

Ladies, before we go over this week's lesson, let's review the highlights of what we learned last week in Lesson Two, "Paul Describes His Authority", which covered Titus 1:1-2.

Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In the hope of eternal life, which God that cannot lie, promised before the world began." Titus 1:1-2

**We looked at seven teachings of Pauline truth.**

**First**, we saw that our Apostle Paul's conversion, ministry, gospel, and servanthood, established his **authority**.

**Second**, we studied "according to the faith" and learned that it was, and is, the faith held by **all** believers in the Body of Christ. This faith is in Christ and His finished work upon the cross: his death, burial, and resurrection for our sin. This faith does not include any works, it is by **grace** alone.

**Third**, we examined "God's elect". We learned that **Israel** and the Body of **Christ** are the two groups described as "God's elect". God has an overall purpose with these two groups. God's elect in prophecy is Israel, and God's elect in the Mystery is the Body of Christ. God's elect is not about God selecting who will or will not be saved. God's elect is about fulfilling his **purpose** to redeem back the earth and heaven and place all things under the headship of His Son Christ Jesus. The moment you believe by faith in the gospel of grace you are spiritually placed into the body of Christ and at that very moment you become part of God's elect because you are **IN** Christ.

**Fourth**, we looked at "godliness" and learned how it is being displayed today against the "mystery of iniquity" or **lawlessness**. **God** was manifest in the flesh in Jesus Christ, and today, in the Dispensation of Grace, God has been manifest in **believer's** bodies. Now when Christ is lived out in our lives, we shine brightly against the background of lawlessness in this present world. The Body of Christ today has been called to display **godliness** not only to the world we live in, but to the angels who are observing us. Christ Jesus is the example of godliness.

**Fifth**, we talked about the difference between man's "hope" and biblical "hope". We hope for things but can't be sure they will happen. When God says we have a "hope" we are absolutely **certain** it will happen. We place all of our hope in Jesus who has provided our salvation and gives us hope during troubled times. He is our resurrection and eternal life which we will have one day in **heaven** with Him.

**Sixth**, we saw that our hope is certain because our God is not a man that he should lie, there is **no** unrighteousness in Him, He does **not** change, and it's **impossible** for Him to lie!

**Seventh**, we learned that before the world began, before the creation, the Godhead: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, agreed amongst themselves to the **purpose** and plan of God the Father. His purpose and grace is found in Christ Jesus who agreed to carry out the Father's plan to die for our sins. God determined that everyone who is **in** the Body of Christ would be holy and He would **not** see their sin, instead He would only see His love for them. This happens because Christ's righteousness becomes our righteousness. God decided to save us **not** based upon our works but upon his own purpose and grace. God's purpose and plan is to bring earth and heaven under the headship of His Son Christ Jesus.

We begin this week's Lesson Three, "Set Things in Order" (Titus Chapter 1:3-9), with some further information about Paul's authority. Paul gives us the when, what, and why of his ministry. We are going to break down Titus 1:3 and look at each phrase.

1. **Paul was chosen by God to preach the mystery truths.**

**"But hath in due times** manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour" (Titus 1:3).

A. The **"due times"** began when Paul was **saved** by Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus in Acts 9. Paul was saved by grace and was the first in the Body of Christ. This was at God's **timing**, when it pleased God, and by His grace.

"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood" (Galatians 1:15-16).

**"But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching**, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Savior" (Titus 1:3).

B. God has **"...manifested his word through preaching..."** God uses preachers to show his word to man. Man needs to **hear** the gospel so they can believe it. How can a lost person understand their need for salvation unless they are told about the consequences of their lost condition? How can they call upon someone they have never heard anything about? God desires for preachers to go out into the world and **tell** the lost about Jesus Christ and his gospel of grace. (Romans 10:14-17)

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

**"But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Savior"** (Titus 1:3).

C. **"...is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Savior"**. The preaching of the mystery truths was given to Paul directly by the **risen** Jesus who **committed** him to preach them to all men.

In describing his ministry Paul said in Romans 16:25-26 "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest..."

As members of the Body of Christ we enjoy the "fellowship of the mystery" when we edify each other with the mystery truths revealed to Paul. We enjoy and marvel at all we have been given as members of the Body of Christ! Because of our love for Christ and our devotion to him, we gladly share in the ministry of reconciliation as Christ's ambassadors to the lost. (2Corinthians 5:18-20)

Now we will review the purpose of Paul's letter to Titus. Paul got straight to the point with Titus and laid out the problem and how he should go about fixing it!

**"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee"** (Titus 1:5).

2. Paul told Titus to **"set in order the things that are wanting"** and he gave instructions on how to do this.

- A. The churches on Crete needed order.** These were new churches and Paul had to leave quickly for reasons unknown. In his letter, Paul is following up with Titus, whom he left to **complete** what needed to be done. Paul knew straightening out the problems with these churches would be **difficult** task, so he encouraged him with this letter by reminding him of what is important. Titus would need to:
1. **Find** out what the problems are and provide direction on how to make things work.
  2. **Establish** order and make sure everyone understands and appreciates why the order must be followed to have a functioning church. Don't leave any loose ends.  
"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints" (1Cor 14:33).
- B. Paul told Titus to: "Ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee"** Churches need **godly leadership** not only to maintain order and to guide them, but to edify the church with preaching the word of God.
1. This would be no easy task for Titus because these believers were living ungodly lives and many were new believers as well. From these men Titus would need to **select** an elder for each church. As Titus worked to establish order within each church he would have a good opportunity to **observe** the men, as he looked for those qualified to be an **elder**.
- 3. Paul gave Titus a list of 15 qualifications for an elder in Titus 1:6-9.** The title "elder" is **interchangeable** with "bishop" and "pastor" so as we study Titus we know that the qualifications for a bishop are the same for both an elder and pastor. We'll now cover those qualifications one at a time. While these qualifications are for an elder, they also describe the traits of any godly saint.
- A. (1) He is Blameless.** It doesn't mean that the bishop never makes a mistake or never commits a sin. No one would qualify if that were the case. What it does mean however, is that his **overall** behavior is of a man **committed** to living in a way pleasing to God. Nothing that he does is so grievous that it brings **shame** to the Name of Christ.
- B. (2) He is the husband of one wife.**
1. The use of the word "husband" tells us an elder should be a **male**.
  2. If he is married he has one wife at a time. Paul was specific about this because polygamy was practiced by the Cretans so Titus needed this instruction.
  3. He does **not** have to be married. Consider that if a man serving as an elder became a widower he is not disqualified because his wife dies. Also, the apostle Paul may or may not have been married at his conversion, but we know he was not married later in his ministry:  
"For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn" (1Cor 7:7-9).
  4. A divorce prior to his salvation does not **disqualify** him. The blood of Christ cleanses him from all sin and that sin is not held against him.
  5. He shows **faithfulness** to his marriage.

A Study of Paul's Letter to Titus

- C. (3) He has faithful children not accused of riot or unruly**
1. If he has children they should be responsible, faithful, and honest. They are to be submissive to their parents and show them respect. When problems with his children arise, he handles them in a biblical way.
  2. He has trained his children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). He realizes that as the head of his family he is basically responsible for their behavior. His family sees him as being both mature spiritually and also as a man.
- D. (4) He is blameless, as the steward of God.** As mentioned in verse 6, being blameless means he is living a life committed to Christ that is above reproach. He understands that as an elder he is both leading and managing the affairs of a local church and that he is actually working for God, not just the congregation.
- E. (5) He is not self-willed.**
1. He isn't stubborn or pushy in having things his way. He doesn't think that he is always right and is willing to listen to the suggestions of other people. He is gentle and respectful to those who have a different opinion.
  2. He is able to follow someone else at times. He needs to grasp that his leadership is not about him but about serving God. His goal is that God be glorified.
- F. (6) He is not soon angry.**
1. He doesn't have a short fuse and he isn't easily irritated. He remains calm in difficult situations when others around him are beginning to lose their composure. He understands that angry words can destroy the unity of a church.  
"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God" (James 1:19-20).
- G. (7) He is not given to wine.** People often use alcohol to deal with stress and relax, but a godly man has the peace of God which satisfies him. He goes to the word of God for comfort and direction and not a substance such as alcohol. Paul's preference was that they totally abstain from alcohol. However, he allowed a little wine in those situations where the water wasn't safe to drink.  
"Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities" (1Timothy 5:23).  
"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1)
1. He understands how alcohol will affect his mind and keep him from thinking clearly. He has the ability to choose what is best and he understands that it isn't best to compromise his mind.
  2. Because he has committed his daily life to honoring God he isn't going to limit his ability to walk in the Spirit. He realizes he is an example for those within his church congregation and that he also is a testimony to the world.  
"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).  
"That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ" (Philippians 1:10).

- H. **(8) No striker.** Just as he is **slow** to anger, he should not strike or hit someone in response to an insult. He doesn't have a **chip** on his shoulder and take everything personally. He looks for the truth in tense situations and doesn't let his emotions **control** him.
- I. **(9) Not given to filthy lucre.** The dictionary defines "filthy lucre" as teaching, or preaching, wrongly **just** for the sake of money. It can also mean money that was obtained dishonestly.
1. He will **not** break any laws for money or try to get money in any dishonest or unethical manner.
  2. He has a **proper** view of money as a necessity for life, but he isn't **controlled** by it
  3. What he preaches is not influenced by the amount of money he may or may not receive from the congregation. He will not **water** down his preaching in order to **please** people.
  4. The **church's** responsibility to the pastor:
    - a. The **church** is **res**ponsible to give their pastor a **salary** appropriate for him to live on. "For the scripture saith, THOU SHALT NOT MUZZLE THE OX THAT TREADETH OUT THE CORN. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward" (1Timothy 5:18). "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel" (1Corinthians 9:14).
  5. The **pastor's** responsibility to the church:
    - a. The pastor is motivated by his desire to build **up** the church in God's word and this gives him joy. It is his **love** for Christ which causes him to love the people. Because of this, he offers the church a "ready mind", or the best he has to offer, and is willing to learn and serve them as their pastor. "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind" (1Peter 5:2).
- J. **(10) A lover of hospitality.** People feel **comfortable** around him because he makes them feel **welcome**. He cares for people and shows an interest in their lives as he shares his life with them. Because he enjoys meeting new **people** he makes friends easily.
- K. **(11) A lover of good men.** He understands that the people he associates with have an **influence** upon his life which will impact his spiritual life. So his close friends are those who encourage him to **live** for God. He does not hang out with those who are rebellious or crude. Instead, he **surrounds** himself with men who are living a **godly** life.
- L. **(12) Sober.** He **thinks** things through clearly and considers all that is involved. He doesn't make snap decisions. He is **responsible**, sensible, and has common **sense**. His mind has been **renewed** by the word of God.  
"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith" (Romans 12:2-3).

- M. **(13) Just.** He is **fair** and doesn't show favoritism in the way he deals with people. People trust him because he demonstrates integrity in his behavior. He makes godly **decisions** for the church.  
"The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just" (Prov. 3:33).  
"The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him" (Prov. 20:7).
- N. **(14) Holy.** He behaves in a way that shows he has set himself **apart** for God's **use**. While he is still human and has fun with others, he knows when to **stop** and show reverence for the things of God. He doesn't get carried away with **foolishness**, but he models holiness for others to follow.  
"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (2Tim. 1:9).
- O. **(15) Temperate.**  
He is even-tempered. He isn't **moody** and isn't **controlled** by his emotions. Rather he is controlled by the Holy Spirit who gives him the inner strength and power that allows him to control the lusts of his flesh.  
"And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible" (1Cor. 9:25).  
"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16).

"Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers" Titus 1:9

- P. In addition to these 15 qualifications, a bishop must be **devoted** to the word of God, believing it to be the source of truth without error. He places the word of God **above** man's opinions, philosophy, psychology, traditions, and man's religions. He is entirely **loyal** to the word of God.
1. The bishop (elder/pastor) believes that the Bible is the **literal** word of God without error.  
"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2Timothy 3:16-17).  
"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever" (Psalm 119:160).
  2. The bishop must **never** let go of the word of God. His attention is **always** focused upon it.  
"Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her, for she is thy life" (Proverbs 4:13).
  3. The bishop holds fast to the sound **doctrine**, or teachings, handed down by the Apostle Paul. He does **not** compromise these mystery **truths**.  
"How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)" (Eph 3:3-4)  
"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2Timothy 2:15).

4. The bishop understands how to use God's word to **urge** others to listen to and accept the truth. By using sound doctrine he can help someone put these truths into their **mind** and **heart**.  
"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (1Thessalonians 2:13).
5. The bishop is able to use sound doctrine to **rebuke** those who oppose the truth by showing them their **error**.  
"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29-30).

Ladies, we've covered Paul's assignment that he gave Titus, which was to set things in order and ordain elders in the churches. We also covered the qualifications Paul gave for the elders. In our next lesson, we are introduced to the people Titus will encounter as he goes about establishing order in the churches and ordaining elders.