

PAUL the SLAVE/APOSTLE: For the Sake of GOD'S ELECT

Sunday, February 11, 2018 -- Titus series -- Msg 4 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

Titus 1:1-4

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began 3 and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;
4 To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

REVIEW:

- 1) The Apostle Paul is writing to Titus, giving him some key instructions pertaining to:
 - false teachers infiltrating the newly established churches of Crete,
 - doctrinal problems from the false teachers,
 - the need to appoint qualified church elders/leaders,
 - Christian living amidst a culture of great ungodliness
- 2) The overall theme of Titus is the inseparable link between faith and practice, belief and behavior.
 - right doctrine
 - right leaders
 - right living.
- 3) Paul writes this between 63-65 AD, not long before he is executed.
Paul and Titus have known one another for about 20 years at this point.

THE 'RE: ' or 'REGARDING' or 'SUBJECT' or 'FOR THE SAKE OF' :

Here we find the 3-fold foundational concern/motivation for Paul's letter.

- 1) Evangelism. vs 1 -- *for the sake of the faith of God's elect*
Paul writes/works to help bring God's elect to saving faith in Jesus.
- 2) Edification. vs 1 -- *and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness*,
Paul writes to build them up in God's truth.
God's truth is inseparably linked to godly living.
- 3) Encouragement. vs 2 -- *in hope of eternal life, which God promised before the ages began*
Paul writes to show/remind them of our glorious future with God.

**1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ,
for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their
knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,**

For the sake of GOD'S ELECT:

The Bible is saturated with God's grace-filled election/choosing of His people.

GOD'S ELECTION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Deuteronomy 7:6

For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Psalm 135:4

For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His own possession.

Isaiah 65:1

I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that was not called by my name.

GOD'S ELECTION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:

John 15:16 Jesus speaking...

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Ephesians 1:3-7

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

2 Thessalonians 2:13

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

2 Timothy 1:8-9

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, 9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

Romans 9:14-15

14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! 15 For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

God's election is better humbly accepted than proudly resisted.

An attitude of gratitude should flood my heart at His cross and at His table.