

Titus - Chapter Three

THINKING BIBLICALLY - Part 4

STIMULATE

** As we began our study last time, we asked the question, "How is our genuine faith in Jesus Christ manifested?" The answer provided was, "It is manifested by our **Godly Behavior**". Do you recall the most frequently repeated character trait listed in Paul's instruction to Titus in chapter two?

V. 2 - "Older men are to be...sensible"

V. 3 - "Older women likewise are to be...teaching what is good..." (to be sensible)

V. 4 - "young women to be...sensible(V.5)"

V. 6 - "Likewise urge the young men to be sensible"

V.12 - "instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly..."

** Do you recall how we defined "living sensibly"?

Thinking Biblically!

MOTIVATE

** Paul's description of **Genuine Christianity** in chapter one and **Godly Behavior** in chapter two, brings us to the question, "How did all of this happen?" How did I turn from my sinful, self-centered lifestyle to one of loving and serving my Lord Jesus Christ?

Today's study, entitled "**By the Grace of God**", will answer our question. Please join me in chapter three of this great epistle so we can enjoy it together.

Read Chapter (V. 1-3) (V. 4-7) (V. 8-11) (V. 12-15)

Opening Prayer

By the Grace of God

INVESTIGATE

V. 1 ** After giving to Titus (and the Cretans) the pattern of godly behavior in chapter two, Paul now gives them some specific areas in which they can demonstrate it. What is the first area that our godly behavior is to be on display?

In subjection to the government, as good citizens.

** The terms "rulers" and "authorities" are used here in concert with one another, but how do you think they relate to each other?

These are individuals that hold position of "rule" over us and God has given them the "authority" to direct our lives in the governmental aspects of the human community.

rule - comes from "archo" to rule, to begin

authorities - "exousia" the power to act

Romans 13:1-2 "...there is no authority except from God..."

"...he who resists authority has opposed the ordinances of God..."

V. 2 ** What is the second area of our life that is to display godly behavior?

How we interact with our "neighbors".

** Paul gives us four commands that, if followed, will make us children of God, "zealous for good deeds" (cf. Chapter 2, verse 14). What are they?

1) to malign no one - "blasphemeo" to slander, or to speak lightly or profanely of sacred things.

2) to be uncontentious - abstaining from fighting

3) gentle - equitable, yielding

4) showing every consideration - selflessness (for all men)

All see - Luke 10:25-37 (V.29, 36)

V. 3 ** Why should we act in this godly manner toward all men? What did we have in common with them?

Foolishness, disobedience, being easily deceived, enslaved (to sin), malice, envy and hate!

V. 4 ** What happened to change our helpless state into the joy of Christ we now share?

"...the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared..."

** Do you recall from last week what that was?

The incarnation of God Almighty in the person of Jesus Christ! (cf. V.6 and John 1:1,14)

V. 5 ** So if we were once as bad (or worse) than all of mankind, how were we saved?

"He saved us...!"

1Timothy 1:15 - "...the world to save sinners..."

2Timothy 1:8-9 - "...who saved us..."

** Was that because we were so loveable, because we had done such a good job obeying His law?

No! "...not on the basis of deeds...but according to His mercy..."

** How does Paul describe the miraculous moment of our salvation?

"...the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit..."

cf. John 3:5, 15:3 and Ephesians 5:26

V. 6 ** How did God choose to pour out this blessing upon us?

"...richly through Jesus Christ our Savior..."

**** What is significant about Jesus being called our Savior?**

Only God is our Savior! **Therefore, Jesus is God!**

cf. Titus 1:3, 2:10, 3:4 with Luke.1:46-47

V. 7 ** So if we can't earn our salvation and Christ was the means to our regeneration, how were we as sinners justified before a Holy God?

"...being justified by His grace.." cf. Ephesians 2:8

**** What did we gain by that gracious justification?**

We became "heirs according to the hope of eternal life..."

**** Since we have gained so much BY THE GRACE OF GOD, should we just live our life anyway we want, in total disregard for His word, knowing that His grace will increase on our behalf?**

me genoito - "May it never be"

All see - Romans 6:1-4

V. 4 "...so we too might walk in newness of life.

(or in keeping with our study, **Thinking Biblically**)

V. 8 ** Is that a trustworthy presentation of the gospel?

Absolutely! "This is a trustworthy statement"

**** How should we speak about the gospel?**

"...confidently..."

**** What impact will that have on our behavior?**

We who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds.

**** Who benefits from that godly behavior and how?**

"These things are good and profitable for men."

We display the life, light, joy and peace of our regenerated Christian life and it serves as a contrast to the death, darkness, sadness and fear of the unsaved world around us. Thus drawing them to the Savior which is both "good and profitable".

V. 9 ** What are we to avoid while living for Christ?

"...foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law..."

**** How does the value of those things compare to our regenerated godly behavior?**

"...they are unprofitable and worthless..."

V.10 ** While Titus is busy instructing the Christians on Crete in the matters of genuine Christianity, godly behavior and the gospel of salvation by grace, how is he to treat any factious men who would be teaching things contrary to sound doctrine?

He is to reject that individual.

** What is he to do before the factious man is rejected?

He is to warn (admonish) him, twice!

V.11 ** If the rebel does not respond to sound doctrine, what do we know about him?

"...such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned."

V.12 ** As Paul concludes his letter to Titus, what does he say that would make Titus know how important he is to Paul?

"...make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis.."

** Who is going to take Titus' place in Crete?

Either Artemas or Tychicus. We can surmise that it turned out to be Artemas because of 2Timothy 4:12, when 1-2 years after writing Titus he sent Tychicus to Ephesus. In any case, both men were known to be co-workers and envoys of the apostle Paul. While this is the only mention of Artemas, we have ample record of Tychicus. cf. Colossians 4:7, Ephesians 6:21

V.13 ** The next two individuals were more than likely the carriers of this letter to Titus, how was he to treat them?

Diligently help them on their way so that nothing is lacking for them.

** Who were these two servants of God?

Zenas the lawyer (nomikos -learned in the law) may have been a teacher of God's Word or a scribe prior to his salvation.

Apollos was mighty in the Scriptures (Acts 18:24-28) and later had a big impact in Corinth for the cause of Christ (1Corinthians 3:6) Paul said, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth."

V.14 ** If we, as Christians, are continuing to learn to engage in good deeds by meeting the pressing needs of others, what will that accomplish?

We will not "be unfruitful". cf. John 15:5, 8 & 16

** Where could the Believers on Crete find a couple of people with pressing needs to help?

Paul had just given them Zenas and Apollos!

V.15 ** How does Paul strengthen the bonds of unity among all true believers as he ends his letter?

Everyone with me greets you.
Greet all true believers.
Grace be with you all.

EXTRICATE

** What were the two areas of our life that were to display godly behavior?

1) Subjection to the rulers and authorities that God has placed over us.

2) How we interact with the "neighbors" He brings our way.

DELINEATE

** What factor in our salvation should prompt our hearts to a loving and willing obedience to God's Word?

"...when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us...!"

Our salvation is all "BY THE GRACE OF GOD".

EVALUATE

** Since we have received so much grace from God, what kind of people should we be?

Maligning no one

Uncontentious

Gentle

Showing Consideration

Engaging in good deeds to meet pressing needs

We should be bearing fruit!

ACTIVATE

** Am I willing to let the grace of God produce Christ like character in me?

Lord help me to be **Thinking Biblically** in every situation so that I will always respond like Jesus Christ and thus bring You glory.

Closing Prayer