

People in place & anchored in grace (Titus 1:1-16)

In the below scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the highest), what score would you give your church in the area of practicing the truth?

1 ----- 10

Why? What makes the difference between a church that practices the truth, is strong in the truth, or is weak in the truth?

Background to the Letter to Titus

- Author: The Apostle Paul
- Date of writing: Between A.D. 60-64
- Recipient: Titus, Like Timothy, Titus was entrusted with the care of churches. After accompanying Paul on his missionary journeys, Paul left Titus on the island of Crete (Titus 1:5) with instructions to complete what had been left incomplete.

Read Titus 1:1-4

What does Paul tell us about the origins and aims of his ministry?

Why was Paul so confident in his faith and ministry?

Read Titus 1:5-16

Looking at verses 6-9, make a list of the qualifications desirable in an elder/pastor of the church which are here mentioned. Compare them with 1 Timothy 3:1-13. What stands out to you?

Looking at verses 10-16, what was wrong with those whom Paul here criticizes? Make a list of their faults and failings. How, by contrast, are sincerity and genuineness revealed?

Implications

What characteristics in verses 6-9 do you need to cultivate? How will you do this?

What characteristics in verses 10-14 do you need to cull from your life? How will you do this?

Adorning the gospel (Titus 2)

What motivates you to change your behaviour?

Read Titus 2

Examine carefully the characteristics demanded by God from the different classes of people mentioned; and summarise them briefly in your own words.

Older men

Older Women

Younger women

Younger men

Slaves / Employees

Which characteristics ought you particularly to covet and cultivate?

Re-read 2:11-14

What reasons are here given why a Christian should live differently?

(a) what should he/she give up?

(b) how should he/she now live?

How far is this true of you?

A sinner, saved, cleansed and living for heaven (Titus 3)

If someone followed you around for a week, how would they describe your relationship to the world around us?

Read Titus 3

Re-read 3:1-7

How ought we as Christians to behave in relation to:

(a) civil authorities

(b) people around us?

What double awareness about ourselves should inspire such conduct?

Re-read 3:4-7

What are we told here about:

(a) the source and method of salvation

(b) our present state and future hope?

Do you realize as you ought how 'richly' (verse 6) you are endowed?

Re-read 3:8-15

By what actions and by what abstinence should genuine faith in God express itself?

What is necessary on our part to ensure that this happens?