



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 1 The Honor of Apostleship
By Pastor Jody May 04/24/2022

Titus 1:1-4 ESV

Greeting

1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, **2** in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began **3** and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

4 To Titus, my true child in a common faith:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

[BACKGROUND]

Who: The author was Paul written to Titus a Gentile convert (Gal 2:3). Titus is thought to be a co-worker of Paul, communications guru/translator, maybe like Timothy, another right-hand man. He is mentioned several times in the NT Galatians helping battle Jewish heresy, 2 Corinthians against worldliness, and after Titus went on to Dalmatia, or present-day Yugoslavia. Kind of like Paul's strong-arm guy collecting money from the new churches for Jerusalem. Titus takes Paul's message to Crete and then stays there to father many Christian churches.

When: About 65 AD, about 3 years before Paul's death.

Where: Don't know where it was written but it is written about an island called Crete in the center of the Mediterranean. Birthplace of the Minoan civilization one of the oldest recorded civilizations, as old as Egypt. Reportedly were the first to make it to Europe. Maybe even started Zeus worship.

What: Titus is a letter, an Epistle, shared with a specific church and then later shared throughout the church world. Becomes a doctrine teacher.

Why: Well, it first reads as an instruction manual for Titus on how to raise local church leadership called Elders. In that process though it tells the church how they should function as a body, under this type of leadership. While doing this it prepares the church to become the agent of change in this



Titus – Lessons for the Church Wk. 1 The Honor of Apostleship By Pastor Jody May 04/24/2022

world because it equips the church with the necessary tools for church growth and expansion.

The strategy developed has been the same missional strategy since the first century in Acts and it has never changed.

We could consider the theme to be “An Apostolic Manual for Church Planting.” Here is a blueprint for planting and building churches that will survive and thrive for the glory of God.¹ – Dr. Daniel Aiken (pres. of Southeastern sem.)

‘Key Verse’ for the series; (other verses to consider with very similar implications; 2:7, 2:14, 3:1, 3:8, 3:14)

Titus 2:11-12 ESV

[11] For the **grace of God** has appeared, bringing **salvation for all people**, [12] **training us to renounce** ungodliness and worldly passions, and **to live** self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

“For the **grace** of God” – There is only one thing that brings us into Salvation and keeps us there, it is God’s Amazing Grace. The Gospel brought a Salvation to people that was given not on one’s merit nor can it be taken away on one’s merit, because it’s based on Jesus’ constant merit.

“...bringing Salvation for **all people**...” – This doesn’t mean everyone gets Salvation but in the context of Titus, it means that now you Cretans, Gentiles are included. This is a huge statement because look at how the Cretans were known through the Roman Empire-

One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” Titus 1:12

EVEN ‘CRETANS’ are included in the blessing of becoming God’s Children

¹ Akin, Daniel. *Christ-Centered Exposition / Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*. Nashville, Tennessee. Academic Publishing. 2013 P. 226



**Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 1 The Honor of Apostleship
By Pastor Jody May 04/24/2022**

through Jesus' work! – (Acts 10:34 God shows no partiality...)²

As per our introduction here is what we will learn in Titus:

The Gospel saves all types of people...

“training us to renounce” – Renounce means deny. We are to deny our hearts the pursuit of worldly things and at the same time we need to deny the world access to our hearts. It sounds hard but a Gospel-Centered life always makes us better at it.

Now we see the dual function of the Gospel in Titus:

The Gospel that saves ALSO trains...

“...and to live” – That is to enjoy, continue with vigor, never tiring. This is a picture of not just surviving but thriving in a world set up to live opposite of how you would live. The only way that is obtainable is that you go back to the first part of the verse. Your life must be generated from the truth of GRACE, you have been redeemed, set free, justified, and resurrected to live into the Kingdom RIGHT NOW!

Here's where we stand.

The Gospel saves, trains, and fuels us to live on the Great Commission!

[INTRO – WHY TITUS?]

Lessons for the church – what does that mean? What lessons are we going to learn from Titus specifically today?

² Acts 10:34 [34] So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,



**Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 1 The Honor of Apostleship
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What we are doing today is talking about what it means to be an Apostle:¹ Paul, a **servant** of God and an **apostle** of Jesus Christ. ἀποστόλος (*apostolos*). n. masc. **messenger, apostle**. One sent out; in the NT, especially those sent out by Jesus to preach the gospel.³ Paul makes the claim that he is speaking for the Risen Lord, he was sent by Jesus to preach the gospel. Paul explains the specifics of his calling to Titus who would in turn give his words to the people of Crete.

Here in the beginning of Titus we are going to pull our first lesson for the church out of the prelude, the official announcement for the reason of the letter. It is the longest one of these that Paul has written in a letter, so it probably means under the coaxing of the HS Paul gives a preamble as to what an Apostle is, the meaning behind it, so that we the church, would understand how we are to be.

Now let me say up front, we are not in the **official term** an Apostle, we were not commissioned by Christ, to start a first century church, exhibiting powers such as healing and exorcisms, to give written documents with the authority of God behind them. As a matter of fact, it is frowned on by us that anyone would speak with the authority of an apostle or even call themselves one.

BUT what we should **walk away with today** is that everyone **shares the burden** of what an **Apostle carried**, the **calling to spread the gospel as a messenger of Jesus**, which is an **honor** and **privilege** that **every Christian gets to share**.

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

³ Smith, C. A. (2014). [Church Leadership](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



Titus – Lessons for the Church Wk. 1 The Honor of Apostleship By Pastor Jody May 04/24/2022

Today we will be looking at the Honor of Apostleship, the duties, the blessings and the privilege of being a messenger of the Gospel: 1st Living as a Servant of God, 2nd living Securely in the knowledge of the Gospel, and 3rd the responsibility to remain Separate from the world.

1. The Honor of Apostleship means living as a Servant.

Greeting

1 Paul, a **servant** of God and an **apostle** of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the **faith** of God's **elect** and their knowledge of the **truth**, which accords with godliness,

Paul, the writer, starts off with not just a show of humility but a simple fact of how he views himself, he's a **SERVANT**. This is not the first time that Paul has used this term to describe himself (Rom. 1:1; 16:1). It is also a popular term of the apostles to describe other religious leaders in their connection to God such as Moses (Heb. 3:5), James (James 1:1), Epaphras (Col. 4:12), and even Peter (2 Pet. 1:1).

δοῦλος (*doulos*). n. masc. **servant, slave**. *Refers to someone who is the property of another.*⁴ Paul, while he views himself as now free from the world to live for God, he also views himself as bought, procured, redeemed, and rescued from the world. God takes a person out of the world to free them yes, but the **Father takes** a person as a **possession** folks.

Paul is stating, my business with you Cretans is not the will of Paul but the will of God, I speak not on my own authority but on God's authority, what I am about to say to you is not born out of my choice, but God's choice for me. The **Honor of Apostleship** is that **the one sent has not a choice of what to do but that the choice of what to do has been chosen for him**. There is honor in being a messenger of the Gospel, it is to be desired...

Example - My dad was left by his father this ancient gun, it was a Winchester model 1892, lever-action 32 caliber rifle. It was a legendary piece as told to

⁴ Clark, R., & McLaurin, D., III. (2014). *Duty*. D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



Titus – Lessons for the Church Wk. 1 The Honor of Apostleship By Pastor Jody May 04/24/2022

him by family that his uncle/grandfather had shot a deer jumping over a fence at 100 yards. When my dad had received this rifle, it was in bad shape and so it sat in the closet for decades. After retiring my father took it upon himself to restore the gun, it was rusting and was not in good working order. Afterwards my father didn't take the gun and throw it back in the closet, nor did he leave it out in the rain, it was retooled, refurbished, and restored for the purpose of taking down small game and now sits ready in my gun safe at home.

That gun was created for one purpose, to kill small game. When my dad rescued it, he didn't have plans to change its' nature or function because that would be to destroy its' essence/purpose of the thing, but his desire was to rescue it so that it may be used for its' original purpose, protection and food harvesting. Now when it is used in this restored shape it brings glory to my father, his handiness, and his name is praised as it is ready to supply his heirs for what they need.

Family, I need for you to begin to reconcile this concept right here and now as we enter into Titus. Paul lived with the correct concept we are not bought and redeemed to be used outside of our original purpose or to be set free to be abused again by this world, but we were refurbished by our creator, so that we may **bring glory to Him**, that we would **find joy** in realizing our purpose, and that we would be able to care for the heirs of God's Kingdom that are still here **FOR WE ARE bound in Servitude** to our Redeemer. The **Honor of Apostleship**, being a sent one for the gospel, is to understand that we are not our own we belong to God we are His Servants, we are His property, and we will shine when we are accomplishing what we were intended to do.

To continue on, what is the servant to do what is one's purpose?

for the sake of the **faith** of God's **elect** and their knowledge of the **truth**, which accords with godliness,

Paul's purpose, the reason his life had been turned upside down, the reason that Paul was rescued from his cushy life, procured from a life as a protected Roman citizen, taken away from a life as a respected leader of the Jews,



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 1 The Honor of Apostleship
By Pastor Jody May 04/24/2022

deprived of any personal riches or wealth, (did you catch the picture that conversion is usually a frightening experience) was to perform two things:

1st Paul exists to bring faith to God's elect and 2nd bring them knowledge of the only Truth that matters; **all things exist for God, and that knowledge leads to godliness**. For the Cretans they prided themselves on being enlightened, entitled, and above reproach (**they pirated as they pleased**) but Paul was showing them that **by Grace** the **sending of the Gospel by a messenger** was the only real way for that to happen. A superior identity is ours to be had in Christ, but it comes at the surrender of our identities in the world.

Paul went from the top of his game to abandoning all for Christ, Paul went from enjoying his lofty positions to calling himself the *chief of sinners* (1 Tim. 1:15) instead he embraced the hardships (2 Cor. 11:16-33), and embraced his shame just like his savior. Paul's earthly glory was exchanged for a heavenly godliness. He received from Jesus the call we all want but are scared of, come and die so you may truly live!

Matthew 16:24 ESV

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

This is what **Christians get to do** - take into the world the message that you have found someone and something worth dying for. Is that you HCC, is your life filled with searching for opportunities to tell people that you have found a reason to live for? If so, then you have discovered the blessing of being a messenger of the Gospel and perhaps you have started living with the blessing that calling gives.

2. The Honor of Apostleship gives us Security.

² in **hope** of **eternal life**, which God, who **never lies, promised** before the ages began ³and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 1 The Honor of Apostleship
By Pastor Jody May 04/24/2022

Paul does all that he does **in HOPE of Eternal Life**. That the Cretans may experience it, that they may receive something that was not theirs to begin with, that they would never again risk a chance of losing it. **Eternal life**, *that state of living by which a person understands, as we talked about the last two weeks, where they came from and where they are going*. It is living in **SECURITY** right here and right now! That is the state of living in eternal life, experiencing an unquenchable hope in life, because you believe by Faith God saved you from the fate of Hell. Eternal life is living with the knowledge you can now serve your creator, you can have purpose, and joy can be found!

Then Paul makes this qualifying statement, *“Which God never lies, promised before ages began AND manifested in his Word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted.”* Paul is actually poking fun at the Cretans with something they are known for, **Lying** (1:12). There was a phrase used for years, **Don’t be a Cretan** – don’t lie for your own gain! God is not lying to us, Paul says, there is no second-hand meaning, this is God’s love & grace, you are being served first by God, there is no sleight of hand, He doesn’t act like a Cretan! Better yet the truth is that before time, *before the ages began*, God chose to love you Cretans before you were ever conceived.

That is a same realization for all of us in here as we realize we are the children of the Apostles we realize the truth of Election, that God foreordained that He would rescue us before we were ever created.

Ephesians 1:3-4 ESV

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

It takes away the ability of any of us trying to **one up each other**, there is nothing in us desirable for all have sinned (Rom. 3:23).

The Honor of Apostleship, to bear those same attributes is to live as if you did nothing for God, to make Him love you, AND it means you are compelled to tell



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 1 The Honor of Apostleship
By Pastor Jody May 04/24/2022

others the same truth. We must live out our eternal security and deliver the Truth that God is not swayed in His love for us even when we sin.

EXAMPLE: I love my kids, and yet, I on a regular basis put them in situations that stresses them, that pushes them, that can set them up for failure. It's not because I am mean it is because I understand the value of lessons learned the hard way. So, from time to time I make them do things they don't like, things they would never try for themselves. One of the first times I did something like this is when we visited Stone Mountain and I had them do the ropes course.

For all my kids I had them not do just the first level, but I had them do that highest level for we all know the challenge is the same, but the only **difference is the height**. The higher you go the bigger your fear. But wouldn't you know it, they all learned the value of trying new things, that some things are not as hard as they seem, and when there is a safety rope attached to you, if you trust it, takes some of the fear out of the adventure.

And that's how it is living with eternal security, living with the blessing of the honor of being a deliverer of the Gospel. Taking up the honor of being a messenger of the Gospel means I have an eternal safety line tethered to my soul:

- When I live my life knowing that I have been sealed by the HS I can stop worrying about losing my Salvation and live enjoying it.
- When I live my life knowing that God's Love works in tandem with His sovereignty then I stop being concerned when bad things happen, for I know God is still loving me through the pain.
- When I live my life knowing that God has an unending source of Grace for His kids, I can walk back into His presence to confess sin without fear of being cast out.
- When I live my life knowing that God understands my limits and will not allow me to be tempted past what I can endure (1 Cor. 10:13), then I trust when He disciplines me for, He won't let me break.
- When I live my life knowing that God will Preserve my life until the day of Christ, judgement, and recreation, then I can take chances telling people about the awesome God I have found.



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 1 The Honor of Apostleship
By Pastor Jody May 04/24/2022

That's what it is like when you accept your role as a **Servant of God** - you can love people when they don't deserve it - because you know you were loved when you didn't deserve it because **YOU HAVE BEEN MADE SECURE.**

Gospel people are servants, they are secure, and that brings us to our third point, to keep the message going they are to remain **SEPARATE...**

3. The Honor of Apostleship calls one to be Separate.

⁴To Titus, my **true** child in a **common** faith:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Titus has been recognized as a **True Child** just like Timothy his other messenger (1 Tim. 1:2) Titus has been noted like Timothy to have the same DNA as Paul, it's the essence of an Apostle, what makes them tick. Titus, because he is on Crete in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea among an ungodly people feels the weight as Paul feels the weight, feels the conviction, feels the Honor of his responsibility. What has produced this? The same belief in the Savior the same love for the Savior, and the same sense of calling for that Savior.

The reason why Paul can trust Titus with the lessons for the church is that Titus, being a True believer, is going to feel and have that same sense of honor of distributing the gospel of Jesus. But Paul reminds Him in this greeting, you can do this as long as you are a child of the **Common Faith.**

Titus, it may be hard being on that island among people who experience wealth, not of their own hands, not to take on their persona, not to indulge in that sense of entitlement, to speak falsely to increase your own gain. Titus, remember this, the Honor of Apostleship is that we have only one Gospel, it has not changed, and it is sufficient for all men.

Paul then gives the last line that he likes to use (Phil 1:2, @ Cor. 1:2). That **Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.** Grace and Peace is yours for those that are holding to the calling of delivering the Gospel to a dying world. You will have Grace and Peace Titus, you will have



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 1 The Honor of Apostleship
By Pastor Jody May 04/24/2022

Grace and Peace family, when you embrace the lessons found in the book of Titus for the sake of the Gospel. **We don't find the blessings of Grace and peace from running away from our responsibilities as Servants we find it by running into them.**

[CHALLENGES + APPLICATIONS]

You may be thinking to yourself I don't have time to do another thing in my life it is full, but I just want to ask you who's will are you fulfilling? If there is not time to share the good news with a neighbor, to live a life of loving one's neighbor, then perhaps you have forgotten the freedom to be found in the gospel. The gospel frees us to do the work of God, **to be a SERVANT**, to be used to bring God glory. Today you may not need to free space on your calendar, but you need to rethink how you do your calendar. Make that a priority this week.

It could be that you have the time, but you have gotten sucked into the headlines of our media today. You see the state of economics and the culture wars raging around you and you just want to play Ostrich and stick your head in the whole in the ground. The problem with that is that you are still exposed and now blind to the attacks of this world. You need to rethink, renew your mind this morning; you are tethered to an unbreakable life-line to your Father creator. We are told to go into the world with all its' messes, and make disciples, and when you believe in your **eternal SECURITY** you will find the strength to face the world.

It could be you have done that, but you have mixed a little too much with the world. Families at HCC, yes part of the Gospel is to be in the world, **to be SEPARATE**, not of the world, or else the love of the Father, Jesus said, is not in us. It means we have got to live out our lives in such a way, that it may cause friction, our practices will stand out, but that is a good thing, God made you to be a spiritual weapon to protect His people and call His lost children home. What is in your life right now that makes you look more like the world and less like the Kingdom of God?



**Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 1 The Honor of Apostleship
By Pastor Jody May 04/24/2022**

Family and friends of this family, let us all embrace the Honor of living for Christ, and if you don't know our Jesus, I invite you to start praying to Him, start living with this body, and watch how we begin to learn the lessons of the church.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has redeemed us from this world and has given us new, glorious purpose in SERVING Him.

Go in the name of the Son, that through His work in His life, death, and resurrection has SECURED us tightly to His side.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that makes the Gospel alive in our hearts, and as it SEPARATES us from the world it allows us to witness in it as well.