

Titus 3:8-15

Setting things in Order includes

1. Godly leaders
2. Godly members
 - a. Engaging in Age integrated discipleship
 - b. Engaging in a life that reflects the radical transformation that takes place when the gospel is received and believed
3. Gospel Relationships
 - a. With outsiders as we saw last week
 - b. With insiders as we see from our text this morning.

I. The Christian Life is about the Gospel v8-11

v8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

What is this trustworthy statement Paul is referring to?

4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy

1. Salvation depends solely and completely on God's grace, displayed in his mercy, revealed and achieved by his Son, Jesus Christ, and applied to humankind by the Holy Spirit.
2. How? *v5b-6 by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior*
3. Why? *v7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*
4. *v8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently*
 - a. Speak these things...what are these things? The gospel
 - b. Be speaking the gospel among, not only among outsiders, but among yourselves.
 - c. Speak the gospel among yourselves *v8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds.*

This is so important that Paul gives Titus insight on how to deal with those who would distract us from this main message.

A. Avoid v9

9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

1. Avoid means to turn oneself around.
2. Don't waste your time arguing or complaining over things that aren't essential to the Gospel and the furtherance of it.
3. Just turn around!

B. Reject v10

10 Reject a factious man after a first and second warning,

1. Reject is also translated, “have nothing to do with” and “refuse.”
2. Have nothing to do with those who insist on dividing the church over things that aren’t essential to the gospel and to the furtherance of it.
3. Harsh? Well...we cannot afford to be distracted from the gospel by arguments over things that aren’t clear in Scripture...or over what color the carpet should be.

C. Know v11

11 knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

1. Because the divisive man would rather gripe than change, Titus could be sure of 3 things concerning this person.
 - a. He was perverted...or warped: literally, he has been and remains off the track.
 - b. He was sinful, literally, he continues to sin
 - c. He is self-condemned...don’t judge. He judges himself.

All of this to say fight to keep the gospel the main thing and so many things try to distract us!

II. The Christian Life is about Going v12

When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

A. These people are all over the map.

1. Titus traveled to Crete with Paul to plant churches on the island there.
2. Titus was left in Crete with the task of setting things right.
3. Now, Paul is sending Artemas or Tychicus to Crete to take Titus’ place there.
 - a. Artemas was likely one of the 70 disciples sent out by Jesus in Luke 10
 - b. Tychicus traveled with Paul and carried his letters to Ephesus and Colossae
 - c. One of these men would come to Crete to replace Titus.
4. When this replacement arrives, Titus is to move to Nicopolis.

B. The Christian life is about going.

1. We are to be busy coming and going with the gospel.
2. Jesus made it abundantly clear that we are to be about going.
 - a. Matt 28:18-20 *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*
 - b. Mark 16:15 *And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature*
 - c. Luke 24:46-48 *Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.*
 - d. John 20:21 *As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.*
 - e. Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

C. The Christian life is about going.

1. We must avoid distractions and distractors by focusing on the main thing together
2. That is...the main thing that Jesus left us here to do: get the gospel message from here to the ends of the earth.

III. The Christian Life is about Giving **v13-14**

A. Giving towards the mission **v13**

Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way so that nothing is lacking for them.

1. He is to help them on their journey to proclaim the gospel by supplying food, clothing, expenses etc.
2. He is to make certain that these laborers in the gospel lack nothing.
 - a. Hold the rope or go down into the well
 - b. Either way there should be scars on your hands.

B. Giving towards the ministry **v14**

Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

1. Learn to meet pressing needs, and therefore avoid fruitlessness.
2. Acts 2:44-45 *And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.*
3. We see believers being careful to help fellow believers.
4. Helping the brothers and sisters in Christ is the priority.
 - a. Matt 25:32-46
 - b. James 2:15-16 *If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?*
 - c. 1 John 3:17-18 *But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*
 - d. Rom 12:13 *Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.*

IV. The Christian Life is about Greeting **v15a**

1. 1 Peter 5:13-14 *She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. 14 Greet one another with the kiss of love.*
2. Heb 13:24 *Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings.*
3. Philem 23-24 *Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, 24 and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.*
4. Col 4:15 *Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.*
5. Phil 4:21-22 *Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.*
6. 1 Cor 16:19-20 *The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. 20 All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.*
7. 17 times in Rom 16:3-16 Paul uses the word greet.

The Christian life is about greetings and welcoming.

1. There is clearly an excitement that should exist when we gather together with other believers.
2. There should also be open arms and hearts as we gather together.
 - a. How many people come into this place and are never greeted?
 - b. I want to challenge you this morning to look for someone you don't know and greet them, welcome them, sit with them, invite them to lunch.
3. Let us strive to be a welcoming church that will bend over backwards to welcome one another and those that we might not yet know.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you learn about God in this sermon and in the biblical texts used? About Christ? About the Holy Spirit?
2. What did you learn about yourself in this sermon and in the texts used?
3. Were there any clear promises or commands in the biblical texts used?
4. What is the hardest truth that stands out to you from this message or the verses referenced?
5. What is the most impactful point or statement from the sermon?
6. How can you respond to this message?