



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 15 Understanding it's a TEAM Effort
By Pastor Jody May 08/07/2022

Titus 3:12-15 ESV

Final Instructions and Greetings

¹²When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. ¹³Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. ¹⁴And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.

¹⁵All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith.

Grace be with you all.

[REVIEW]

Today we cross the finish line for the book of Titus. This book was a series of sermons on lessons for the church. It was written to Titus as an instructional letter on how to establish/reshape a church that will last despite 2 serious conditions found in Chp. 1.

1st there are troublemakers among the flock:

¹⁰For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. ¹¹They must be silenced,

2nd The Cretans are pretty depraved:

¹²One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

Paul to combat what we have in every church today; the **over/wrongly religious** and the **over worldly/influenced** people, instructs Titus here's how you fix that. You put leaders in charge of each group of those people, elders who are men that have good reputations. You train them, teach them well about the Grace found in Christ, and then have them guard the flock, helping them complete the good works established before time for them to do (Eph 2:10).



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Then Paul supplied a theme, a bullseye, the reason as to why this needs to happen, as to why Titus was to take on this project:

¹¹For 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... a people for his own possession who are zealous for **good works**.

The Gospel **SAVES, TRAINS,** and **FUELS** us to **LIVE** on the Great Commission!

Last week we started closing up Titus and we went through a section, of which we were trained on how to deal with divisive people. Those will be people that are both over religious and over worldly, but both would be found among the elect on that island.

We saw last week in that instruction there is an imperative command between the lines of this book and it showed up in v.8 - ⁸The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to **insist on these things**. When divisive people show up, when the world raises its' head amongst the church you are to be insistent on the Gospel.

Once the elders are working in and on these churches to teach the gospel they should be passing down what Titus has taught them. Everyone, all church members, should be insistent on what they are learning and experiencing from the Gospel (v.8), they must be willing to **tell people about Jesus** to the point as 2:15 tells us to let no one **Disregard** or Ignore you. It is a command and a sin of omission by not doing it.

This reality shined through I think last week, the seriousness of this book and why it is so important for this moment in time, **spreading the gospel is not about avoiding confrontation** but it is rather the **practice of stepping into it**. Paul knows this, his life is nothing but conflict, BUT there is a way to be with those that preach an alternate gospel, especially those in the church.

We are to avoid them, avoid useless and unfruitful arguments about unnecessary things when it pertains to the Gospel. In their day it was how to



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follow the Jewish laws and customs to give visible goals, societal social cues, to create social hierarchical positions based on how well one could conform to Judaism (v.10). Then we said today, the new law, a way of life infiltrating the church is **Wokism**, which comes with its' on visible goals, societal social cues, and social hierarchical positions based on how well you can signal to everyone how woke you are. The problem was the same: make a man-made religion based out of works, cram it down the throats of unsuspecting people, and replace grace with condemnation so that one can manipulate naïve people to get what you want.

"I believe in peace, love, equity, LGBTQ rights, abortion rights, animal rights, race mixing, assault weapon ban, sharing the wealth, Green New Deal, Black Lives Matter, Prison reform and good rock 'n' roll." – John Hinckley

Paul says when that stuff gets in the church you warn, you bring a witness, that we should practice Mat 18, and if that doesn't cut it, you **cut them out**. It doesn't mean you can't be helpful in loving them in times of need, but fellowshiping, community life, living in the body they are to be excluded from so that it may save their souls (1 Cor 5:5).

Today this conclusion of the letter, in it we are going to find the best way to do this, to handle church discipline. You have heard that for every action there is an opposite and equal reaction and that is very true. The **best way** you **avoid** this type of person is by **focusing ON the right type of person** to engage with.

When focusing on engaging with the right type of people we are living out the Great Commission and we will see that great commission living is not done alone. No church is an island unto itself, no person can effectively live out the gospel without other Christians. Great Commission life is a community engagement on a micro and macro level.

[MAIN POINT]

The Church living the Great Commission understands they are a part of a **Team**.



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There is fun in winning let's all admit that. Some of you are card players, board game enthusiasts, PC gamers, sports peeps, etc. And you all know this fact that it is good to win but it is **SO MUCH FUN to win as a team!** Winning as a team doesn't diminish the glory of an individual it highlights it, and it emphasizes the achievement so much more!

It is actually harder to achieve things together because there is a lack of control because while you can control a game plan you can't control the person it entails. But Christianity, the life of the believer, is not about living in isolation. As a matter of fact, one of the things that will make the Glory of Heaven so great is that we will be able to see that Jesus didn't do it alone, no, He did it through us. He didn't need me but He chose me, He could've kept His glory but He shared, and in the sharing of His glory He increased it even more.

Christianity, the church, is a team effort, and today we are going find out how the team participates because living out the Great Commission IS a team effort.

1. DO your BEST to promote the Gospel. [How we prepare for Good Works]

¹² When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do **your best** to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. ¹³ Do **your best** to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing.

So here is your first glance at the team that is specific to Paul. Artemas, we don't know anything about him but Tychicus that's a different story. He is the deliverer of the letter to Ephesus and Colossae and is listed as one of Paul's top men in Acts 20:4. Colossians 4:7 says he is a beloved brother, a faithful servant and a fellow bondsman in the Lord. 2 Timothy 4 also says he was sent to Ephesus to replace Timothy there. You kind of get the feeling this is the guy you want to find in heaven because where Paul might be too humble to talk about his life, Tychicus would be the guy to fill you in because he not only traveled with Paul he **traveled for** him, instituting Paul's will throughout the church.



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Then we have Zenas a lawyer, perhaps a Roman lawyer (would have been good to have around) and this guy Apollos that in Acts 18 we see he was a mighty man in teaching of the scriptures. He was instructed by Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus, and he later worked in Corinth most likely with Titus.

Just go through all of Paul's letters and 90% of the time you see these same names all the time. I don't know if you are realizing it, but the reason we are reading this letter today is because these boys made it to Titus, they are standing there in front of him while he reads it. They made it, Titus did what he had to do, he went onto Nicopolis, and he sent Zena and Apollos on their way. Without these men you and I right now would not have this book our hands. It took a team effort, that started 2,000 years ago, to bring us all to a point of knowing more about the gospel than we did 3 months ago and it took a group of people, **A TEAM**, to do it.

I just want to briefly say a couple of things before moving on because I want us to see what the church of today must be doing as well from this example. 2 things we must do our best at in promoting the Gospel as Paul did:

- **Makes Plans and Go!**
 - Make Plans
 - Create Goals
 - Establish Deadlines

Paul sent letters to the church, and he made it to Rome, and he raised money for the first century church by making plans. COVID has come and gone and now it is time to make plans again. Perhaps COVID and the economy has got you hanging out with no plan of attack for your life.

Titus shows us the ball is still in play, we are to be insistent on the Gospel, the Great Commission is still moving forward, we need a plan to join that! Have you made plans on how to share it? Are we creating goals on how to love our neighbors better? Are their people names that are not in this church that we are praying for? Are we putting a timeline perhaps on when we will confront that person that we need to confront in love? Are we a people that are planning and going or we just hanging out reacting to life? Culture teaches us



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to respond with the path of least resistance when trouble hits, BUT the Gospel has already been planned out by God and is waiting to be delivered when crisis happens. Are we living in that reality?

- **Send out and Supply the Team!**

- Check Credentials
- Be Generous
- Have Your House in Order

As a church do we have those that travel for us to take the gospel to this world, are we preparing the next generation of preachers and leaders? Let me also say that God has already given us the means to get things done and that is His money. Family with inflation on the rise, now is not the time to sit on money, there is more glory to be done for God because He wants the world to see HE can move mountains with the faith of a mustard see.

Let us all work to get squared away financially, let us all put our house in order, but that starts with us all bringing to God our firstfruits and not acting fearful in this economy. Paul always asked funding from the churches, all of them, and they always gave more even while in need for the work of the gospel. There are people to send and plans to make but we all need to do better in our offerings, because the Gospel is that much more important than our financial plans.

If you have been not giving because you are scared and think you can't afford it, no one does at first, but this is a team effort and there is opportunity for all to be involved and let me say as a member in this church this should be the first place to start according to the examples we see in Acts. Now let me show you where good stewardship comes into play, in this team effort.

2. DEVOTE yourself to Fruitful Efforts. [What we're doing currently]

¹⁴ And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.



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This can be a challenge because many times people use the excuse with what time and with what resource? 2 ways this comes out in the church:

- (Individually) We are affected as individuals because we never think we have the necessary means to care for those in urgent needs.
- (Corporately) Then churches many times get tunnel vision as a body on their own problems because they view themselves as always lacking resources, to devote more to the great commission.

Both views though are an inappropriate view of the Gospel.

2 Corinthians 9:8-9 ESV

⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

The Gospel is not set in the world markets, wall street, or bit coin, but it is empowered by the Spirit of God, which is a bank of Grace. **God's Grace will supply us in all things as individuals and as a church, so this command to insist on the Gospel never diminishes because you cannot out give God.**

Paul didn't tell Titus if things have gone well in Crete, if the bank is financially healthy in a worldly way, no Paul says you help, and get everyone to be generous, for there is much fruit to produce.

- **GOOD WORKS – G3** what they are doing
 - The G3 Conference as an annual event grew from 750 people to 5,600 from 2013 to 2020. Since then, we have transitioned into a 501(c)(3) organization under the name **G3 Ministries**. Our purpose is to *educate, encourage, and equip* local churches with sound biblical theology for the glory of God.
 - Today, we offer local churches more than a yearly event. We provide resources in form of online articles, podcasts, expository preaching workshops, biblical worship workshops, and local church based curriculum for Sunday school and small groups. While we will still be offering events such as our large national conference, regional conferences, study cruises, and church



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history tours—we are very excited about offering resources to local churches and individual Christians.

And **God is still growing it.**

- **URGENT NEEDS – CAYA** providing thousands of lunches
 - We started hosting CAYA last summer providing 15,443 lunches to people in need and this year we helped distribute 23,411 **increase of 7,968** lunches and **God is still growing it.**

- **FRUITFUL WORK – WMBA** local church planting efforts (Ecuador)
 - Just sent a check for more than 5,000 to Ecuador to build Penas Blancas Playground, and we will help send people there in Nov.
 - We just got back from Panama Beach with from our 1st student mission/discipleship trip with plans to grow student discipleship across several churches
 - We hired Marty Guy our church planting strategist to help plant churches locally.
 - We will help plant new works in this community over the next 5 years. (5 in Paulding county in 5 years)
 - **God is still growing it!**

I just wanted to say HCC you may not know it, but the leadership of this church is not waiting for everyone to have everything figured out we are moving forward, we are meeting **urgent needs**, we are involved in **fruitful works**, we are believing the in the deep pockets of God and His grace, and we are being involved in gospel expansion projects. This is something we are going to keep doing and here are some more ways in which you can help.

[CHALLENGE/APPLICATION]

3. DELIVER loving support to the Family. [How we are to treat one another]

¹⁵All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith.

Grace be with you all.



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What Paul is showing here in this last line of his letter is how this all happens. Titus, extend to those who love us our warmest wishes and our help. To Greet means share with them the letter. Titus, build up Crete with our message of love and bring us back word to us of their obedience!

What holds everything together in ministry is LOVE! That's why you read this week in 1 Corinthians 13 a better way for the Corinthians to correct their church was to focus on loving the right way in right relationships (proactive church discipline). The answer for the Corinthian church and her problems was love, the answer to keep all churches going is Love, and Love edifies and builds up relationships. **The reason you need right relationships is because that's what makes Evangelism happen!** Love is the glue and relationships are the power in evangelism, and Evangelism is the focus of Titus! And Evangelism is what we do here at HCC, Developing the Disciples of Christ for the work of ministry. That is why our vision here at HCC for our community and it's beginning to work is this:

CULTIVATING KINGDOM MINDED FAMILIES

- Love Drives Ministry
 - Encourage each other
 - Pray specifically for one another
 - Give Praise with one another
 - Give and receive recommendations from one another
 - Elevate home discipleship especially with one another
 - Praise God in the home and with others
 - Discuss issues of doctrine and theology with each other
 - Work at connecting the Bible to life helping one another
 - Work at tending a flock – who is in your flock?

The secret to HCCs future is, are we willing to love each other well, so we can send out that love to fulfill the Great Commission.

- Will we do our best to promote the Gospel, yes our best is still to come.
- Will we devote ourselves to urgent, good, and fruitful works, yes we will continue to do so increasing our measures by getting our houses in order.
- Will we deliver love to others, yes by practicing loving others well here.



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The order is a tall one but with God all things are possible as I remind you one more time:

2 Cor 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has supplied us with all we need to take the message of His Son into the world.

Go in the name of the Son, that has made us a part of the team and now offers us a place on the winning side.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that gives you all the grace you will ever need to love as you have first been loved.