

GOD, THE GOSPEL & HIS GLORY

SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT

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We continue our study of Paul's letter to Titus, where he encourages and instructs Titus in his important work in Crete.

I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you. (Titus 1:5, NLT)

In Chapter 3:1-8, Paul encourages Titus to teach the Cretan's about their worldly behaviour. A Christian's behaviour in society is important in the furtherance of the Gospel!

You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the light of the world like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. (Matthew 5:13-14, NLT)

This may have seemed to make Titus's work in Crete a difficult and challenging task.

For there are many rebellious people who engage in useless talk and deceive others. This is especially true of those who insist on circumcision for salvation. They must be silenced, because they are turning whole families away from the truth by their false teaching. And they do it only for money. Even one of their own men, a prophet from Crete, has said about them, "The people of Crete are all liars, cruel animals, and lazy gluttons." This is true. So reprimand them sternly to make them strong in the faith. (Titus 1:10-13, NLT)

But Paul goes on to remind him of their own lives before they were saved. He testified of God's saving grace and His transforming power. It was a reminder that we cannot save ourselves, but God in his mercy and grace made a way for us to know God in our lives. If God can do this in our lives, He can do it in the life of the Cretan's. Godly behaviour is a fruit of the transformed life behaviour follows belief!

What Should A Christian Look Like To The Outside World?

Titus is instructed to insist/remind about their behaviour (v1, v8)

Do What Is Good.

Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone. Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But, when God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good. These teachings are good and beneficial for everyone. (Titus 3:1-10, NLT)

Do's

- Submit to government. (v1)

Respect for Authority - *Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.* (Romans 13:1, NLT)

Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. (1 Timothy 2:2, NLT)

- Obey and do good. (v1)

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:10, NLT)

- Gentle and humble. (v2)

Do Not's

- Slander (v2)
- Fight (v2)

Paul And Titus Transformed (v3-7)

Paul encourages Titus by reflecting about themselves before their conversion and then looking at how God transformed them. Before they were:

- Foolish - lacking spiritual understanding.
- Disobedient - living contrary to God's ways.
- Deceived - following the rules of the world.
- Enslaved by passions and pleasures - if it feels good!
- Malice - wanting the worst for people.
- Envy - wanting what others have.

Paul and Titus were transformed because of God.

- His goodness and love towards us.
- He saved us (His mercy).
- He gave us new birth and new life.
- His empowering by the Holy Spirit.
- He made us righteous.
- He gave us the inheritance of eternal life.

Conclusion

These verses in Titus show us:

- We ought to be good citizens!
- We need reminding as to what that means!
- We are only who we are because of Christ!
- There is hope for people who lives are a mess!
- It is God that transforms the hearts of people.