

“Jesus is Lord”
Titus 1:1
(Preached at Trinity, January 8, 2022)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. This morning we begin the third of the Pastoral Epistles—1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. Titus was written around the same time as 1 Timothy or perhaps sometime between 1 & 2 Timothy. It begins with the typical salutation, but it has greater detail than most. In fact, of Paul's 13 epistles, only 2 salutations are longer than Titus—Romans and Galatians. The first four verses are a single sentence.
2. Like Timothy, Titus was one of Paul's trusted workers. Both were converted under the ministry of Paul. Whereas Timothy was left at Ephesus to correct false teaching that was being promoted, Titus was left at Crete to strengthen the churches and correct false doctrine and promote Godliness in an immoral culture.
 - A. This was far more than a personal letter to Titus. It was instructive for the church and was probably read before the church.
 - B. We don't know much about Titus, but we do know that he was faithful and loyal to Paul. The Book of Acts doesn't mention him, but in Galatians we learn that Titus was with Paul on his journey to Jerusalem.
Galatians 2:1 NAU - "Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also."
 - C. Paul often used Titus because he knew Titus could be trusted to carry out his duty. Titus was one of the ones sent to receive the collection taken up at Corinth. Now Titus is carrying out the difficult work at Crete. These were young churches filled with recent converts. There was much work to be done.
3. One of the themes running through Titus is the inseparable relationship between doctrine and practice. Doctrine believed and applied always has an impact upon how we live. Paul will press this upon these young Christians.
4. As with his other epistles, Paul begins by affirming his credentials.
Titus 1:1 NAU - "Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ"
 - I. With this statement Paul affirms his apostleship.
 - A. Paul was an apostle of Jesus Christ.
 1. This confirms his apostolic calling.
 2. An apostle had to be eyewitness to the resurrected Jesus, and he had to have a direct call from Jesus.
 3. Paul was confronted by the risen Christ on His way to Damascus and his life was forever changed.
 - B. The apostolic office was unique. This means Paul was unique.
 1. Jesus called a precise number. There was no apostolic succession. This means that with the end of the first century apostles the apostolic office came to an end.

2. The apostolic office was an office of authority. The NT came through them. Their teaching was the doctrine of the church.
Acts 2:42 NAU - "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."
3. Their authority was not self-derived. It was the authority of Christ. They clearly understood the Lordship of Christ.

II. As an apostle Paul's office gave him authority, but as a Christian Paul was a man under authority. Jesus Christ was his Lord and Master.

A. Paul saw himself as a bond-servant.

1. Paul saw himself as a servant of God before he was saved but his service was self-directed, seeking his own self-righteousness. He was actually working against God. He was an enemy of Christ.
2. Now he was under the sovereign direction and authority of Christ. Paul declares himself to be the "bond-servant" of God." In Romans 1 Paul refers to himself as the bond-servant of Jesus Christ.
Romans 1:1 NAU - "Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,"
He often uses "God" and "Jesus Christ" interchangeably. Jesus Christ is God. Notice Paul refers to "God our Savior" in **Verse 3**.
The word for bond-servant is δοῦλος which means "slave" which is how the CSV translates it. It describes one who serves a master and is the property of the master.
3. Our culture sees the word as being highly offensive but as Christians we need to embrace it. It expresses the Lordship of Christ. Our service to Christ transcends all other relationships.
Galatians 1:10 NAU - "For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ."
4. Few Christians today see this as being their chief identity as Christians. This wasn't true of first century Christians. This is how they identified themselves.
Romans 1:1 – "Paul, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ"
James 1:1 – "James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ"
2 Peter 1:1 – "Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ"
Jude 1:1 – "Jude, the bond-servant of Jesus Christ"

B. This is our high calling.

1. It speaks of possession. Jesus owns us.
Christians have been purchased, bought by Christ. He has claimed His bride as His own.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NAU - "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."

2. We should meditate carefully on that Statement. Jesus is our Lord. We belong to Him. It are in a glorious relationship. It is a love relationship. Jesus loves His bride. And we love Him. We love to please Him and honor Him.
3. The lordship of Christ speaks of unquestioned obedience and service. MacArthur writes: "Paul was in complete, but willing, bondage to God. He had no life that he called his own, no will of his own, purpose of his own, or plan of his own. All was subject to his Lord. In every thought, every breath, and every effort he was under the mastery of God."¹
4. This has always been true of God's people.
 - a. Moses was the servant of God.
Joshua 1:2 NAU - "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel."
 - b. We read the same thing of Joshua.
Joshua 24:29 NAU - "It came about after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred and ten years old."
 - c. Each and every one of the prophets were servants of God.
Amos 3:7 NAU - "Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets."
Jeremiah 7:25 NAU - "Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have sent you all My servants the prophets, daily rising early and sending *them*."
3. "Jesus is Lord" is the high Christian profession.
Romans 10:9 NAU - "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;"
4. This lordship is evidence of His work in us.
1 Corinthians 12:3 NAU - "Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit."

III. Jesus is Lord. He reigns. He is seated upon His throne.

- A. Christ's dominion is absolute. He reigns over His Kingdom.
 1. It is not rooted in the will of man – Our Lord's Kingdom is not a democracy
 2. Ultimately, the church is not a democracy. We are ruled by Christ.
 3. Our Lord's dominion is absolute. This was His declaration after His crucifixion and resurrection.
Matthew 28:18-20 NAU - "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

¹ John F. MacArthur Jr., *Titus*, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1996), 3.

- B. Although His reign is absolute, it is not tyrannical
1. It's been said, "Authority corrupts and absolute authority corrupts absolutely." This is true of all human beings and all human institutions and human governments. The more power our government has gained, the more it wants.
 2. Jesus has absolute authority, but He rules by wisdom, goodness, and mercy. His subjects love Him and His rule – He has lovingly delivered us from our servitude to the Law and Satan and has brought us into His kingdom. The redeemed have been purchased by the Lord Jesus Christ. They have been redeemed from the kingdom of darkness and have been received into the Kingdom of Christ –
Colossians 1:13 NAU - "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,"
 3. We willfully and joyfully serve Him and obey Him

Conclusion:

1. This is one of Paul's emphases throughout this letter. Those who know Christ have been transformed. They gladly follow Him as Lord and seek to obey Him in righteousness.
2. Do you profess with the Apostle Paul that you are a servant of Christ?
 - a. How do you see your life? Are you willing to do what He commands? Are you pleased to go where He leads you? Even if it is the path of suffering, of need and hardship? Even if it is the path of tears. Even if it is the path of self-denial.
 - b. How do you see your possessions? Do they belong to Christ? Do you fear to lose what you do not own?
 - c. How do you see your family, your husband or wife?
How do you see your children?
Keith Green wrote in his song, "*I pledge my head to heaven*"
"Well I pledge my wife to heaven, for the Gospel,
Though our love each passing day just seems to grow.
As I told her when we wed, I'd surely rather be found dead,
Than to love her more than the one who saved my soul."
3. Do you see yourself as being the possession of Christ. Do you see Jesus as absolute Master and Lord? If you are a Christian Jesus is your Master. Your greatest desire should involve being a better servant.
2 Timothy 2:20-21 NAU - "Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. ²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these *things*, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work."
2 Timothy 2:22 NAU - "Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."