

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT *FOR* THE GOSPEL

Sunday, March 11, 2018 -- Titus series -- Msg 7 -- 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) Paul's letter to Titus is 1 of 3 'Pastoral Epistles/Letters':

1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy and Titus.

- They were written to specific young pastors (Timothy and Titus).
- They were also intended for their congregations -- see the benedictions addressed to 'all': 1st Timothy 6:21; 2nd Timothy 4:22; Titus 3:15.
- They survived the canonization process so they are for us too. ☺

2) Paul's references to himself in the introduction (vs 1-4):

- Paul refers to himself as a slave of God (*doulos*). vs 1
- Paul refers to himself as a messenger/ambassador of Christ (*apostolos*). vs 1
- Paul refers to his command from God to carefully preach (*pisteuó*) the Gospel. vs 3

3) Paul's intro is packed with massive doctrinal significance.

- God's election of His people. (vs 1 'the faith of God's elect')
- God's sovereign reign through all truth. (vs 1 'the truth')
- God's sovereign reign through all time. (vs 2 'promised before the ages began')
- God's loving salvation. (vs 2 'hope of eternal life')

4) Paul's intro is packed with loaded personal statements for the Cretans.

- True Christians (*God's elect*) act like it (*accords with godliness*).
- True Christians have a God who promises and delivers! (*never lies-- like Zeus*).
- True pastors have been commissioned by God (not themselves).

Paul's timeline:

conversion to Christ	33/34
1st missionary journey	46-47
2nd missionary journey	48-51
3rd missionary journey	52-57
martyred in Rome	64-67?

Titus's Appearances/Mentions:

with Paul in Jerusalem & Galatia Galatians ch 2
with Paul in Ephesus & Antioch
with Paul in Corinth (in 1 & 2 Corinthians mentioned 9 times)
with Paul in Crete (left there to straighten churches out)
strangely, never mentioned in the book of Acts.

4 *To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

5 *This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—*

The CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT of Titus -- the Spirit-filled Man.

1) **Titus is Greek.** This means he is a 'Gentile' (non-Jew).

This is a huge issue. He is close to the massive figure of Paul (a converted Jew) who is called 'the Apostle to the Gentiles.'

He goes with Paul into the great controversy of Jews vs Non-Jews in the early church.

Traditionalist Jewish 'Christians'

'Judaizers' (keep OT Law/Rituals)

'Circumcision Party'

FAITH in Works

more RELIGION

Jewish/Gentile/?? Christians

'Converted, baptized Christians'

'Non-circumcision Party'

FAITH in JESUS

new covenant RELATIONSHIP

2) **Titus the Model Gentile Believer -- in lion's den of religionists.**

Galatians 2: 1-10

3) **Titus the faithful, indispensable friend/partner of Paul:**

2 Corinthians 2:2-4, and 12-13 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

-- he was needed spiritually

-- he was trusted implicitly (collecting a large offering for Jerusalem)

-- he was willing to do the really hard stuff. (left in numerous places)

-- he was a 'fire and forget' weapon in Paul's arsenal

4) **Titus the partner and fellow worker for the sake of the Gospel.**

2 Corinthians 8:23-24

23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. 24 So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.

Who are your heros? What is the content of their character development?

Titus in New Testament

Galatians 2:1-10 *Paul, Barnabas, Titus in Jerusalem (around 46)*

1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. 2 I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. 3 But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. 4 Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery— 5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. 6 And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. 7 On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised 8 (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), 9 and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10 Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

2 Corinthians 2:3-4 & 12-13 *Paul writes a scathing letter and Titus deliver it*

1 For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you. 2 For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? 3 And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. 4 For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

12 When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, 13 my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.

2 Corinthians 7:6-16

6 But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of **Titus**, 7 and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. 8 For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. 9 As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. 12 So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that

your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God. 13 Therefore we are comforted. And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. 14 For whatever boasts I made to him about you, I was not put to shame. But just as everything we said to you was true, so also our boasting before Titus has proved true. 15 And his affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. 16 I rejoice, because I have complete confidence in you.

2 Corinthians 8:16-24

16 But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. 17 For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest he is going to you of his own accord. 18 With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel. 19 And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will. 20 We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, 21 for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man. 22 And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often tested and found earnest in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you. 23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. 24 So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.