

FINAL WORDS: REAL LETTER, REAL PEOPLE, REAL LIFE

Sunday, September 16, 2018 -- Titus series -- Msg 28 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

Titus 3:12-14

(pew Bible page: 1,062)

English Standard Version (ESV)

8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. **9** But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. **10** As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, **11** knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

12 When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. **13** Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. **14** And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.

15 All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith.
Grace be with you all.

CONTEXT/REVIEW:

The Apostle Paul has left Missionary Titus on the island of Crete to straighten out wayward churches. The churches had problematic leaders, doctrine and behavior.

The Cretan churches had spiritually corrupt leaders who were enemies of the Lord, His Word and His church. In pursuit of their own gain, they had brought great confusion to the churches. Titus was given the task of straightening this out.

- 1) True Leaders and True Churches must turn away from wasteful distractions from the Gospel.

9 But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

- 2) True Leaders and True Churches must reject divisive individuals who are bent on creating division in the church.

10 As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

KEY OBSERVATIONS and APPLICATION: vs 12-14

- 1) These are REAL LETTERS from and to REAL PEOPLE in REAL PLACES about REAL ISSUES.

- To be clear, the Bible is NON-FICTION.
- Biographical, geographical, spiritual, moral and theological realities are present.
- God's Word was divinely revealed through human experiences.
- God's Word is as real and relevant today as it was when it was first given.
- All of Scripture applies to all of life for all people.

KEY OBSERVATIONS and APPLICATION: vs 12-14 *continued*

Real Places: Crete, Nicopolis — likely a city in western Greece founded by Caesar Augustus.

Real Times: reality of winter mentioned

vs 12 — Paul tells Titus that either Artemas or Tychicus are coming to relieve him.

- vs 13 — Paul tells Titus to take care of Zenas and Apollos as they pass through.**

These were probably the guys hand delivering this very letter to Titus.

- We too must identify, embrace and support faithful, godly leaders.

- some who stay to lead us ('pastor-elders')
— some who go to lead others ('missionaries')

3) Christians must learn to commit themselves to live productive lives of caring for others.

14 *And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.*

our people = the church, church members, true Christians

learn = it is not automatic; it must be taught; it must be learned.

to devote themselves = '*of the will*'; go against how you feel by discipline and commitment.

good works = faith and love in action; right living; self-sacrifice for others-- CHRIST-LIKENESS.

KEY QUESTIONS: *Do you put God's REAL and RELEVANT Word into your daily practice (good works)?
Are you committed to following God's leaders and serving God's people?*