceivers” (3:54; 7:99; 8:30)
    - b. Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44)
- B. The promise of eternal life was made before the world began (2 Timothy 1:9)
  1. God, in His eternal counsels purposed to redeem man through Christ (Revelation 13:8)
- C. The promise has been made known through the preaching of the gospel
  1. God executes His divine plan according to His timing (Galatians 4:4)
  2. Preaching is God's method of conveying His promise to mankind (1 Corinthians 1:21; Romans 10:14)
  3. God commands His servants to preach this gospel to others

## III. THE GOD WHO PROVIDES AND SUSTAINS (4)

- A. Titus was Paul's 'son' in the faith

1. Paul was the means of his conversion (cf. Philemon 10; 1 Timothy 1:2)
  2. Titus was also his 'son' in the sense of a protégé
  3. The 'common faith' is the one faith that unites all true believers (Ephesians 4:5; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 3)
- B. Three blessings invoked
1. Grace – divine strength for life and service (Hebrews 4:16)
  2. Mercy – compassion toward man's need
    - a. Note that 'mercy' is added to Paul's greetings only in the three pastoral epistles (1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2)
    - b. The greater responsibility and burden of pastors requires God's compassion and mercy (James 3:1)
  3. Peace – freedom from fear and anxiety
    - a. Peace *with* God in justification (Romans 5:1)
    - b. Peace *of* God in sanctification (Philippians 4:7)
- C. Christ's deity is shown in this verse
1. Both the Father and Son are the one source of grace, mercy and peace
  2. In v.4 Jesus Christ is 'our Saviour', while in v.3 God is 'our Saviour' – there is only one Saviour (Isaiah 43:11; 45:21)

## CONCLUSION

1. We are in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, yet we are to shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:15)
2. If we are to fulfil our duty, we must look to God:

Look to Him as our Lord, and we His servants  
Look to His sure promises and trust in them  
Look to Him for grace, mercy and peace