

# ENTRUSTED TO PREACH THE WORD OF LIFE

Sunday, March 4, 2018 -- Titus series -- Msg 6 -- 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.
- 4) Eternal life is promised by a God who does not lie (unlike Zeus or false teachers).  
Paul writes to people who are surrounded by Greco-Roman mythology with 'lying Zeus'.

## ETERNAL LIFE is promised, revealed and proclaimed. vs 2-3

### 1) Eternal life is promised before time began. vs 2

- 2 Timothy 1:9 *God 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,*
- Ephesians 1:4-5 *He chose us in Him [Christ] before the foundation of the world, the we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.*
- Hebrews 13:20 *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,*

**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;

## **ETERNAL LIFE is promised, revealed and proclaimed.** (continued)

### **2) Eternal life is revealed (manifested) in 'his word' made flesh .**

the Incarnate Word -- Jesus Christ in the flesh. vs 3

John 1:1-2 and 14

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.*

*14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

1 John 1:1-3

*1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

Because Jesus came, died and was raised, we can have eternal life!

### **3) Eternal life comes through 'the word' (the truth of Jesus) proclaimed/preached.**

Like it or not, preaching is the way God has chosen to bring his salvation.

**kerugma** κήρυγμα (from *kerusso* or 'to preach, to proclaim, to herald')  
 • Jesus came preaching. Matthew 4:17; 9:35

• The Apostles were preaching everywhere they went. Acts 5:42

• We (like Timothy) are to 'preach the Word' 2 Timothy 4:2

Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; Matt 26:13

Romans 10:14-15

*14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*

## **THE CALL TO PREACH THE GOSPEL:**

### **1) There is the Call from ABOVE; this is God's call to you.**

Isaiah 6:1-8; Ezekiel 3; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; Matt 26:13

### **2) There is the Call from BELOW; this is hell's call to you.**

Luke 16:19-31 (Lazarus and the rich man in hell); Matthew 9:37-38; Ephesians 2:12

### **3) There is the Call from the INSIDE; this is your inner yearning.**

1 Timothy 3:1; Jeremiah 20:9; Acts 4:20;

### **4) There is the Call from the OUTSIDE; this is your church's outer affirming.**

Many false teachers have risen because churches have not been careful. 1 Tim. 5:22; 3:2; 4:14; Titus 1:5-16