CMA Church

Titus 1:1-16

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Introduction: Written by Paul between A.D. 62-64

* Main Themes of Titus:

1. The need for proper leadership 1:5-9

2. Watching for false teachers 1:1-16

3. How to live as a true believer 2:1-3

* Titus was a young pastor who Paul was mentoring, Paul called Titus a son in the same faith.
* Paul was telling him to set up leadership in the churches in Crete.

Titus is 3 chapters, and it gives the local church the blueprint of how we should operate as Christians in the church.

1. **Intro to the letter**: Titus 1:1-4

Greeting, this the only time that Paul uses that servant of Christ Jesus in his letters to the churches, for example look at 1 Timothy or Galatians.

Paul is telling Titus the young pastor to be watching for these things, and to be preaching and teaching correct doctrine. Here is what Paul wants Titus to see:

**Churches should have Knowledge of Truth**: 1 Timothy 2:4 “who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

**Here is that Truth**: 1 Timothy 2:5-6 “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and man the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all which is given as a testimony at the proper time.

**This truth is directly from the word of God who never lies** Numbers 23:19 “God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man that he should change his mind.”

Hebrews 6:18 “So that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie.

**Churches should teach godliness**: 1 Timothy 6:3 “Teach and urge these things, if anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching of and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.”

**Preaching and teaching is a huge responsibility**, and it comes with being charged to teach the word of God, it is not smoke and mirrors, it is not about preaching to people about feel good messages, it is about before we are adopted into God’s kingdom we are lost and separated from God and dead in sin, but Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. The C&MA believes this fully that the only way to heaven is through a relationship with Jesus Christ, we must repent of our sins, we have turn from our earthly bodies, and become believers, and heavenly minded.

**There are so many churches that want to teach prosperity gospel**, and folks I believe that was what Paul was telling Titus, be careful of this kind of teaching, be watching for this kind of teaching.

1. **Overseer selection**: Titus 5-9

My ESV study bible says this note: “The occasion: The need for proper leadership. Paul begins the body of the letter with a reminder to Titus of the directions for ministry that he had left with him.”

Paul left Titus in Crete to go on to other churches that needed his help, but he gave Titus a blueprint of how a healthy church should function as the churches are still very young and if they don’t get good leaders in the Church they will go astray.

**The way to appoint Elders** according to Acts 14:23 “And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with praying and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”

Praying and fasting, letting the Spirit guide the leaders to appoint someone.

Before I get into the list of qualifications, I want to say this, God can use anybody he so desires, **God is the one who appoints the Leaders**.

**To be an elder one must be above reproach**: The word reproach means that no charge should be brought against an Elder that would cause bad character to him.

**Elders should teach their children about the Lord** and how to be Faithful to God, no one can guarantee their children’s salvation, but they must teach them about faithfulness. They must not be disobedient. We teach our kids to obey and listen to Mom and Dad, no one is perfect, but our kids are learning.

**An overseer is God’s steward and must be above reproach**, vs 7 talks about what we as overseers should not be.

Question? What if someone had in the past been angry, been a drunk, been an idolater, does that disqualify them? The answer is in another question form. Are they still living in that life, or have they been redeemed by Jesus? God heals us, restores us, and uses us after we become children of God.

**No one is perfect no not one.**

I am putting this here because I want to be clear that we are all sinners saved by grace and just because someone becomes an elder or an overseer does not make that person better than you, as a matter of fact that person is held to a higher standard for that office or position.

1. **We live in a culture very much like Crete** Titus 1:10-16

I like how the King James Version puts verse 10

“For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of circumcision.”

**People were literally teaching that in order to be saved one had to be circumcised.**

Acts 15:1 “But some men were the brothers, unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

That is incorrect teaching and Paul was telling Titus to be watching for doctrine like this to correct it.

**Elders are to Correct this behavior, and to teach the true gospel not the Jewish Myths.**

To often in America we see churches preaching a prosperity gospel and not about sin. We have to be honest and forth coming about what is to happen to people who do not repent and believe. Jesus did not die on the cross in vain, he didn’t die on the cross because he felt like dying, he died because we all are like sheep have gone astray. **As a shepherd to a flock my job is to teach the Bible and to teach it correctly, so I am not leading people astray.**

Here is the gospel, Jesus came and lived a perfect, sinless life, he was the son of God, and he came to seek and to save the lost. He laid down his life on a cross, so that people who believe in him will have eternal life with God. He was raised again on the third day and ascended into heaven. Jesus sent the Holy spirit to live in us when we believe and repent, the Spirit will guide us as we live out our walk with the Lord, the Spirit equips us for the work of the gospel.

I urge you now if you are not a believer in Jesus to stop living this life at will, and repent of your sin, stop waiting until the right time, folks we are not promised tomorrow, we have right now, turn from sin, turn to God, follow him, and let the word direct your path like Psalms 119 says.

1. **Communion:** 1 Corinthians 11:17

**Pray over the bread, encourage people to make sure their hearts are right, and observe ask forgiveness of unconfessed sin.**

**Pray over the juice**