

Introduction:

Background to Titus:

In an opening greeting that is only surpassed by Romans in length, these opening words of Paul to Titus are full of depth, rich in theology, Calvinistic in doctrine, comforting in hope & very practical for us.

THESIS — Again, from this opening greeting from Paul to Titus (1:1-3), we’ll examine Paul’s words in 3 more ways today (vv.2-3):

1. Paul’s **OBLIGATION** - a slave of God
2. Paul’s **OCCUPATION** - an apostle of Jesus Christ
3. Paul’s **OBSSESSION** - for the faith of the elect
4. **Paul’s ANTICIPATION** - in the hope of eternal life (v.2a)
5. **Paul’s CONVICTION** - God cannot lie (v.2b)
6. **Paul’s PROCLAMATION** - God manifested His Word to me (v.3)

IV. PAUL’S ANTICIPATION (2)

In the hope of eternal life which God who promised long ages ago

- V2 spans eternity: hope of ETERNAL LIFE (future) & promised long ages ago (past)
- v.2 - the solid foundation of this work — THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE (this is *why* he does what he does with such zeal, passion, and unstoppable force. ***Why does he do it?***)

Paul is a man who lives in the present with an eye toward the future!

Paul’s hope is **objective**, not subjective; it’s established, not hypothetical; it’s certain, not wishful. He serves in the hope of eternal life (=future) which God promised before eternal times (=past)!

Before the eternal times in the past, God predestined salvation, God perfected it at Calvary, God applies it at regeneration, and God perfects it in eternal life!

This God-permanent, God-saturated salvation is **HOPE!**

V. PAUL’S CONVICTION (v.2b)

God cannot lie. (Literally: he cannot/not able!)

The Cretan context of lying & their god “Zeus” and his deception:

Remember: in the 1st c AD, at Crete, the primary god worshiped was Zeus -- preeminent is Zeus’ justice where he lays down laws to distinguish bad from good behavior.

“The only foundation of ALL religion is the unchangeable truth of God”
-- John Calvin

VI. PAUL’S PROCLAMATION (3)

God manifested His Word at the proper time & entrusted this calling to Paul to preach!

- v.2 - the solid FOUNDATION of this work – THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE
- V.3 - the divine COMMISSION of this work – the PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL!

In verse 3:

1. Paul is the **recipient** of the gospel (he is entrusted with the gospel; God did the work of calling him).
2. Paul locates the source of his commissioning from the ‘**commandment** of God’ (he is under authority // of God!) (This is why he can speak forcefully in 1.11; 2.1, 15; 3.10).

See the high Christology of Paul: **God** is our Savior (v.3b) and **Christ Jesus** is our Savior (v.4b) = This rescue from sin comes from God! And the Scriptures teach that Christ Jesus *is* God.

Speak O LORD

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.

Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow’r that can never fail—
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we’ll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we’ll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.”