

ETERNAL LIFE PROMISED -- NO LIE!

Sunday, February 25, 2018 -- Titus series -- Msg 5 -- 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 pastors/elders/spiritual 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.
- 3) Paul's introduction reveals a **3-fold motivation** for writing to Titus:
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 in eternity to come.

RECOGNIZE THE SIMILAR SETTINGS: CRETE -- OUR MODERN SOCIETY

- 1) We too have **many MYTHS** around us.
 - from the minor to the major
 - from the ignorant to the demonic
- 2) We too have **many LIES** around us.
 - individualized lying
 - institutionalized lying
- 3) We too have the same **lying adversary; 'the father of lies'**.
Genesis 3:1-5; John 8:44; 2 Cor. 11:3 & 14; Eph. 6:11; Rev. 12:9; 2 Thess. 2:9-10;

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;

IN HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE: NOT TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE:

Two key usages of the word 'HOPE' in English:

- 1) a wish , a desire (usually a verb form)
- 2) an expectation, a confidence (usually a noun form)

Totally different words in Koine Greek:

Wish = euchomai Acts 27:29
boulomai 2 Peter 3:9
thelo 1 Cor 16:7; Gal. 4:20

Hope = elpis

Romans 8:24,25

24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

the glad anticipation Titus 1:2; 1 Peter 1:21
the grounds for an expectation Colossians 1:27
the object upon which the hope is fixed 1 Tim. 1:1

A TRUTHFUL, RELIABLE GOD WHO CANNOT LIE:

Hebrews 6:13-20

13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." 15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. 16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. 17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. 19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

EVERYTHING is possible with God, unless it violates his character or contradicts his purpose. He will never and can never do either one.

EVERYTHING about God is true. He is the embodiment of truth.
John 1:1-2; John 14:6-7; John 18:37-38

The God who cannot lie, promises eternal life to all who receive him.

John 1:14