

Sunday, January 2, 2011—Titus: The Practice of Grace—Titus 3:12-15: Concluding Remarks

### Review/Introduction

- Three weeks ago before the Christmas festivities when we were last in Titus 3 heresy was the topic of the message.
- Today we find ourselves looking at finishing our study in Titus.
- Chapter One: the church is to be an orderly organization (Titus 1:5)
  - Saved by Grace
- Chapter Two: the church is to teach and preach the word of God (Titus 2:1)
  - Live by Grace
- Chapter Three: the church is supposed to produce good works (Titus 3:1)
  - Grace motivates believers to produce good works
- This morning as we conclude this study we need to remember and reflect upon what we have learned.

### Titus 3:12-13

- ***“When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter. 13) Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them.”***
- Much of the information contained in these verses appears to be Paul’s personal instructions to his fellow laborers in the ministry. There is always a temptation to view verses like these as unimportant. That should not be our view.
- What do we learn from these verses:
  - Paul was in the process of sending either Artemas or Tychicus to Crete to continue the work of the ministry.
    - Artemas—only time he is mentioned
    - Tychicus—Acts 20:4, Ephesians 6:21, Colossians 4:7, 18, II Timothy 4:12
  - When either Artemas or Tychicus arrives Paul wants Titus to join him in Nicopolis.
    - It appears clear that Paul is in Nicopolis a city in Macedonia when he writes to Titus.
  - When Titus embarks upon this journey he instructed to bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos.
    - Zenas the lawyer—only time he is mentioned

- Apollos—Acts 18:24-28, 19:1, I Corinthians 1:12, 3:4-6, 16:12
- Tucked inside these verses is a critically important insight into the way Paul thought and operated as an Apostle of Jesus Christ. Notice the expression “for I have determined there to winter.”
- Who made the decision to winter in Nicopolis of Macedonia? Paul did. Paul was not a fatalist, determinist, or theological Calvinist who believed that everything in his life was result of the divine providential appointment of God. Paul makes decisions for himself based upon a renewed mind.
- Calvinism is basically theological determinism. The idea that everything happens for a reason.
  - *Indeterminism*—is the belief that all events, including human choices are uncaused.
  - *Determinism*—is the belief that all events, including human choice are determined or caused by another.
  - *Self-Determinism*—a person’s moral acts are not caused by another, or uncaused, but are caused by oneself. One’s actions are freely chosen, without compulsion, in a situation in which they could have done otherwise.
    - Tell missionary story about his SUV.
    - I Samuel 6:9, II Sam. 1:6, Eccl. 9:11, Luke 10:31
    - Story from 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and world trade center
- Philemon 8-15—even after the fact the best Paul can say is perhaps this is why this occurred.
- Paul’s epistles are full of examples where he and his partners in ministry make their own decisions.
  - I Corinthians 16:12
  - Philippians 2:25
  - I Thessalonians 3:1
- I Corinthians 3:9-15—when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ and our work is tried by fire it will be based upon the standard of how we chose to build upon the foundation. We are rewarded or suffer loss based upon the choices we made as individuals.

### **Titus 3:14**

- ***“And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.”***
- This verse is a fitting conclusion to the book because it reminds us of one of the main ideas contained in this book.

- According to *Webster's 1828 Dictionary*, the English word maintain means to “hold, preserve or keep in any particular state or condition; to support; to sustain; not to suffer to fail or decline; as, to maintain a certain degree of heat in a furnace; to maintain the digestive process or powers of the stomach; to maintain the fertility of soil; to maintain present character or reputation.”
- In this verses Paul’s parting instruction if for believers to maintain good works as they would a fire in their furnace on a cold day.
  - Titus 3:8
- Notice that good works are to be maintained for “necessary uses.” As we have said many times throughout our study in Titus good works are the reasonable service of the believer and they serve necessary functions in the believer’s life and testimony.
- “*That*”—the purpose and intent for maintaining good works is that we be not unfruitful or not yielding what hit ought to yield.
- Galatians 5:22-23—the fruit the Spirit yields in your life is listed for you.
- Romans 6:22, 7:4-5

### **Titus 3:15**

- ***“All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.”***
- I hope that when you come into Grace Life Bible Church you see, hear, and fell the love and care the saints ought to have one for another.
- Romans 5:21—if I could offer you an admonition for 2011 it would be let Grace Reign in your life at home, work, school, and church.
- The New Year is always greeted with anticipation for what lies ahead. While change in inevitable, exciting, welcomed, or unwelcomed we need to anchor our souls and fix our minds on the Grace of God that is always sufficient regardless of our circumstances.