

Bible Study Series on.....

The Letters of

2 Timothy

&

Titus

13 Lessons

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2005

**A
Study
of**

2 Timothy Titus

13 Lessons

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Lesson One

“PAUL, THE ENCOURAGER”

(II Timothy 1:1-7)

INTRODUCTION

1. Background to II Timothy:

- a) There are indications that Paul was released from his first imprisonment.
- b) May have traveled to Spain...this was his intentions.
- c) He and Titus preached on Island of Crete, and Paul left Titus there to go elsewhere.
- d) Timothy was left at Ephesus, while Paul went on to Macedonia.
- e) He intended to winter at Nicopolis.
- f) Shortly after this, He may have been arrested, accused, and sent to Rome for trial.
- g) Indications that his arrest may have been close to Ephesus:
 - 1—II Tim. 1:15---All in Asia turned away.
 - 2—II Tim. 1:16-17---Onesiphorus sought Paul out in Rome. (He was from Ephesus.
 - 3—II Tim. 2:16-18---False teachers mentioned from Ephesus.
 - 4—II Tim. 4:13---Left cloak at Troas (not too far away).
 - 5—II Tim. 4:14-15---Alexander, the coppersmith, did Paul much harm at his first trial...from Eph.
 - 6—II Tim. 4:20---Trophimus left sick at Miletus...close toEphesus.
- h) In AD 63, Nero had burned half of the city of Rome & blamed it on Christians.
 - 1—Persecution set in there and elsewhere.
 - 2—Many died terrible deaths.
 - 3—Paul knew that his end was near.

2. Purpose of II Timothy:

- a) To encourage Timothy in his work.
- b) Paul was in bonds about to be put to death.
- c) Christians were becoming fearful of persecution.
- d) False teachers & others were turning from the faith.
- e) Timothy, stay strong....don't be disheartened!

DISCUSSION

I. WORDS FROM THE WRITER TO THE RECEIVER. (1:1-2)

A. From the Writer:

- 1) Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ.
 - a) This is his last letter...”Last will & Testament”.
 - b) Written in the shadow of death.
 - c) But opens with personal interest & concern for Timothy.
- 2) An apostle by the will of God.
 - a) He was not self-appointed, but God-appointed.
 - b) By Divine will and purpose....no merit of his own.
- 3) Reason...To make known the promise of life to lost mankind.
 - a) As Paul faced sure death, his emphasis was upon LIFE.
 - b) The life he had lived in Christ.

- c) The life he was about to lay down.
- d) The eternal life that awaits him.
- e) The gospel he preached was one of LIFE for sinful man.
- 4) This life is found in Christ Jesus.
 - a) Those in union with Christ have this promise of life.
 - b) Gal. 3:26-27

B. To the Receiver:

- 1) Timothy.
 - a) Lived at Derbe or Lystra in Lycaonian region of Galatia.
 - b) Father was a Greek....Mother, a Jewish.
 - c) Father allowed his son to be brought up in Jewish beliefs.....
 - d) But did not allow him to be circumcised.
- 2) Paul addresses him as, "My dearly beloved son".
 - a) Before, it was "mine own son in the faith".
 - b) More affection shown in this expression.
 - c) Evidently converted by Paul's preaching on 1st missionary trip.
 - d) Quote: *"Timothy is the kind of man that history would not have remembered had he not crossed the path of a man that the world can never forget."*
- 3) Grace, Mercy, and Peace from God, the Father, and Christ Jesus, our Lord.
 - a) Basic common greetings.
 - b) Exalting the Father & the Son as the giver of Grace, Mercy, and peace.

II. PAUL'S THANKSGIVING FOR TIMOTHY. (1:3-5)

A. Paul thanked God for Timothy.

- 1) Thanksgiving is a good way to begin.
- 2) Most of all....thanksgiving to God....he is the giver!
- 3) What an encouragement Timothy had been to Paul.
- 4) Now....Paul wanted to encourage Timothy.
 - a) Paul knew he would soon die.
 - b) Timothy would soon be on his own—Paul's death was imminent.
 - c) Tried to prepare him for what was ahead.

B. Paul was also thankful for his forefathers.

- 1) Those who had gone before him:
 - a) Who believed in God.
 - b) Who served God.
 - c) Who taught him to serve God.
- 2) And that now he could serve God out of a pure conscience too.
 - a) Pure conscience.... "Sweet melody to the soul".
 - b) Paul said, "I have lived in all good conscience."

C. His thanksgiving led to his offering prayers in Timothy's behalf.

- 1) He did so without ceasing....continually.
- 2) Night and day....Timothy was on his mind & heart.

D. His prayers were that he might see Timothy again.

- 1) He greatly desired to see him.

- 2) Their close ties & working together had been broken by circumstances beyond their control.
- 3) He desire Timothy's presence...now, more than ever.
- 4) Their last parting was with tears.
- 5) To see him again would bring joy to both their hearts.

E. Paul vividly remembered when they first met:

- 1) It was on his first missionary journey into Galatia.
- 2) Three generations accepted the gospel at that time.
 - a) His grandmother, Lois.
 - b) His mother, Eunice.
 - c) And Timothy.
- 3) They were faithful in spite of the persecution they faced.
- 4) But their faith in God preceded their becoming Christians.
 - a) Dwelt first in Grandmother, then daughter, then Grandson, Timothy.
 - b) Lessons of faith & obedience learned at his mother's knee.
 - c) How many great workers are prepared to serve in the kingdom by grandparents & parents.
- 5) He continued the line of those who held strong convictions of faith.
 - a) The kind of faith that endures, sustains, and leads to eternal life.
 - b) That can endure persecution, suffer losses, and live or die for the sake of Christ...with sure hope of LIFE.
 - c) Paul was assured that this same faith was in Timothy.
- 6) Memory:
 - a) A wonderful thing at times.
 - b) It can slumber and go to sleep.
 - c) Good reason...life would be unbearable if our minds continually remembered all bad things.
 - d) The slumber of memory can be a blessing.
 - e) But it can also be awakened & quickened for higher and more noble purposes.

III. HIS ADMONITION TO TIMOTHY. (1:6-7)

A. Paul calls upon Timothy to remember something in his past.

- 1) You were given a gift from God.
 - a) It was given to you for a purpose.
 - b) Don't be discouraged & slack off in its use.
- 2) This gift was given when I laid hands on you to impart it.
 - a) Only apostles could impart miraculous gifts to others.
 - b) But Elders could lay hands on to appoint people to certain works.
 - c) Both seem to have been done at same time, when Timothy was appointed to go & work with Paul.
- 3) Remember this & let it rejuvenate you in its use.
 - a) All fires die out, unless stirred up.
 - b) Don't let the fires go out...kept it stirred up always.
 - c) Use God's gift continually all the way!

B. Also, remember something else:

- 1) God has not given us the spirit of fear.
 - a) Fearfulness, timidity, cowardice.
 - b) Rev. 21:8
 - c) Those who fear God, should not have any other fears.
- 2) But He has given to us Power:
 - a) Courage versus cowardice.
 - b) A consciousness of what God has given to us.
 - c) Power to face foes & dangers.
 - d) Power to bear up under trials & persecution.
- 3) Love:
 - a) Not a softness....but a holy concern for others.
 - b) Perfect love cast out fear. I Jn. 4:18
 - c) Nothing is stronger than love to cause one to face dangers, face privations or persecution.
- 4) And a sound mind.
 - a) Better translation....Disciplined mind.
 - b) Opposed to all easy self-indulgence.
 - c) A mind set on serving God.

CONCLUSION

1. Let's use our memories to help us through the trials of life.
 - a) Dwell on the good, not the bad.
 - b) Let it be a source of joy & encouragement for us.
2. Most of all, to recall God's great mercy & forgiveness to undeserving me.

Lesson Two

“DON'T BE ASHAMED OF CHRIST”

(II Timothy 1:8-14)

INTRODUCTION

1. Paul was giving strong encouraging words to Timothy.
2. Why?
 - a) Did Timothy really need it?
 - b) Was he of such a temperament that he was in danger of turning away?
 - c) Or, was it being recorded for future generations, future preachers?
3. Paul reminded Timothy:
 - a) God has not given us a spirit of fear, cowardice; but of power, love, and a disciplined mind.
 - b) This power must show itself by a courageous accepting of afflictions because of the gospel.
4. He then gives him three specific admonitions:
 - a) Not to be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord;
 - b) To hold fast to the pattern of sound words;
 - c) and to keep that good thing committed to him.

DISCUSSION

I. DON'T BE ASHAMED. (1:8-12)

A. Two things mentioned:

- 1) “Of the testimony of our Lord
 - a) Testimony given concerning the Lord, his teachings, his suffering & death.
 - b) Don't be pulled into being ashamed of Him who died for us.
- 2) “Nor of me his prisoner
 - a) Paul was a prisoner at Rome for Gospel's sake.
 - b) He had not done any wrong to be put there.
 - c) There....because he bore testimony to the truth of the gospel.....his preaching of Jesus as the only Savior.
 - d) The Caesars paraded themselves as Saviors of the world.
 - 1—They had brought peace to the world.
 - 2—And thereby prosperity.
 - 3—They were saviors in the physical realm.
 - e) But Paul preached Jesus as the only true Savior so desperately needed by Sinful man.

B. Rather, be a partaker of the afflictions of the gospel.

- 1) Be willing to suffer hardships together with others.
- 2) Sufferings were a natural accompaniment to preaching Christ.
- 3) Paul rejoiced that he was counted worthy to suffer for Christ's sake.
- 4) God had given him the power to suffer afflictions willingly.

C. Now, concerning this God:

- 1) He has saved us.
 - a) God's power saved us. Rom. 1:16
 - b) He made us acceptable by forgiving our sins.
 - c) He brought us into a state of Salvation, safety, peace.
 - d) God is the true savior of mankind.
- 2) He called us with a holy calling.
 - a) Call called us through His Gospel. II Thess. 2:14
 - b) It was a holy call from God, Himself.
 - c) Called us to live a holy life. I Pet. 1:15-16
- 3) This call was not due to our good works.
 - a) Not because of our goodness.
 - b) But, in spite of our badness, rebellion, disobedience.
 - c) The call of God cannot be earned or merited.
 - d) If it could, the sinner would be glorified, not God.
- 4) This holy calling was according to his own purpose and grace.
 - a) God planned & executed His plan to save man.
 - b) His grace makes salvation possible.
 - c) His grace was shown in the death of Jesus for our Redemption.
 - d) His death satisfied the demands of justice.
- 5) Which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.
 - a) Salvation is only through Christ.
 - b) It was given to mankind thru Christ before the world began.
 - c) In the mind of God, it was already an accomplished fact.
- 6) But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
 - a) Man knew it when Jesus came into the world to die for man's sins.
 - b) It is now being preached to the world.

C. But what about this Jesus:

- 1) He has abolished death.
 - a) Spoken of as though it was an accomplished fact.
 - b) It is as good as done!
 - c) Jesus deprived death of its sting.
 - d) And assured its ultimate abolition.
 - e) I Cor. 15:55---"***O death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory?***"
- 2) He has brought life and immortality to light.
 - a) Jesus has fully revealed the sureness of both life in its real sense and immortality that man can attain unto.
 - b) Herein is the uniqueness of the gospel of Christ.
 - 1—It has made known that which was obscure.
 - 2—It has assured man of that which he had longed for, but was not assured of before.
 - c) This enlightenment has come through the preaching of the gospel of Christ.

D. Now concerning this gospel:

- 1) Paul was appointed by God to preach and teach it to the Gentiles as an apostle of Christ.
- 2) And it is for this reason that he was suffering these things.
- 3) Nevertheless:
 - a) He was not ashamed to suffer for the gospel's sake.(Rom. 1:16)
 - b) He was suffering imprisonment, solitude, hatred from both Jews & Gentiles.
 - c) But there was no wavering, no hesitation, no misgivings, and no disappointments.
 - d) He wanted to encourage Timothy to be willing to do as he was doing.

E. Paul now expresses his complete assurance in midst of all this.

- 1) I know whom I have believed.
 - a) Not just know of or about, but to know personally.
 - b) Some people...more you know of them, less they are trusted.
 - c) Paul's faith was firmly planted in Christ Jesus.
 - d) He had absolute assurance.
- 2) I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.
 - a) Men commit their souls, selves, to some thing or some one.
 - b) Paul had committed his to God.
 - c) In death, Jesus commended his spirit unto God.
 - d) Paul also, in the face of death has fully committed his soul unto God.
 - e) The grounds of that assurance---complete faith in God's faithfulness.
 - f) God entrusted the gospel to Paul...He had been faithful to that trust.
 - g) Paul, in turn, has entrusted his soul & his life into the hands of an all-powerful God, with full assurance.
- 3) Reasons why we should also:
 - a) Because we cannot save ourselves.
 - b) Because our soul is in danger.
 - c) If we are not saved by Him, it will be by no other.
 - d) We are committing a great & valuable treasure unto God. Matt. 16:26
 - e) It can be done with such assurance that our minds can be at rest.

II. HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS. (1:13)

A. Form

- 1) The idea of a Pattern.
- 2) The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus was critical to the heart & core of their preaching.
- 3) But all of God's Word is important to the health of our souls.
- 4) So, hold on to it all...for it alone can save our souls.

B. It is to be held to in faith and love.

- 1) With full conviction of heart.
- 2) With a heart that is set on God and pleasing Him.
- 3) Such attitudes come from being in union with Christ.

III. THAT WHICH TIMOTHY IS TO KEEP. (1:14)

A. The good thing committed unto thee.

- 1) The sound words...God's truth...the gospel.
- 2) To keep...to guard...to watch out for...to defend.
- 3) Jude 3---"*exhort you to earnestly contend for the faith, which once delivered unto the saints.*"
- 4) You have also been entrusted with it...so be faithful to keep it secure, intact!

B. It is to be kept by the Holy Spirit which dwells in us.

- 1) By the power or aid of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) The encouragement that he gives.
- 3) Because he dwells in us...taken up his residence in us.
- 4) We are to yield to His teachings in our lives.

CONCLUSION

1. What a wonderful blessing that we have been enlightened by the gospel.
 - a) We have become God's children.
 - b) And have the assurance of eternal life.
 - c) No greater privilege on earth than this.
2. Have you had that great privilege to hear God's willingness to save us thru His Son?
3. Have you responded to His wonderful invitation?

Lesson Three

“BE A STEADFAST SERVANT”

(II Timothy 1:15-2:13)

INTRODUCTION

1. Paul had previously expressed his willingness to suffer for the Gospel.
 - a) He had had to suffer many things in the past.
 - b) Now he was in prison at Rome a 2nd time for preaching the Gospel.
2. He encouraged Timothy to be willing to be partaker of this suffering, if it becomes necessary.
3. He now mentions some workers whom Timothy was acquainted with and continues to offer encouragement to him.
4. He gives examples of both cowardice and courage in lives of God’s people.

DISCUSSION

I. THE FEARFUL & COURAGEOUS COMPARED. (1:15-18)

A. “All they which are of Asia be turned away from me”

- 1) Asia is in the Western part of Asia Minor, where there was a strong center of Christianity established.
- 2) This area is probably where Paul was arrested and taken to Rome.
 - a) His accusers would have to go to Rome to accuse him.
 - b) Caesar’s attitude towards Christians would make a big difference also.
 - c) Strong persecution had broken out against Christians in Rome....and scattered into the provinces.
 - d) This gave a big opportunity for the opposers of Christianity to get their way in Rome.
- 3) It took courage to stand up and be counted among believers.
- 4) Several possibilities could be suggested to explain THIS statement.
 - a) Churches in Asia had not sent people to encourage and help Paul as they had done before.
 - b) Representatives sent to encourage Paul from churches in Asia backed off and returned home out of fear.
- 5) Timothy knew about what had happened!!

B. “Of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.”

- 1) We know nothing of these two from other sources.
- 2) Paul seems to have been disappointed in both men.
- 3) They may have been the ones he least expected to turn away from him.

C. But Onesiphorus was different!

- 1) He, too, was from Ephesus(Asia).
- 2) For some reason he was in Rome....possibly on business.
- 3) He knew Paul was in prison at Rome.....
 - a) He diligently sought Paul out.
 - b) Several prisons....Hard to find where someone was.
 - c) Quite different from his first imprisonment.
- 4) He was not ashamed of Paul, nor fearful of being connected with him.
- 5) He was like a cool drink of water on a hot day to Paul.

- a) Great encouragement.
- b) When others were forsaking him, he visited Paul often.
- c) May have still been in Rome when Paul wrote this letter.
- 6) He reminded Timothy that he knew how much Onesiphorus had helped Paul when he was in Ephesus.
- 7) Paul wished God's blessings to be upon Onesiphorus' family.
- 8) And upon Onesiphorus...that God would grant him mercy in that day.
 - a) Day of Judgment?
 - b) Or, day when he might face what Paul was facing?
- 9) Onesiphorus lived up to his name!
 - a) A help bringer!
 - b) Truly a bringer of comfort and strength to a great WARRIOR whose battles were nearly over!

II. ADMONITIONS TO TIMOTHY IN VIEW OF THESE THINGS. (2:1-7)

A. Be strong in God's grace!

- 1) You also, be like Onesiphorus....BE STRONG.
- 2) Called him his son (in the faith, understood).
- 3) Fear must be conquered....done by Love for Lord & Lost souls.
- 4) It is done by looking to the Grace of God to sustain us.

B. Commit this message to others!

- 1) Timothy had heard the message over the past 16 years working with Paul.
- 2) Commit it to faithful people (Generic word).
 - a) To both faithful men & women.
 - b) The gospel must be spread by more than preachers.
 - c) Must be done by all Christians.
- 3) Who shall be able to teach others also.
 - a) Successful spread of gospel depends upon this.
 - b) But it can only be transmitted by committed minds & hearts.
 - c) Can't teach what you do not know.
 - d) Must know the word and be willing to teach others.
 - e) Process....from committed to committed!!

C. Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

- 1) Endure hardship along with others.
- 2) Soldiers endure hardship:
 - a) Leave home & family to go keep peace or fight.
 - b) Exposed to cold, heat, storms, etc.
 - c) Often had lack of food & proper water.
- 3) But with courage and loyalty....they did their work!
- 4) So, Christians need to be good soldiers of Jesus Christ.
 - a) Faithful, loyal, committed to serve in His army.
 - b) Preachers should not expect their work to be easy.
 - c) Be prepared to lead a soldier's life.

D. Principles to encourage such:

- 1) Man going to war (soldier):
 - a) He is in the service of his country.

- b) He does not entangle himself in the affairs of this life.
 - c) Reason...makes him ineffective.
 - d) His efforts should be to please the one who chose him or enlisted him as a soldier.
- 2) Man striving for mastery (Athlete):
- a) To engage in athletic contest.
 - b) The Athlete must obey all regulations or be disqualified.
 - c) He strives to win lawfully.
- 3) Man that labors on a farm:
- a) He tills the ground...labors and grows weary in work.
 - b) His reward is to eat of the fruit of his labors.
- 4) Consider what I am saying:
- a) Ponder about these things....make proper application to your life.
 - b) The reward of a servant of God is from his labors!
 - c) Look to the Lord to give you understanding in all things.
 - d) The maintenance, spread, and triumph of Christianity came out of much labor.
 - 1—Like a soldier who gains victory in battle.
 - 2—Like an athlete who gives his all to win the prize.
 - 3—Like a farmer who works diligently to bring in a harvest.
 - e) He now turns to Christ's example for encouragement.

III. THINGS TO REMEMBER: (2:8-13)

A. Remember Jesus Christ (think on his example).

- 1) He was of the seed of David.
 - a) His birth was real (God born in the flesh as a manchild).
 - b) He served God faithfully as a man.
 - c) He also suffered death for man's redemption.
- 2) He was raised from the dead according to gospel Paul preached.
 - a) He was rewarded for His labors after enduring hardship.
 - b) Thus, the good news to be preached to mankind is that we too can have the hope of a resurrection unto life everlasting.
 - c) Thus, the willingness to suffer!

B. Paul now gives 3 reasons for his suffering:

- 1) Because of the gospel.
 - a) He was suffering as an evil doer (law breaker).
 - b) He was treated like a criminal because of his preaching the gospel.
 - c) But, he was willing because of the hope the gospel gave.
 - d) He was suffering even unto bonds (chained in prison).
 - e) But thankfully, that gospel is not bound, chained!
 - 1—God's word was still being preached.
 - 2—Cannot imprison it.
 - 3—You might silence Paul's voice, but all the while thousands are spreading the gospel through-out the earth.

- 2) Suffering for the elect's sake.
 - a) The "elect" are those called by Gospel and have responded in faith & obedience.
 - b) Paul was willing to suffer so that such people could be saved.
 - 1—This salvation is found in Christ Jesus.
 - 2—And it is unto eternal glory someday.
 - c) Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:23, 25 (Christ suffered for church)
- 3) Suffering because the scriptures teach the necessity of suffering.
 - a) Principle: "***For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him.***"
 - 1—Men must die to their own will so they can do the will of Christ and live!
 - 2—Rom. 6:3-5, 8
 - b) Principle: "***If we suffer, we shall also reign with him***"
 - 1—We must endure to end to be able to reign with Christ.
 - 2—Rom. 8:17
 - c) Principle: "***If we deny him, he also will deny us***"
 - 1—We must own Christ or be disowned.
 - 2—Matt. 10:33
 - d) Principle: "***If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.***"
 - 1—To be unfaithful to Christ....turn away in disobedience.
 - 2—Yet, God will be faithful to His Word.
 - 3—Matt. 7:23
 - 4—He would deny himself if he saved those who did not believe & live holy lives.

CONCLUSION

1. A servant of the Lord needs to be:
 - a) Strong in God's grace.
 - b) Make diligent effort to transmit God's truth to faithful Christians.
 - c) And be willing to endure hardships for the gospel's sake.

Lesson Four

“Strong Admonitions to Timothy”

(II Timothy 2:14-26)

INTRODUCTION

1. The apostle Paul was facing death in the near future.
2. He was very much concerned about the church and its coming dangers!
3. Timothy had been with him for so long that he knew of Paul’s concerns.
4. Paul encourages Timothy to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
5. And then, gave some strong admonitions to Timothy.
6. Especially in regards to those that would do harm to the church.

DISCUSSION

I. PUT THE CHURCH IN REMEMBRANCE. (2:14)

A. Put them in remembrance of:

- 1) “Those things” that he has been emphasizing.
- 2) Great principles of the kingdom.
- 3) The issues of Life and Death.
- 4) The truths of the gospel.

B. Charging them before the Lord.

- 1) Give this charge, emphasizing the presence of the Lord.
- 2) Make sure they respect God’s will in these matters.

C. Charge them not to strive about words to no profit.

- 1) “Not to fight wordy battles”
- 2) Not to contend over words that have no real value.
- 3) Not to wrangle over empty & trifling matters.
- 4) Empty and trifling ideas.

D. Reason---They only subvert the hearers.

- 1) To subvert....to turn under....to over-throw.
- 2) It will unsettle their minds and cause them to turn from the faith....fall away.

II. BE A DILIGENT WORKER. (2:15)

A. “Study”----“Give diligence”

- 1) Diligence....hurry on, be eager and zealous to discharge your duties.
- 2) To do one’s best.

B. To show yourself an approved workman unto God.

- 1) Be approved.....put to the test.....Satisfactory.
- 2) An approved workman....deliberate and careful life.
- 3) A workman of God who desires his approval.
- 4) Not to seek to please men, but God!

C. A workman that needs not to be ashamed.

- 1) No cause for shame when his work is inspected.
- 2) If approved, need not be ashamed of his work.

D. Rightly dividing word of truth.

- 1) “Handling aright”

- 2) Idea is...to plough a straight furrow....to cut straight!
- 3) It is to present God's truth correctly, not mishandling or changing it.
- 4) Could include....adapting God's Word to the need of the moment.
- 5) Certainly not making it just a bunch of words to debate over.

III. THINGS TO SHUN OR AVOID AND WHY. (2:16-19)

A. Profane & Vain babblings.

- 1) Avoid hollow, empty, useless, vain chatter.
- 2) Shun empty or purposeless discussions.
- 3) Avoid that which degrades the holy.....PREACH TRUTH!

B. Reasons for shunning such:

- 1) They will increase to more ungodliness.
 - a) Such grows and encourages disrespect for God and His Word.
 - b) It is not only a waste, but destructive.
 - c) It tends to alienate the soul from God.
- 2) Their words will eat as doth a canker.
 - a) It will spread like CANCER DOES THROUGHOUT WHOLE BODY.
 - b) To deny one truth affects other truths.
 - c) The end results, death.....spiritual death!

C. He gives an example to illustrate.

- 1) Hymeneus and Philetus are examples to show what happens.
- 2) It led them to err from the Truth & turn to speak lies!
- 3) Now, they are teaching that the Resurrection is past already.
 - a) Their actions led to a denial of a coming Resurrection.
 - b) Paul sees their actions as dangerous!
- 4) The outcome is....some Christians' faith have been over-turned.
- 5) Causes them to grow careless in moral & spiritual lives.

D. Nevertheless,

- 1) The foundation of God stands sure.
 - a) What God has laid down is sure, dependable.
 - b) It cannot be moved.
 - c) Defection of some from the faith does not affect God's foundation.
- 2) Having this seal:
 - a) Seal is a surety.....an assurance of the real thing.
 - b) We have the assurance of God....OF WHAT?
- 3) The Lord knows them that are his.
 - a) The Lord knows that some come into the church who will not endure.
 - b) But, he knows those that will endure till the end.
- 4) So, let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.
 - a) Those who have made a profession of faith in Christ.
 - b) God's people....need to live pure lives!

IV. BE A VESSEL UNTO HONOR. (2:20-21)

A. Every house has different kinds of vessels to use.

- 1) Some made of Gold & Silver....beautiful, desirable.

- 2) Some made of wood & earth...useful, but not very desirable.
- 3) Some bring honor to the house & its owner.
- 4) Others bring dishonor.

B. In the Lord's house the same is true.

- 1) Some Christians grow to maturity & display true Christianity.
- 2) While others never grow sufficiently and usually detract from Christianity and even bring disgrace & contempt.
- 3) The choice is ours....BE A VESSEL UNTO HONOR.

C. How?

- 1) By purging himself of the dishonorable things.
 - a) The church will never have a perfect membership.
 - b) But, it must continually purge itself of sinful things.
 - c) Can't stop striving towards perfection.
 - d) To purge...to cleanse thoroughly...make pure.
- 2) By being sanctified, and meet for master's use.
 - a) Must put away impurities...keep self clean.
 - b) Live holy lives, set apart to serve God.
- 3) By being prepared for the Master's use.
 - a) We can only be useful when purged & sanctified.
 - b) God wants to put us to work....we need to do our part 1st.
 - c) Hymeneus & Philetus could have been useful vessels if they had purged themselves.
- 4) By being prepared unto every good work.
 - a) Equipped to do the Lord's work.
 - b) Not just a few....but every good work!

V. FLEE YOUTHFUL LUST. (2:22)

A. Flee (keep on fleeing).

- 1) Youthful lusts:
 - a) Unlawful desires of the flesh.
 - b) Impatience.
 - c) Self-assertion.
 - d) Intolerant of other's ideas.
 - e) Arrogant & Proud.
 - f) Conceited.
 - g) Prejudice.
 - h) Anger, etc.
- 2) Don't indulge them....do not partake of such....put away.

B. Follow (keep on following, pursuing).

- 1) It is a pursuit of a higher spiritual life with God.
- 2) Things to follow after:
 - a) Righteousness---right relationship with fellow-man.
---Right words & actions towards them.
 - b) Faith---Fidelity, faithfulness, trustworthy.
 - c) Charity---Love...giving of one's self to others.

- d) Peace---Harmony & accord with all men.
- 3) Towards whom:
 - a) Them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
 - b) A true Christian.....one who lives a holy life.

VI. THINGS TO AVOID & WHY. (2:23)

A. Foolish & Unlearned questions.

- 1) Areas of curiosity.
- 2) Foolish....stupid....unwise.
- 3) Unlearned....undisciplined, trifling questions.
- 4) To be carried away with novelty of something.
- 5) Questions of no value.

B. Why avoid them?

- 1) Because they gender strife.
- 2) They beget strife....bring on strife.
- 3) Strife....quarrels, dissension, a fight.

VII. HOW A SERVANT OF THE LORD SHOULD ACT. (2:24-26)

A. He must not strive.

- 1) Not to fight, wrangle, quarrel, dispute.
- 2) He should be a man of peace.
- 3) Not to struggle to get his way.....not to provoke others.
- 4) He needs to seek truth and want to help others with a proper spirit. (Gal. 6:1)

B. Be gentle unto all men.

- 1) Kind, mild, affable in demeanor.
- 2) He holds to the truth, but is not quarrelsome.
- 3) He is easily entreated.

C. Apt to teach.

- 1) Infers the desire to teach others.
- 2) To become skillful in teaching.

D. Patient.

- 1) Forbearing, long-suffering in view of ills & wrongs.
- 2) Willing to give time for changes to take place in people's lives.

E. In Meekness, instructing those that oppose themselves.

- 1) Meekness....strength under control.
- 2) Kindness, not harshness, in helping people see error of their way.
- 3) Not a coward....have courage to speak up.
- 4) To instruct properly shows love, concern, caring for others.
- 5) Oppose themselves:
 - a) To be in opposition to one's own best interest.
 - b) The way they have chosen..... leads to death.
- 6) Hopefully, God's truth rightly presented will lead them to repentance.
 - a) Also, they will acknowledge what is God's truth.
 - b) So, they can recover themselves from devil's hold.
 - c) They need to be awakened to the fact....THEY ARE SERVING THE DEVIL'S DESIRES, NOT GOD'S.

- d) They need to recover themselves.
- e) They have allowed themselves to be taken captive to serve his purposes.

CONCLUSION

1. The church will always have its problems and problem-people.
2. It is divine, but made up of imperfect people.
3. But imperfect people have a will to exercise to do right.
4. We are challenged to offer ourselves as fitting vessel unto God's honor.

Lesson Five

“PERILOUS TIMES TO COME”

(II Timothy 3:1-9)

INTRODUCTION

1. Paul knew that a great apostasy lay ahead!!
 - a) II Thess 2:1-3
 - b) I Tim. 4:1
2. Now, he emphasizes such again in these verses.
 - a) The certainty of such is shown by the expression “This know”
 - b) It is going to come!
 - c) In fact, the seeds of its fruition was already being sown!!
 - d) II Thess. 2:7---“*For the mystery of iniquity doth already work:*”
3. As before, Paul stresses the character of those who lead astray and of those led astray.

DISCUSSION

I. THE APOSTASY IS PICTURED AS “PERILOUS TIMES”. (3:1)

A. Perilous times will come.

- 1) Be assured of this fact.
- 2) It will be a period of:
 - a) Hard, difficult, dangerous, grievous times.
 - b) Hard to bear, trying times, stressful times.
- 3) Reason:
 - a) Time of great deceptiveness, evil, spiritual danger.
 - b) Time of corruption of the church.
 - c) Time of persecution, trials, falling away.

B. When? “In the last days”

- 1) This expression is often used with reference to the “Gospel Age” or the “Christian Age”. (From Pentecost on). Joel 2; Acts 2:16
- 2) The exact time is not given...purposefully.
 - a) But it will come after Paul’s death.
 - b) Timothy would obviously see indications in his time.
 - c) It will continue to grow until it comes to fruition.

II. CHARACTERIZATION OF THE APOSTACY. (3:2-5)

A. Lovers of their own selves.

- 1) Selfish, self-centered---concerned only for what they want.
- 2) Not unselfish as should be.
- 3) Intent on their own interests only.

B. Covetous

- 1) Affection for money
- 2) Excessive love of money. I Tim. 6:10
- 3) It is their god. Col. 3:5

C. Boasters

- 1) An empty pretender.

2) Displays an insolent assurance.

D. Proud

- 1) Thinks of himself above others...haughty.
- 2) Excessive estimate of one's self & abilities.
- 3) With contempt for abilities & interest of others with whom they disagree.

E. Blasphemers

- 1) Do not hesitate to speak evil of good people.
- 2) Slander, speak evil of, revile.

F. Disobedient to parents

- 1) Resentful & unsubmitive to proper authority.
- 2) Parents first...then others as well.

G. Unthankful

- 1) Ingratitude...terrible crime against God & fellow-man.
- 2) Refusal to admit dependence upon God & others.
- 3) True religion makes us grateful.

H. Unholy

- 1) Failure to live clean, pure, sanctified lives.
- 2) Defiled by sinful indulgence.

I. Without natural affection.

- 1) Storge---family affection (Not have it)
- 2) Recognition of close bond... to take satisfaction in its recognition.
- 3) Such is natural.

J. Truce breakers

- 1) Refuses to enter into a treaty.
- 2) Or, if made will not keep it.
- 3) No willingness to talk & make peace.

K. False accusers

- 1) Diabolos---Devil---Literally---Slanderer or Accuser.
- 2) They incite contentions & quarrels among God's people.

L. Incontinent

- 1) Without control of self.
- 2) Do not bridle their desires, passions, lusts.

M. Fierce

- 1) Harsh, severe, savage, rough, cruel with those who disagree with them.
- 2) Not gentle, kind, compassionate.

N. Despisers of those that are good.

- 1) They hate the good...not fond of the good.
- 2) Stand against good & upright teachers of God's truth.
- 3) Show their contempt for the good.

O. Traitors

- 1) They have turn their back on their former allegiance.
- 2) Betrayer of others for gain.

P. Heady

- 1) Reckless, headstrong in pursuit of the bad.
- 2) Rashly without concern for consequences.
- 3) Not deliberate & calm in their decisions & actions.

Q. High-minded

- 1) Puffed-up with pride....insolent.
- 2) Inflated with own importance....conceited.

R. Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God

- 1) They prefer pleasurable things rather than to worship and serve God.
- 2) First place priority....Pleasure....their own personal goals.
- 3) Live for pleasure....no serious pursuit.
- 4) They resist restraints on over-indulgence in pleasure.

S. Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.

- 1) Has outward forms of religiousness, but no real commitment to serving God.
- 2) Outwardly religious, but no real respect for God & His Truth.
- 3) Outward conformity is easier than to bring our lives under God's control.

T. From such turn away.

- 1) Shun....do not countenance such.
- 2) II John 9-11

III. CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ACTIONS OF APOSTATES. (3:6-9)

A. They creep into houses (households).

- 1) Their actions are sly & insidious.
- 2) They are sneaky, deceptive type of teachers.
- 3) They teach under false pretense at first to win a following.

B. They lead people captive.

- 1) Capture their minds and bring under their control.
- 2) Quietly infiltrate to enslave unsuspecting people.

C. Specifically, they work on certain women first.

- 1) They ingratiate themselves with certain women.
- 2) Then, thru them reach the men.
- 3) "Silly women"....interpretative comment.
 - a) "Little women"
 - b) Idea of weak, easily misled, naïve, unsuspecting women.
- 4) Why women?
 - a) This was Serpent's approach at beginning.
 - b) Tempted Eve, not Adam.....deceived!
 - c) Eve got Adam to eat!

D. What kind of women?

- 1) Sin laden women....overwhelmed with sin.
 - a) A sin-laden conscience is easily tempted to seek the easiest method of relief---usually wrong!
 - b) It is embracing a false religion that:
 - 1—Satisfies the religious instinct of person;
 - 2—But does not truly deal with sin & salvation correctly;
 - 3—But deceives the person into believing it is dealt with!
 - d) Such are led away because of their divers lusts.
 - 1—Their passionate desires, cravings.
- 2) Women who are ever learning!
 - a) But not in a good sense.

- b) Open to listen to anyone who will teach them.
- c) But easily deceived & mistaught by religious quacks!
- 3) Women who are never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.
 - a) Never able to accept God's Truth.
 - b) Learn many things about religion, but remain strangers to the saving power of the gospel.
 - c) Reason:
 - 1—Listen to wrong teachers.
 - 2—Not able to discern correctly.
 - 3—Looking for self-justification.
 - 4—Do not have right motives, SEEKING TRUTH
 - 5—Want their ears tickled.

E. Teachers compared to two Magicians who withstood Moses.

- 1) Names not mentioned in O.T.
 - a) How did Paul get their names? (Jannes & Jambres)
 - b) Two possible ways:
 - 1—From Jewish tradition handed down correctly.
 - 2—Holy Spirit allowed him to give their names.
 - 3—or, Holy Spirit just gave it to him by inspiration.
- 2) They were instruments of Satan!
 - a) They set themselves against Moses & God!
 - b) They opposed God's truth.
 - c) They tried to imitate Moses' miracles to undermine his claim to be sent of God.
- 3) It is possible that these false teachers had done the same!
 - a) They opposed God's messengers---Apostles.
 - b) Fake miracles to get a following.
 - c) Turned them to believe error.
 - d) They were men corrupted in their minds---imagination.
 - e) Reprobate concerning the faith.
 - 1—Failed God's test...disapproved.
 - 2—No longer to be regarded as teachers of truth.

F. What about their work....outcome!

- 1) They obviously will be successful....GREAT APOSTASY FORETOLD!
- 2) But their evil teachings will not always prosper & prevail.
- 3) Their folly shall become manifest unto all.
 - a) Their error will become apparent to those of understanding.
 - b) Its immoral character will be seen for what it is.
 - c) Just like Jannes & Jambres became obvious to all.
 - d) Falsehood in light of truth will be shown up for what it is.
 - e) Honest people will be turn away from such to truth.
 - 1—At 1st their error may have seem plausible.
 - 2—It wins the hearts of many....leads them astray.

CONCLUSION

- 1. Apostasy is coming...vividly described!
- 2. Truth can show up Religious error for the folly that it is!

Lesson Six

“THE GODLY PERSON WILL BE PERSECUTED”

(II Tim. 3:10-17)

INTRODUCTION

1. Paul has been saying in his letters to the churches & to Timothy.....
 - a) A falling away is coming;
 - b) Men will arise who will oppose God’s Truth & lead people astray;
 - c) They will even resort to persecution to try to gain a following;
 - d) So, be on your guard against such.
2. There is one safeguard against such.....
 - a) Love & Obey God’s truth;
 - b) Don’t be pulled away from it to follow the doctrines of men.
3. Paul was also trying to prepare Timothy & future generations concerning persecution.

DISCUSSION

I. PAUL’S EXAMPLE OF FAITHFULNESS. (3:10-11)

A. Timothy was asked to recall Paul’s life before him:

- 1) His Doctrine:
 - a) Timothy knew what Paul had been teaching consistently all along.
 - b) Been with him for some 15-18 years most of the time.
 - c) Timothy knew the joys of conversions, establishing churches, and strengthening new Christians.
- 2) His MANNER OF Life:
 - a) How Paul had conducted himself in Timothy’s presence.
 - b) The external expressions of His beliefs held to & taught to others.
- 3) His Purpose:
 - a) In a general statement....to preach the gospel to those that had never heard it before.
 - b) Rom. 15:20---“*Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man’s foundation*”
 - c) I Cor. 9:19---“*For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.*”
- 4) His Faith:
 - a) Strong faith reflected by his faithfulness to his commitment in Christ.
 - b) His steadfastness to carry out his purpose.
- 5) His long-suffering:
 - a) To bear up under.
 - b) Paul had had to endure many things to carry out his purpose.
 - c) It had not been easy, as Timothy had fully known!
- 6) His Charity:
 - a) His love and concern for others.

- b) Willingness to deny himself for others' welfare.
- 7) His patience:
 - a) A calm temper, which suffers evil without murmuring or discontent.
 - b) In order to carry out his purpose....had to be patient with others.
- 8) His persecutions and afflictions:
 - a) His patience was tried more than once.
 - b) The relentless pursuit of his opposers to the gospel.
 - c) The effort to do harm & hurt to the Apostle.
 - d) Trials of all kinds that accompanied his work.
 - e) He met them everywhere he went.

B. He reminds Timothy that he was fully aware of these things before he became a Christian.

- 1) The places he mentions were at the end of his first missionary journey.....Pisidia & Galatian provinces.
 - a) Antioch:
 - 1—Acts 13:45---Jews contradicted and blasphemed Paul's message.
 - 2—Stirred up people and expelled them out of their coasts. (Acts 13:50)
 - b) Iconium:
 - 1—Acts 14:2---Jews turned Gentiles' mind against Paul.
 - 2—Acts 14:5---Attempted to use them despitefully and to stone them.
 - 3—The apostle had to leave the city.
 - c) Lystra:
 - 1—Acts 14:19---Jews from Antioch & Iconium came down and caused Paul to be stoned.
 - 2—He was left for dead.
 - 3—He warned the people: ***"That we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."*** (Acts 14:22)
- 2) Concerning these Persecutions & Afflictions:
 - a) He had endured them successfully.
 - 1—He bore up under them.
 - 2—His noble spirit did not break under them.
 - b) The Lord had delivered him out of them all.
 - c) In each case the Lord preserved him alive & stronger.

II. IN VIEW OF THIS, WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED IN THE FUTURE. (3:12-13)

A. Same kind of attitude & actions from unbelievers.

- 1) Persecution will come from such.
- 2) It will come to everyone who lives a godly life.
 - a) Those who desire, wish to live a reverent life before God.
 - b) Who are bent on living a life that pleases God.
- 3) So, Timothy, you can expect persecution.
- 4) And so can everyone who strives to live godly lives.

- 5) What is persecution?
 - a) Subject to physical injury.
 - b) Disadvantage in some way.
 - c) Depriving one of some privilege or right.
 - d) Injury to body, feelings, family, reputation, property, liberty, influence, etc.
 - e) Deprived of job, responsible position, one's place among men.
 - f) Subject to fines, imprisonment, torture or death.
 - g) Held up to ridicule, ignored, excluded.

B. Timothy, things will get worse, not better.

- 1) Evil men & seduces will wax worse & worse.
 - a) Evil men who will oppose the good, true, and godly people.
 - b) They are deceivers, imposters....not true teachers of God's truth.
 - c) Their kind will increase.
 - d) Their efforts at evil & opposition will continue to grow.
 - e) They will go to extremes to accomplish their mission.
- 2) They will deceive others and be self-deceived.
 - a) They will lead others astray.
 - b) They will cause them to believe a lie as though it was the truth.
 - c) But in doing so, they become self-deceived themselves.

III. ADMONITIONS TO BE STEADFAST IN THE WORD OF GOD. (3:14-17)

A. He exhorts him to continue in:

- 1) Be faithful in, to stay with, don't leave, abide in.....
- 2) The things thou hast learned:
 - a) He was knowledgeable of the O. T. Scriptures.
 - b) He had also been taught the gospel from listening to Paul.
 - c) He was to continue in these things.
- 3) Reasons for continuing in these things:
 - a) They are things you have been assured of.
 - 1—You have been fully convinced of their accuracy.
 - 2—You have been fully persuaded that they are true.
 - b) Because you know from whom you have learned these things.
 - 1—From his grandmother & Mother in his home.
 - 2—Parents do not generally intentionally mislead their children.
 - 3—Parents need to teach children the Scriptures.
 - 4—He had learned them from Paul, whom he knew well.

B. Paul again mentions Timothy's early background in the Scriptures.

- 1) He had known the O.T. Scriptures from a small child.
- 2) He had also come to realize the value of these to lead him to salvation.
 - a) O.T. gives a background for the acceptance of the Messiah to come.
 - b) Prophecies were used to show that Jesus was the fulfillment of these prophecies.
 - c) And through Faith in Him...one can be saved. (obey).

C. So, be steadfast in all Scriptures.

- 1) Scriptures:
 - a) That which had been given by inspiration of God.
 - b) Came from the mouth of God, Himself.
 - c) Kept from error.
 - d) N.T. was in process of being written.
 - e) II Pet. 3:15-16
 - f) II Pet. 1:16-21
 - g) All to be held in highest regards.
- 2) Reasons:
 - a) They are profitable---Useful, Beneficial, Valuable!
 - 1—For Doctrine---teaching (Content of truth to be believed.)
 - 2—For Reproof---Truth that convicts the heart.
 - Helps man see need of a Redeemer.
 - 3—For Correction---To bring about Repentance.
 - Produce a change to do right
 - Improvement of one's life.
 - Returning to right way.
 - 4—For Instruction in Righteousness:
 - Educating the mind & heart that leads in the way of right living.
 - b) To bring about the perfecting of the man of God.
 - 1—Complete---matured
 - 2—Nourishes & strengthens the soul to full maturity.
 - c) To full prepare & equip to serve God in every way and good work.

CONCLUSION

1. Paul's emphasis upon knowing & holding to the Scriptures is critical.
2. Our only safeguard against false teachers & error... TO KNOW AND STUDY THE WORD OF GOD.....HOLD TO IT!!
3. How do you know if you are believing & practicing error?
4. How would you know how to become a Christian?

Lesson Seven

“A SOLEMN CHARGE”

(II Timothy 4:1-5)

INTRODUCTION

1. Sometimes we tire of preaching and listening to the simple truth of God.
 - a) We want something modern, up-to-date, new, challenging!
 - b) They have heard it before...it is “Old Hat”!
2. Preachers who succumb to this desire of the congregation often allow the people to leave unfed with the “living bread come down from heaven.” (Jn. 6:51).
3. Preachers should preach as a Dying Man to Dying Men!
 - a) It is God’s Power to save those who will believe it. Rom. 1:16
 - b) The Apostle Paul preached it in the great centers of civilization in his day: Jerusalem, Antioch, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, Rome, etc.
4. The Apostle was facing imminent death....and was being directed by the Spirit of God to give a solemn charge to Timothy.

DISCUSSION

I. THE SOLEMN CHARGE OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY. (4:1-2)

A. The Solemnity of the Charge.

- 1) This charge was made in the presence of God, the Father.
- 2) Or, the possibility & probability---God, even the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3) Emphasizing the Deity & Pre-existence of Christ.
- 4) John 1:1-3, 14

B. Concerning the Lord Jesus Christ:

- 1) He is the one who will judge the living & the dead.
 - a) He will judge all men someday.
 - 1—Those living at His return.
 - 2—Those dead at His return.
 - b) And before whom Timothy will give an account for his preaching.
 - c) John 5:27; 12:48
- 2) When?
 - a) At His appearing.
 - 1—At His manifestation at end of time.
 - 2—II Pet. 3:10---“*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*”
 - b) And at His kingdom.
 - 1—When the majesty of His kingdom will be truly displayed to all.
 - 2—Or, the gathering up of His kingdom to take back with Him.
 - 3—Or, the ushering in of His Eternal Kingdom. II Pet. 1:11

C. The Solemn Charge!

- 1) Preach the Word.
 - a) Greek---Kerusso---a herald carrying a grave and authoritative message from an important personage.
 - b) The preacher is a proclaimer of the Good News from the King of kings. (Rev. 19:16)
 - c) He is to proclaim it with all authority. (Tit. 2:15)
 - d) He needs to speak it with the dignity & reverence befitting the source of the message!
 - e) He dares not tamper with it or change it. (Gal. 1:6-9)
 - f) He must be willing to speak it, not be ashamed or afraid to speak it.
 - g) Listeners need to listen with respect to the message from God.
- 2) “Be instant in season, out of season”
 - a) Be ready, present, at hand at all times.
 - b) Always ready....no closed season on preaching truth.
 - c) Take advantage of every opportunity....when conditions are good or bad, favorable or unfavorable, when appreciated or not.
 - d) Equal urgency in all circumstances of life.
- 3) Reprove:
 - a) Convince by factual, logical information.
 - b) With a strong urgency to submit to that which is preached.
- 4) Rebuke:
 - a) Sharply rebuke sin in people’s lives.
 - b) Warn them of the dangers of not obeying the truth.
- 5) Exhort:
 - a) To plead, to urge, to beg.
 - b) Encouraging submission to the Will of God.
- 6) How is this to be done?
 - a) With all longsuffering.
 - 1—Not with impatience, anger, threatenings.
 - 2—But with long temperedness, forbearance.
 - 3—Using self-restraint in face of provocation even.
 - b) With teaching.
 - 1—The power is in the taught word of God.
 - 2—By constant teaching of God’s truth.
 - 3—By sound, healthy teaching that saves the soul.

II. REASONS FOR THE SOLEMN CHARGE. (4:3-4)

A. “The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.”

- 1) Defections from the faith were already in their midst.
- 2) Won’t endure---won’t tolerate---won’t listen to God’s truth.
- 3) Sound doctrine---the message of God that is good for the soul.

B. “But after their own lusts”

- 1) Lustful craving for something else.
- 2) Corrupt cravings.
- 3) Personal gratification, satisfy their carnal desires. I Cor. 3:1-3

C. “Shall heap to themselves teachers having itching ears”

- 1) Accumulate, choose those teachers that will preach what they want to hear.
- 2) Teachers who will not rebuke their sins & disobedience.
- 3) Will give people what they want, not what they need.
- 4) Teachings that relieves their restless and uneasy consciences.

D. “And they shall turn away their ears from the truth.”

- 1) The love of the truth is not in their hearts. (II Thess. 2:10)
- 2) Example:
 - a) Men admit the Law of Biogenesis---Life can only come from life.
 - b) Men admit the Law of Thermodynamics—The Universe is running down.
 - c) But then men will overlook these & other facts, Truths, and believe a lie, fiction----The Unproved theory of Evolution.
 - d) They don't want to believe God created man.

E. “and shall be turned unto fables.”

- 1) Fiction as opposed to facts.
- 2) Error as opposed to Truth.
- 3) Fables as opposed to Reality!
- 4) Quote--- *“I contend there is such a thing as moral concern and such a thing as personal responsibility....We should revive the word sin as useful to reintroduce concepts of guilt and moral responsibility.”* (Psychiatrist)

III. ADMONITIONS IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE. (4:5)

A. “Be watchful in all things”

- 1) Be sober, watchful, alert, temperate.
- 2) Be vigilant against error & sin.
- 3) Be composed in your work.

B. “Endure afflictions”

- 1) Be willing to suffer any hardship caused by doing your work.
- 2) Flinch from no suffering that must be endured.
- 3) Don't expect softness.

C. “Do the work of an Evangelist”

- 1) A Bringer or herald of Good News.
- 2) Preaching, Teaching.....bringing people into the kingdom of God.
- 3) No distinction between: Evangelists, Preachers, Ministers of Gospel.....ALL SAME! (Discuss Pastor)

D. “Make full proof of thy ministry.”

- 1) Discharge all the duties of your work.
- 2) Fully perform your service to others as God designed.
- 3) Don't be lazy in studying, preaching, teaching, etc.
- 4) Leave nothing undone that you ought to do.

CONCLUSION

- 1) These books give a strong emphasis upon what & how a preacher ought to conduct himself.
- 2) But at the same time.....the same truths apply to every Christian in general application.
- 3) The charge is solemn & serious and needs to be heeded by all.

Lesson Eight

“THE CROWN IN SIGHT”

(II Timothy 4:6-22)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Apostle knew that his death was very soon.
 - a) He would soon be called from the field of battle...
 - b) And be given a much needed rest from his labors.
 - c) Rev. 14:13---“***Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.***”
2. When it comes:
 - a) The world would be deprived of his great efforts in the kingdom.
 - b) Others would have to stand in the gap and continue this great work on into the future.
 - c) The Apostle is trying to encouraged Timothy, and through him to all others.....DO THE LORD’S WORK WELL!!!

DISCUSSION

I. PAUL EXPRESSES HIS ASSURANCE IN THE FACE OF DEATH. (4:6-8)

A. Paul shows he is not terrified at the thought of Martyrdom.

- 1) “*I am now ready to be offered*”
 - a) “*As for myself, I am already being offered*”
 - b) Concept of a sacrifice....poured out to God.
 - c) His life’s blood was poured out as a libation.
 - d) Phil. 1:21-26
- 2) “*The time of my departure is at hand*”
 - a) Time of his dissolution.
 - b) To be unbound...loosen bands that tie us to this world.
 - c) To set sail on the ocean of eternity.
 - d) The time to leave this life was drawing near.
 - e) But Nero could not have taken his life if it was not in God’s plans.
 - f) It was like death stood outside his prison door beckoning him to come.
 - g) Paul was undismayed at the thought of martyrdom!
- 3) But why did Paul escape death at his first imprisonment, and not here?
 - a) Believed that things had changed drastically between the two imprisonments.
 - b) Nero had set fire to some slum areas so he could build a greater city of Rome.
 - c) Fire got out of control and burnt a lot more of the city.
 - d) Nero blamed the Christians....and persecution set in.

B. Paul’s basis for his assurance!

- 1) “*I have fought a good fight*”
 - a) The Christian is in a great spiritual battle against the forces of darkness.....the war continues on today!

- b) As Paul looked back over his life:
 - 1—He had fought his fight with sin & won.
 - 2—He now awaits the crowning of the victor.
- 2) *“I have finished my course”*
 - a) He had fought to the finish and now resting in his victory.
 - b) The course...Where race takes place.
 - c) He had run his race successfully.
 - d) His life’s work is now over.
 - e) Like a soldier grown old in the service of his king, he is awaiting his discharge.
 - f) Heb. 12:1---***“Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”***
- 3) *“I have kept the faith”*
 - a) The gospel, God’s Word, The system of Faith had been entrusted to Paul.
 - b) He had safe-guarded that truth with his very life.
 - c) As well, he had striven to submit to it diligently.
 - d) Phil. 4:9---***“Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”***

C. What was that Assurance?

- 1) *“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.”*
 - a) As he triumph in life, he would also triumph in death.
 - b) For the reward of living righteous is a crown!
 - c) Greek games...garland to victor.
 - d) He had run his race...conflict over...now time for reward.
 - e) His crown was won in the cause of righteousness.
 - f) All that remained was his release in death unto that eternal reward.
- 2) *“will be given by the Lord, the righteous judge.”*
 - a) The Lord is a just, fair judge.
 - b) He will dispense justice & reward justly, rightfully.
 - c) No one will be excluded who ought to be saved!!
- 3) *“Given at the last day”*
 - a) Phrase that denotes the end...2nd coming of Christ.
 - b) When He comes to judge & reward.
- 4) *“Given to all who love his appearing.”*
 - a) Given to all.....
 - 1—We are running the race together...helping and encouraging one another.
 - 2—Urging each other on to victory.
 - 3—Not just one winner in this race...but to all who finish their race faithfully.
 - 4—No one excluded because another was successful.
 - b) To all who love his appearing.
 - 1—Who strongly desire his 2nd coming.

- 2—When he will visibly appear in the heavens.
- 3—It will be a glorious coming of the Lord.

II. PAUL GIVES INSIGHT TO HIS CO-WORKERS. (4:9-13)

A. Timothy:

- 1) He quickly turns from himself to others he is concerned over.
- 2) *“Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me.”*
 - a) Do your best to come quickly...make haste.
 - b) He seems to desire his friends to be with him in such an hour.
 - c) As great as he was, he craved human fellowship in such an hour.
 - d) Jesus also desired this companionship on the night of his betrayal (close disciples---“could you not stay awake one hour with me”).
- 3) *“bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, with the books, but especially the parchments.”*
 - a) Coldness of his prison, he needed clothing to keep warm.
 - b) Books...on Papyrus scrolls or book form???
 - c) Parchments....skins to be or were written on.
 - d) Not sure what these were...lot of speculation!!

B. Demas

- 1) *“Has forsaken me”*
 - a) To abandon, desert, let one down.
 - b) He was mentioned favorably in Col. 4:14.
 - c) He evidently had been a dependable & trusted helper.
 - d) Now, he has let Paul down by leaving Rome.
 - e) To forsake one who is in bad circumstances was a real disappointment.
- 2) Reason why he forsook Paul....
 - a) ***“Having loved this present world.”***
 - b) Two approaches:
 - 1—Having a desire to remain in this present world, rather than face danger of leaving it.
 - A—He was unwilling to stay with Paul and be subject to martyrdom.
 - B—He placed a high value on this present age.
 - 2—Love of this world was greater than his love for Christ.
 - A—Col. 3:2---“***Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth.***”
 - B—Love of worldliness????
- 3) *“is departed unto Thessalonica”*
 - a) To secure his life, he went to Thessalonica (HOME??)
 - b) To a place of safety from persecution.
 - c) Paul was pained by his leaving.

C. Crescens.

- 1) Has gone to Galatia....area of Paul’s first efforts.
- 2) May have gone before Paul saw how bad his trial was going.
- 3) No specific discouraging remarks made.

D. Titus

- 1) Went unto Dalmatia....a new area of work.
- 2) May have followed Paul to Rome when he was arrested.
- 3) No specific discouraging remarks made.

E. Luke

- 1) The writer of Luke & Acts....Christ & Paul's life.
- 2) ***"Only Luke is with me"***
- 3) Of Paul's fellow-workers....only Luke remained.
- 4) Luke, the beloved physician...who stayed with Paul to the bitter end.
- 5) What a comfort he must have been for Paul.

F. Mark

- 1) *"Bring him with thee"*
- 2) Possibly, Mark was at Ephesus or in one of the cities on the way to Rome.
- 3) ***"For he is profitable to me for the ministry."***
 - a) Paul had been reconciled to John Mark by now.
 - b) We do not know in what way he would help.
 - c) To summon Mark to come showed the love Paul had for him.

G. Tychicus

- 1) Paul had sent him to Ephesus.
- 2) He was probably the bearer of this letter.
- 3) He could help with the work while Timothy was gone to Rome.

III. INSIGHTS OF PAUL'S SITUATION AT ROME. (4:14-18)

A. He had very strong opposition in his efforts of preaching.

- 1) *"Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil"*
 - a) Coppersmith---worker in metals.
 - b) If same Alexander in Acts 19:33...he was a Jew.
 - c) He tried to disassociate Jews from Paul
 - d) Demetrius had tried to get Paul stopped, but failed. (Acts 19:24).
 - e) Now, another is in Rome trying to get him stopped and executed.
- 2) *"May the Lord reward him according to his works."*
 - a) The Lord is the avenger, judge, one who passes judgment.
 - b) The Lord will reward him as he deserves.
 - c) The day is coming when evil will not triumph over the good.
- 3) *"Be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words."*
 - a) Possibly, in Paul's preaching before his judges for his defense.
 - b) He greatly withstood Paul's words.
 - 1—To set against another's efforts.
 - 2—Try to undermine Paul's message.
 - 3—A very capable person as an opponent.
 - c) Timothy, be watchful for him....you could be in danger from him also.

B. Paul's first trial before his judges is now mentioned.

- 1) When he made his apology or defense.
- 2) *"No one stood with me"*
 - a) He had to plead his case alone.

- b) No one stood by his side to help, encourage, and advise.
 - c) None of his co-laborers.
 - d) None of his friends at Rome.
 - e) All may have been terribly afraid of consequences.
- 3) *“All men forsook me”*
- a) Why?
 - b) Nero’s persecution had been severe upon Christians.
 - c) Those who escaped, dared not appear in Paul’s defense.
 - d) Did not want to endanger their lives.
- 4) *“I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.”*
- a) Pray that God will forgive them (for I have).
 - b) Follow example of Christ & Stephen.
- 5) *“Notwithstanding, the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me.”*
- a) Heb. 13:5-6---***“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”***
 - b) Paul believed this fully!!
 - c) Paul was strengthened in his resolve to faithfully carry out his work until death.
- 6) *“So that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear.”*
- a) Paul’s defense was evidently a means of proclaiming the Gospel unto his judges.
 - b) He did so with boldness and calmness as he faced sure death.
 - c) Rome was the center of a pagan world.
 - d) Great opportunity to preach to leaders of world.
- 7) *“and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.”*
- a) Possibly...Paul was delivered from the fear of being thrown to the lions as others had been.
 - b) Or...At that time, his sentence of death was not passed on him.
- 8) *“and the Lord shall:*
- a) *“deliver me from every evil work.*
 - 1—Evil in active opposition to good.
 - 2—Or, from committing any evil deeds.
 - 3—To turn from righteousness in face of death.
 - b) *“will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom”*
 - 1—Will be drawn out of harm’s way spiritually.
 - 2—Be able to enter heaven.
- 9) *“to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*
- a) Most appropriate time to ascribe glory to God.
 - b) Who had fully prepared the apostle’s mind & heart to deal with such a situation.

IV. GREETINGS SENT & INSIGHTS ABOUT WORKERS.(4:19-22)

A. Salute (some friends he may not see again in this life).

- 1) Prisca & Aquila

- a) They had been with Paul on different occasions.
 - b) Had been at Rome, but left.
 - c) Were evidently at Ephesus.
- 2) Household of Onesiphorus
- a) He is the one who was not ashamed of Paul and sought him out diligently at Rome. (II Tim. 1:16)
 - b) This may have been before Paul's trial that assured him of death.
 - c) He may have returned to Ephesus....to his family.

B. Insights about workers:

- 1) Erastus
- a) He abode at Corinth.
 - b) Do not know why.
 - c) He may have intended to travel with Paul....but for some reason remained at Corinth.
- 2) Trophimus
- a) Was left sick at Miletus (off coast a way from Ephesus).
 - b) May have wanted to accompany Paul, but fell sick.
 - c) Paul did not heal him.....wrong use of powers!
 - d) Primarily performed to confirm their message.
- 3) Timothy
- a) Be diligent to come before winter.
 - b) When travel would be hazardous.
 - c) And before he was sentenced to death.
- 4) Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia.
- a) All sent greetings to Timothy.
 - b) And all the brethren at Rome send greetings.

C. Benediction:

- 1) *"The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit."*
- 2) *"Grace be with you. Amen"*

CONCLUSION

1. With the close of this II Timothy letter:
 - a) Paul laid down his pen forever.
 - b) Evidently at his 2nd trial, things did not go well.
 - c) He was sentenced to death, but as a Roman citizen, decapitated.
 - d) He would be led to special place outside the city and beheaded.
2. This was the climax of Paul's testimony of the "Faith once delivered to the saints."
 - a) He had faithfully proclaimed the glad tidings through a long life of:
 - 1—Hardships,
 - 2—Trials,
 - 3—Oppositions,
 - 4—Illnesses,
 - 5—Heartache,
 - 6—and Tremendous responsibility.
 - b) If he had failed to proclaim this gospel fully before his judges, Nero, and his court.....
 - 1—What an inglorious ending that would have been to a glorious life for Christ.
 - c) But he was faithful to the end...dying a martyr's death in triumph!

Lesson Nine

“NEEDED: SHEPHERDS TO CARE FOR THE FLOCK”

(Titus 1:1-16)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Letter to Titus follows I Timothy in historical sequence.
 - a) It has much of the same emphasis as I Timothy.
 - b) It too was written to a preacher of the gospel who had been with Paul on his journeys.
 - c) It was written about A.D. 65-66....shortly after I Timothy.
2. Paul's release from 1st Roman imprisonment:
 - a) Released about A.D. 63.
 - b) May have gone into Spain for a time.
 - c) Then, back to Crete, Ephesus, and Macedonia as indicated.
3. The dangers to these young churches were great!
 - a) Dedicated leaders were needed to protect them.
 - b) Men were to be appointed for that purpose.

DISCUSSION

I. PAUL'S REASON FOR WRITING. (Vs. 1-5)

A. About the writer:

- 1) He is a servant of God.
 - a) Doulos---slave, bondservant, servile term among Greeks.
 - b) He chose to be born into slavery to God.
 - c) Shows humility of God's people.
- 2) He is an apostle of Jesus Christ.
 - a) One specially chosen & sent to represent sender.
 - b) Matt. 16:19---“....***Give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.***”
- 3) Purpose of his apostleship:
 - a) To create faith in those who are God's chosen people.
 - 1—That message from God that is to be preached and believed.
 - 2—Upon obedience....become God's people.
 - b) To further the knowledge of truth & proper understanding of true religion (godliness).
 - 1—So all men can come to know God's truth.
 - 2—That gospel which promotes godliness.
 - c) To give hope of eternal life to those who hear.
 - 1—This hope is made clear in the gospel.
 - 2—But it had been in promise from the beginning.
 - d) To stress the assurance of that hope.
 - 1—God promised it.
 - 2—God cannot lie....can only speak truth.

- 3—The promise rests upon God's integrity.
- 4—What God promises, he fulfills.
- 5—But His promises are conditional.
- e) The fullness of time had come to make known this hope.
 - 1—It is to be made known through preaching.
 - 2—This message of hope was committed to Paul by commandment of God, Himself.
 - 3—Paul was not self-appointed, but God-appointed.

B. About the Receiver.

- 1) Mine own son after the common faith.
 - a) Probably converted by Paul....no indication where.
 - b) Faith that is shared in common.
- 2) The task Paul is giving him shows the confidence he had in him.
- 3) Titus is only mentioned in Paul's letters.
 - a) A gentile by birth....Not circumcised. Gal. 2:3
 - b) He was with Paul & Barnabas at Jerusalem between the 1st and 2nd journeys. Gal. 2:1
 - c) He was with Paul on his 3rd journey. II Cor. 7:6
 - d) He was left at Crete by Paul. Tit. 1:5
 - e) Paul requested that Titus join him at Nicopolis later. Tit. 3:12
 - f) He was with Paul during his 2nd imprisonment at Rome, but sent into Dalmatia. II Tim. 4:10
- 4) Salutation: Grace, Mercy, Peace:
 - a) From God, the Father,
 - b) From Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C. Purpose of this letter.

- 1) Thou should set in order the things that are wanting.
 - a) Things lacking, needing to still be done.
 - b) Paul may have had to leave earlier than desired to.
 - c) The church would be vulnerable to false teachers.
 - d) They needed proper shepherds to watch over church.
- 2) And ordain elders in every city.
 - a) Ordain, appoint, set up over as overseers.
 - b) Elders, shepherds, overseers, stewards of God's household.
 - c) In every city (Many cities on island).
 - d) Every church to have elders or shepherds.
 - e) Get them organized & functioning orderly.
- 3) As I had appointed thee.
 - a) Paul had evidently instructed orally before leaving.
 - b) The letter gives emphasis to the apostolic authority behind the appointing.
 - c) They had worked together on the island for a time.

II. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELDERS LISTED. (Vs. 6-9)

A. Positive characteristics:

- 1) Blameless---not chargeable---living godly life.

- 2) Husband of one wife.
- 3) Having faithful children, not accused of riot or unruly.
 - a) Last phrase may explain what 1st phrase meant.
 - b) Riot---an abandoned & resolute life.
 - c) Unruly---Insubordinate...uncontrollable.
 - d) Raising children is a man's proving ground of his headship.
- 4) Hospitable---example of concern for others....home open.
- 5) Love of what is good....good men, good things, etc.
- 6) Sober-minded (temperate)---To weigh things carefully.
- 7) Just---upright & fair in dealings with others.
- 8) Holy---Set apart life in service to God.
- 9) Self-control---Control over passions & appetites.

B. Negative:

- 1) Not self-willed---self-pleasing, arrogant, unyielding, stubborn
- 2) Not soon angry---Not quick tempered....no self-control
- 3) Not given to wine---recognizes its dangers.
- 4) No striker---Not violent, contentious, disagreeable.
- 5) Not given to filthy lucre---not greedy for money.

C. Doctrinal:

- 1) Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught.
 - a) He is firm in his convictions & belief of truth.
 - b) Especially needed in face of opposition.
 - c) God's word is trustworthy to hold to.
 - d) Shown by Loving it, Respecting it, Teaching it, Supporting it, Standing for it, Defending it.
 - e) Holding to exactly what the apostles had taught.
- 2) Reason---to be able to exhort & convince the gainsayers.
 - a) Exhort---encourage, plead with to continue in truth.
 - b) Convince---Not dictate or denounce, but persuade and convince.
 - c) The gainsayers---those who opposed & spoke against the truth given by the apostles.
 - d) Elders must know it to teach it.

III. FALSE TEACHERS MUST BE DEALT WITH. (Vs. 10-16)

A. Character of false teachers.

- 1) There are many---many to contend with.
- 2) Who are unruly---will not submit to God's authority.
- 3) Vain talkers---Devoid of truth...all talk and no do!
- 4) Deceivers---deceived themselves....deceive others.
- 5) Specially of the circumcision.
 - a) Jewish Christians trying to teach their false concepts.
 - b) Circumcision of Gentiles to be saved.
 - c) Clean & unclean foods.
 - d) Special day observances.
 - e) Genealogies....unsupported with facts.
- 6) Who subvert whole houses.

- a) Whole families.....destroyed....overthrown.
- b) Turned from faith by their teachings.
- 7) Teaching things they ought not for filthy lucre's sake.
 - a) Their end in their teaching is not to save souls.
 - b) It is to get gain.
- 8) One of their own "prophets" characterized them.
 - a) Prophet---poet---philosopher
 - b) Used by heathens as inspired teachers by the gods.
 - c) Philosopher was Epimenides.
 - 1—1 of 7 wise men of Greece.
 - 2—Highly respected in Greek speaking world.
 - 3—Lived on island of Crete.
- 9) His characterization:
 - a) Liars---reputation for lying among nations.
 - b) Evil beasts---Rude, cruel, brutal, uncivilized in words and actions.
 - c) Slow bellies---Only real concern was their stomach.
- 10) Paul stated, "This witness is true".
 - a) He endorses these words by a man over 600 years before.
 - b) What an impact such would have on churches if not checked.

B. How to stop these false teachers.

- 1) Their mouths must be stopped.
 - a) Restrained, curbed, put to silence.
 - b) Not ignored, but stopped.
- 2) To rebuke them sharply.
 - a) Make it clear such is wrong....don't soft soap it.
 - b) Not done in unchristian way obviously.
- 3) Reason:
 - a) So they will be sound in the faith....stay with Truth.
 - b) So they will not give head to Jewish fables or commandments of men.
 - c) Jewish fables....no basis in fact....worthless.
 - d) Commandments of men....what men teach, not God.
 - e) Such turns men away from God's truth.

C. Contrast of true & false. (15-16)

- 1) If a person's heart, mind and conscience is pure:
 - a) Then his actions will show this.
 - b) One taught truth, knows & does the truth.
- 2) If a person's heart, mind and conscience is defiled and unbelieving:
 - a) Then his actions will show this too.
 - b) If will not listen to God's truth....life can't be right.
 - c) They abase God's truth to their own ungodly ends.
 - d) They corrupt God's truth because they are corrupt.
- 3) They profess to know God.
 - a) Jews had an advantage....but to no avail in most cases.
 - b) They tried to use this to convince people to follow them.
- 4) But their works prove differently.
 - a) They live abominable, detestable lives.

- b) They are disobedient, rebellious, not sincere.
- c) And their works have been tested and shown to be worthless.
- d) “***Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*** (Matt. 7:15)

CONCLUSION

1. Our service to God is motivated by hope of eternal life.
2. The hope has been fully revealed in the Gospel.
3. Christians are privileged to share in this Gospel Hope.
4. Congregations without shepherds are lacking & vulnerable to false teaching.
5. Elders must watch over the flock.
6. False teachers must not be ignored, but stopped.
7. Purity of life comes from the heart turned to God.
8. We must distinguish between truth & teachings of men.

Lesson Ten

“PREACH HEALTHY DOCTRINE”

(Titus 2:1-10)

INTRODUCTION

1. Titus 2:1
 - a) Titus is encouraged to preach Sound Doctrine.
 - b) That which is good for the soul.
 - c) But when he did so:
 - 1—He would be reminding them of what they had been taught.
 - 2—Reminding them of the need to adhere to such.
 - 3—Reminding them of their sense of purpose & responsibility.
 - d) And if he did so, he would put them into the position where real spiritual growth could occur.
2. But sound doctrine is meaningless if it does not issue in “sound lives”.
 - a) The teaching needs to be done, but godly lives must be the results.
 - b) To profess to know God (have a relationship with God):
 - 1—And continue to live ungodly lives....
 - 2—Shows the person is deceived in what he thinks!
 - c) True relationship to God will change the way one lives for the better.

DISCUSSION

I. HIS TEACHING TO THE OLDER MEMBERS. (2:2-3)

A. To older men.

- 1) These are not the overseers, but all the older men.
- 2) To be sober:
 - a) Clear-headed, vigilant, good decisions.
 - b) Not drunkards, lack of self-control.
- 3) To be grave:
 - a) Serious-minded about life.
 - b) Reverent demeanor.
- 4) To be temperate:
 - a) A sound, clear mind.
 - b) One in control of his passions & appetites.
 - c) To take charge of their lives as befits saved people.
- 5) To be sound in faith:
 - a) A strong, healthy, faith.
 - b) One free from error.
 - c) One that is maturing in his Trust in God.
- 6) To be sound in Charity (Love):
 - a) Healthy in expressing or showing love of God in his life.
 - b) Show that kind concern for others.
- 7) To be sound in patience:
 - a) To submit to trials of life with a healthy outlook.

b) Not with anger, but meekness.

B. To older women:

- 1) Likewise---after the same manner.
- 2) That their behavior:
 - a) Their demeanor, their conduct.
 - b) The way they live.
- 3) As becometh holiness:
 - a) That is befitting or characterizes holiness.
 - b) Holiness...those dedicated to God & His service.
 - c) Live kind of lives expected of believers in God.
- 4) Not false accusers:
 - a) Greek word, Diabolos (Devil---The slanderer of God's people.
 - b) To slander...that which is not factual to undermine the person.
 - c) Not malicious gossip.
- 5) Not given to much wine:
 - a) To make a slave of...addicted to.
 - b) Not a drunkard.
 - c) Clear-minded.
- 6) Teachers of good things:
 - a) Not idle tales, fables, old wives tales.
 - b) But, things that are good for the soul.
 - c) Help others to know how to live a good healthy spiritual life.
 - d) How to live honorably, righteously, godly in midst of an evil world.
 - e) To have a healthy impact on others.

II. HIS TEACHING TO YOUNGER MEMBERS. (2:4-6)

A. To Younger Women.

- 1) To teach them:
 - a) Train, chasten, discipline, to school.
 - b) Help them to know how to live.
- 2) To be sober:
 - a) Clear-headed, vigilant.
 - b) Not drunkards.
 - c) Responsible.....desires under proper control.
- 3) To love their husbands:
 - a) Eph. 5:25---Husbands to love their wives.
 - b) Here....Wives to love their husbands.
 - c) To both....learn to show unselfishness.
 - d) To show true concern for one another.
- 4) To love their children:
 - a) Nature prompts this.....
 - b) But some women need to be reminded & taught again.
 - c) True religion reproduces that which is natural.
 - d) It shows us what sin has weakened and often destroyed.
- 5) To be discreet:
 - a) With sound mind.

- b) Temperate.
- 6) To be chaste:
 - a) Pure in heart & life.
 - b) Not flirtation, desiring attention of other men.
- 7) Keepers at home:
 - a) Home-centered.
 - b) Caring & working at home.
 - c) Attentive to domestic concerns & duties.
 - d) Not neglectful of responsibilities in home.
 - e) Make home a place of contentment and peace.
- 8) To be good:
 - a) Kind in attitudes and actions.
 - b) Good...wholesome person.
- 9) Obedient to their own husbands:
 - a) Have a submissive spirit to the leader in the home.
 - b) That which has been obvious from beginning.
- 10) Reasons for all this:
 - a) That Word of God be not blasphemed:
 - 1—Won't be reviled, to speak reproachfully against.
 - 2—To speak injuriously against.
 - b) So that Christianity will be correctly represented before the world.
 - c) And, obviously, so can build sound, healthy, spiritual life.

B. To Younger Men.

- 1) Exhort---To urge them, strongly encourage them. Not in a domineering, demanding way. But in a humble, loving, kind way.
- 2) To be sober-minded:
 - a) To be in self-control.
 - b) To curb one's passions & appetites.
 - c) To be serious in deportment.
 - d) To think correctly of one's self.
 - e) To avoid excesses.
 - f) A well-governed mind.
- 3) Short, but sweet.....suggested reasons:
 - a) The future hope of church depended upon them.
 - b) A young man who cannot govern himself gives little promise for the future of himself or the church.
 - c) Indulgence will bring ruin to body & soul.
 - d) So that they will be prepared to stand before God at any time.

III. PAUL'S SPECIAL ADMONITIONS TO TITUS. (2:7-8)

A. Be a pattern for others!

- 1) Be a role model for all.
- 2) Do not merely teach sound doctrine to others, but show them how to live up to that doctrine.
- 3) Be a pattern of Good works in all things.

B. Concerning your preaching:

- 1) Show uncorruptness:
 - a) Don't teach a corrupted gospel, but the pure gospel.
 - b) Teach that which produces godly men and women.
 - c) Teach the apostles doctrine.
- 2) Teach it with gravity:
 - a) Teach it in a way that is reverent.
 - b) That will bring respect from hearers.
- 3) Teach it with sincerity:
 - a) In a serious & dignified manner.
 - b) Not frivolous & light.
- 4) Teach it using sound speech:
 - a) Proper, healthy speech that builds up & edifies.
 - b) That is spiritually uplifting.
- 5) Reasons:
 - a) So that it cannot be condemned:
 - 1—Cannot shown to be wrong.
 - 2—Using truth, sound arguments, logical conclusions.
 - b) So that those who speak against you may be ashamed:
 - 1—Will, in reality, have nothing to say against you.
 - 2—Would be put to shame if they did.
 - c) So they will have no evil thing to say of you:
 - 1—Greatest rebuke of evil... Sound teaching and a godly life.

IV. HIS TEACHING TO SERVANTS. (2:9-10)

A. Servants:

- 1) Their's was a difficult & dangerous situation at times.
- 2) Christian slave in a pagan household.
- 3) How should they conduct themselves?

B. Their attitude & actions towards their masters:

- 1) To be obedient to them:
 - a) To be in subjection to them.
 - b) No statement that they should be released.
- 2) To please them well in all things:
 - a) Genuine desire to be well-pleasing.
 - b) Obviously, not things contrary to God's will.
- 3) Not answering again:
 - a) Not to contradict them or cross them with arguing and disputing.
 - b) Not to undermine them.
- 4) Not purloining:
 - a) Not to steal from them.
 - b) To take that which is another's.
- 5) Showing all good fidelity:
 - a) Showing trustworthiness. (Like Joseph in Potiphar's house).
 - b) Faithfulness to what is entrusted to them.

C. In general:

- 1) To adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.
 - a) Show beauty of Christianity to pagan masters.
 - b) Dress up, to decorate, to embellish with honor.
 - c) To show the influence of Christ on their lives for good.
- 2) How?
 - a) By being industrious
 - b) Being honest
 - c) Kind & Obedient.
- 3) Wow....what a challenge for Slaves!! (and employees!)

CONCLUSION

1. But what a challenge to us all!
2. Think of how much good can come when God's people live Godly lives.
 - a) Not only in their own lives.
 - b) But to their families.
 - c) And the influence upon society at large.
3. Let's insist on sound, healthy teachings.
4. Then, let's set our minds to live it the best we can!!
5. Disobedience leads to death!!

Lesson Eleven

“GOD’S GRACE”

(Titus 2:11-15; 3:1-2)

INTRODUCTION

1. People act from motivation!
2. Christians are no different! That’s the way we are made!
3. After Paul has stress how Christians are to conduct themselves.....
4. He then gives the motivation for doing such...GOD’S GRACE!

DISCUSSION

I. GOD’S GRACE. (2:11-14)

A. Grace defined.

- 1) Greek word, Charis.....Favor.
- 2) But more, favor undeserved.
- 3) Greeks used it....”Favor freely done, without claim or expected return”.
- 4) Always conferred upon a friend, never an enemy.
- 5) When taken into the N.T.---word makes a giant leap!
 - a) Favor freely bestowed...but towards rebellious creatures.
 - b) Jesus’ death on the cross was not for friends, but enemies.
 - c) Rom. 5:8—“*God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*”

B. What about this Grace?

- 1) It brings salvation.
 - a) Men deserve death because they have sinned.
 - b) But instead, God’s Grace offers salvation.
 - c) Salvation---to be made free from penalty of sin.
 - d) God, Himself, paid the penalty for our sins.
 - e) In doing so:
 - 1—He satisfied justice;
 - 2—And upheld His Law.
- 2) It has appeared to all men.
 - a) It has been revealed to all men.
 - b) It has been made known to all.
 - c) Col. 1:23---“*Gospel was preached to every creature under heaven.*”
 - d) It has been announced to all nations that salvation has been made possible through Jesus Christ!
- 3) The Grace of God teaches.
 - a) It has a message of Salvation....
 - b) But it also instructs us how to live after we are saved.

C. What does Grace teach us?

- 1) To deny ungodliness.
 - a) Lack of respect for God and His Will.
 - b) No longer have this attitude or outlook.

- c) To no longer practice irreverence & disobedience to God.
- 2) To deny worldly lusts.
 - a) Worldly passions or desires that are identified with a world in rebellion to God.
 - b) No longer to put emphasis upon this world and what it offers.
- 3) God's grace teaches us how to live.
 - a) Soberly---Sound mind, discipline life.
 - b) Righteously---Respectful, fair, just towards our fellow-man.
---"To love our neighbor as ourselves"
 - c) Godly---Respectful to God
---A obedient life before God.
 - d) In this present world (age).
 - 1—We live in a world that has turned from God.
 - 2—It is a different life than what God wants and expects of His creatures.
 - 3—We are called upon to show this life to this world, age about us.

D. What does Grace tell us to look for?

- 1) The blessed hope (God has promised us).
 - a) Blessed...richness, desirability of.
 - b) It is a great hope.
- 2) The glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.
 - a) Two nouns connected with and.....
 - b) 2nd phrase describes the 1st.
 - c) The coming of Jesus to reward His Saints.
 - d) God & Savior emphasizes the DEITY of Jesus.
 - 1—The Romans worshipped their Emporer
 - 2—He was their god & savior.
 - e) Christians worship the true God & Savior of mankind, Jesus Christ!!
 - f) His coming with be glorious!!

E. What does Grace teach us about our Savior?

- 1) That He gave Himself for us.
 - a) He suffered in our place.
 - b) He placed Himself between us and the Father.
 - c) His way of showing His great love and concern.
- 2) That he might redeem us from all iniquity.
 - a) To buy a slave and set them free.
 - b) He paid the ransom price by His death for us.
 - c) We are set free from all our sinful deeds.
 - d) Complete forgiveness!!!
- 3) That he might purify to Himself a special people.
 - a) To purify---cleanse, make holy.
 - b) A peculiar people---A special people.
 - 1—Specially selected for one's own.
 - 2—A private possession.
 - 3—An expensive & treasured possession.
 - 4—God paid dearly for us!!

- c) Zealous of good works.
 - 1—Redemption changes people.
 - 2—No longer want to walk in old ways.
 - 3—Now want to engage in good works, not evil.
 - 4—To be zealous, enthusiastic...ready to do good.

II. PAUL COMES BACK WITH AN EXHORTATION TO TITUS. (2:15)

A. Speak these things!

- 1) Don't be reluctant...speak what needs to be taught.
- 2) These are the things to teach...not that which pacifies people in sin.

B. Exhort.

- 1) Strongly encourage them.
- 2) Persuade and convince them that this is how they should live.

C. Rebuke with all authority.

- 1) The Authority was not in Titus as such.
- 2) The Authority was God's Word that Titus was to teach.
- 3) It is to be taught with certainty, without compromise.
- 4) Ungodliness is to be rebuked using God's Word.
- 5) To reject Titus' message was to reject God....His Authority.

D. In doing so, let no one despise you.

- 1) Do this in such a way that you will not detract from message.
- 2) Your demeanor should command respect, not rejection.

III. PAUL ASKED TITUS TO REMIND THEM OF SOME CRUCIAL THINGS. (3:1-2)

A. To be subject to principalities & powers.

- 1) To the highest rulers & delegated rulers.
- 2) Cretans were known for their civil disobedience.
- 3) Christians are to be known for their peaceful, submissive lives.

B. To obey magistrates.

- 1) To be obedient to these rulers.
- 2) Show proper respect for who they are and what they do.

C. To be ready unto every good work.

- 1) Some among them were not ready unto every good work. (1:16)
- 2) They are to be prepared for...without hesitation to do good.
- 3) As one that does not have to be urged, coaxed, or persuaded, but always ready to do good.

D. To speak evil of no man.

- 1) To blaspheme, slander, revile, defame.
- 2) Not to be constantly reviling those in government in particular.
- 3) Not to be known as such.

E. Not to be a brawler.

- 1) Not contentious...divisive....create disturbance in society.
- 2) Not to try to prove yourself a man by being a brawler.
- 3) Not to fit into the standards of the world.

F. But be gentle, and show meekness to all.

- 1) Peaceful, kind, thoughtful of others.
- 2) Humble...not pushing for what you deserve.
- 3) Accepting God's dealings with us with patience.
- 4) Life of Paul in his contacts with Government officials.

CONCLUSION

1. Paul again gives to Titus instructions to teach God's people correctly.
 - a) Both the positive & negative aspects.
 - b) Not to disregard authority, be disobedient, evil speaking, etc.
 - c) Rather, show respect for authority (all kinds), be obedient people, kind & gentle people to all.
2. Why should I?
 - a) Because God has Redeemed us by paying a terrible price.
 - b) He has promised us a great reward some day.
3. Are you ready to accept the Grace of God?

Lesson Twelve

“*MAN’S PREDICAMENT---GOD’S SOLUTION*”

(Titus 3:3-7)

INTRODUCTION

1. Have you noticed:
 - a) The similarities between I Timothy & Titus?
 - b) The repetition of warnings & exhortations?
 - c) The repeating of the great concepts of Salvation?
 - d) The detail emphasis upon how to live & not to live?
 - e) The strong emphasis upon obedience & submission to authority?
2. In these few verses (3-7):
 - a) Stark contrast between what man was like before regeneration by God.....
 - b) And, what he should be like after regeneration.
 - c) A very dark picture is painted of unregenerate mankind.

DISCUSSION

I. MAN’S SINFULNESS BEFORE CONVERSION. (3:3)

A. “For we ourselves also were sometimes.....”

- 1) Paul includes himself in the “We” statement along with all other sinners.
- 2) Upon conversion, drastic changes had taken place.
- 3) But this description makes it clear, we have nothing to brag about or feel proud & arrogant over.
- 4) So, we should not take pride in our change as though we merited it!!
- 5) This change was caused by God’s grace!

B. Description:

- 1) Were foolish:
 - a) Prov. 1:7---“*Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”
 - b) Prov. 14:9---“*Fools make a mock at sin*”
 - c) Prov. 14:16---“*The fool is self-confident*”
 - d) Poor choices, unwise conduct.
 - e) No understanding of the true way of God because they will not listen.
- 2) Disobedient:
 - a) I Sam. 15:22-23---“*And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*”
 - b) Disobedience is a lack of respect for authority: (God’s, Parent’s, and Government’s)
 - c) Deut. 11:28---“*And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God....*”
- 3) Deceived:
 - a) By Satan’s devices. II Cor. 11:3

- b) By the flattery of others.
- c) By the supposed value of the things of this world. Matt. 16:26
- d) By the expected enjoyments of pleasure & loose living.
- e) By our own hearts. James 1:12
- f) Even though we may be led astray or deceived by others.....we allowed it....thus responsible.
- g) I Cor. 15:33---“**Be not deceived...**”
- 4) Serving divers lusts and pleasures:
 - a) Like a slave, we follow the pleasures & desires of this world.
 - b) We indulge in corrupt passions.
 - c) We obey them as they beckon.
 - d) Life without God is centered on indulging our passions & enjoying the pleasures of this world.
- 5) Living in malice and envy:
 - a) Malice...all kinds of evil or wickedness.
 - b) The desire to harm others....maliciousness.
 - c) Envy....Displeasure in the happiness & prosperity of another.
 - d) It is a work of the fleshly, carnal man. Gal. 5:21
 - e) The ungodly are full of malice & envy towards others.
- 6) Hateful and hating one another:
 - a) Hateful...a hateful spirit, ill-will towards others.
 - b) A spiteful disposition.
 - c) Returning the hate of others.
 - d) No brotherly or neighborly love towards others.

II. GOD’S SOLUTION FOR MAN’S PREDICAMENT, (3:4)

A. Kindness of God.

- 1) Man’s sinful condition is given in stark contrasts to God’s character.
- 2) He is kind, good to sinful man!
 - a) Matt. 5:45---“**For he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.**”
 - b) James 1:17---“**Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights.**”
 - c) Not only has He provided plentifully for sinful, fallen man physically.....but spiritually as well!

B. Love of God.

- 1) John 3:16
- 2) Pagan gods of men were characterized by their hostility to man.
- 3) God’s true nature is one of kindness, goodness, and love towards His creatures.

C. Toward man appeared.

- 1) Appeared...manifested...made known to all men.
- 2) Point in time fixed by divine planning.
 - a) Gal. 4:4---“**But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law....**”
- 3) To the pagans, God’s manifestation was interpreted as:

- a) Winning a battle
- b) Being healed of a sickness, etc.
- 4) To the Christian, God's manifestation is seen in his providing salvation through His son.

D. God our Savior

- 1) God has made known His plan & desire to save man from the terrible predicament of sin & death.
- 2) This was not done in view of man's goodness, but in spite of his wickedness.
- 3) This was done out of God's kindness & Love for His creatures.
- 4) A way of emphasizing the Divine intervention to save man.

III. THE GROUNDS OF THIS SALVATION. (3:5-7)

A. It is not by works of righteousness which we have done.

- 1) He is speaking of man's right(eous) deeds....that which he should be doing.
- 2) These did not and cannot save him.
- 3) Reason:
 - a) They are incomplete...imperfect.
 - b) Man in reality is a sinner under the sentence of death because of His disobedience, or imperfections. Rom. 3:23; 6:23.
 - c) Thus, man's efforts to merit his salvation is in vain.
- 3) If man could be saved by his own works, then Jesus died in vain.

B. But according to his mercy he saved us.

- 1) God is rich in mercy. Eph. 2:4
- 2) God's mercy or compassion for his creatures led him to work out a way to save man from the just penalty of his sins.
- 3) If this desire to forgive man had not been in God's heart, there would have been no hope for us.
- 4) This mercy was made possible by the death of His Son.....
 - a) Who paid our penalty.....took our place!!

C. It was accomplished by the washing of regeneration.

- 1) To regenerate....to make knew.
- 2) Washing....taking a bath to get clean.
- 3) Eph. 5:26---"*That he might sanctify and cleanse it (the church) by the washing of water by the word.*"
- 4) The New birth of John 3:3-5 is obviously in view here.
- 5) The regenerating process is that of cleansing and making acceptable.
- 6) The conditions that man must meet in order to be regenerated are not specifically stated here.
- 7) But these Cretans had met those conditions to be cleansed.
- 8) This regeneration takes place when man is baptized into Christ.
- 9) The power is not in the water, but in the blood.
- 10) But the cleansing comes when we are washed...baptized!

D. And renewing of the Holy Spirit.

- 1) John 3:5---"*Born of the water and Spirit*".
- 2) Emphasizing the same concept.

- 3) Renewal---to make new....
- 4) The Holy Spirit brings about this renewal of man.
- 5) How?
 - a) He teaches us, convinces us, instructs us.
 - b) He persuades us to turn towards God.
 - c) It is done by the preaching of His Message. Eph. 6:17
 - d) Upon turning....we are cleansed, regenerated, made new.
- 6) This Holy Spirit:
 - a) Has been shed upon Christians abundantly.
 - b) Acts 5:32---"***And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that obey him.***"
 - c) The miraculous gifts of the Spirit were the outward manifestations of His being poured out upon Christians.
 - d) The indwelling of God's Spirit within is our assurance of our eternal salvation. Eph. 1:13-14
 - e) This Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus Christ our Savior. Acts 2:33.

E. Been justified by his grace, and made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- 1) Justified---To be pronounced as just or innocent.
- 2) The process of man being saved by God through His grace.
- 3) Saved by God's unmerited favor.....not by our merits, but the merits of Jesus' death for us.
- 4) We are made heirs.....that which is passed down because of being in the family.
- 5) It is the hope of eternal life that God has given us, his children.

CONCLUSION

1. The process would be like this:

- a) The nature of Justification or salvation:
 - 1—Our sins are removed...making us innocent...just.
 - 2—We have been made acceptable to God.
- b) The grounds of Justification or salvation:
 - 1—God's Kindness, love, mercy, Grace.
 - 2—Obviously, not by righteous works of man.
- c) The conditions of Justification or salvation:
 - 1—Man's obedient response (believing, repenting, baptized).
 - 2—When man responds....God regenerates him, cleanses him, renews him by His forgiveness.
- d) The privileges of Justification or salvation:
 - 1—We become children of God....thus, heirs of God.
 - 2—What He is offering is Eternal Life with HIM.

Lesson Thirteen

“*ADMONITIONS & GREETINGS*”

(Titus 3:8-15)

INTRODUCTION

1. This portion of Titus gives us some insights about how the early church operated.
 - a) Very little indication of persecution at this time in this area.
 - b) The main problem was trouble-makers in the church:
 - 1—False teachers who taught contrary to true doctrine;
 - 2—People who stirred up strife & contention in church.
 - 3—Such needed to be dealt with correctly.
 - c) A very strong emphasis placed on good works in lives of God’s people.
 - 1—Several times mentioned in this letter alone.
 - 2—Possibly 8 or more times in these 3 last letters of Paul.
 - d) The work of an apostle is clearly seen:
 - 1—In writing inspired letters to churches;
 - 2—Visiting among churches to strengthen & encourage;
 - 3—Sending or leaving special workers with churches whom the apostles could trust.
 - 4—Encouraging churches to help traveling preachers among them.
2. Many of these things will be pointed out in our study.

DISCUSSION

I. ADMONITIONS, (3:8-11)

A. “This is a faithful saying”

- 1) What he has been & is talking about is of great importance.
- 2) It is trustworthy & dependable....worthy of following.
- 3) What things?
 - a) Great basic truths of gospel.
 - b) And the kind of effects it has to change lives for good.
 - c) And/or what he is about to state.....

B. “These things affirm constantly”

- 1) Affirm---to assert strongly & with authority.
- 2) Constantly:
 - a) “Confidently”----with strong assurance of their importance.
 - b) Never be weary of dwelling on these great truths.

C. “might be careful to maintain good works.”

- 1) Those who have placed their faith in God & His promises.
- 2) Careful---Take due consideration to
- 3) Maintain---continuous efforts, not haphazard.
- 4) Good works---Christianity leads men to holy living.
 - Their lives full of good works.
 - Deeds of beneficence, charity, holiness.
- 5) Reason:
 - a) Such is good---it accomplishes good.

- b) Profitable unto men---benefits spiritually & morally.
---promotes human happiness.

D. Things to avoid (Not to waste your time on):

- 1) Foolish questions:
 - a) Dull, sluggish, stupid questions, useless questions.
 - b) Difficult questions to settle....not easily answered.
 - c) That are of no real practical importance.
 - d) Example:
 - 1—Which side of Jesus was pierced by spear.
 - 2—How much power in the name of Jehovah.
 - 3—How many angels can dance on head of pin.
- 2) Genealogies:
 - a) Genealogies were important leading up to Christ.
 - b) Jews had made a special doctrine out of such.
 - c) They are of no consequence now.
- 3) Contentions & Strivings about the law:
 - a) Controversies & disputings over.
 - b) Circumcision, meats, drinks, new moons, etc. Col. 2:16-17
 - c) Such had eaten the heart out of Judaism...must not Christianity.
- 4) Observations:
 - a) Such people are out of harmony with God's Truth.
 - b) May not reject gospel, but are the one's with "great & new insights" that causes contentions.
 - c) They raise questions that stir up strife, but are of no value in the Christian life.
 - d) God's great truths are only food for wrangling & disputation.
- 5) Why avoid?
 - a) They are unprofitable.
 - 1—No desirable results.
 - 2—They disturb & embitter the feelings.
 - 3—Lead to indulgence of a bad spirit.
 - b) They are vain...useless, aimless, perverse.

E. Reject heretics.

- 1) A heretic:
 - a) A factious man, a divisive person.
 - b) Puts more stock in his own thinking, than in God's truth.
 - c) His work will promote division & sectarianism.
 - d) He does not promote unity upon God's truths.
- 2) Facts about him:
 - a) He is subverted:
 - 1—"Turned inside out"
 - 2—His character is perverted.
 - 1—Caught up in this sinfulness.
 - 2—Continues in it even when admonished.
 - c) Being condemned of himself:
 - 1—Self-condemned.

2—He knows his actions are contrary to what God’s true servants teach.

- 3) After two admonitions reject:
- a) Admonished two different times to stop, but doesn’t.
 - b) Such is not to be done too hastily or rashly.
 - c) Give opportunity for change.
 - d) Done in kindness & love for his soul.
 - e) If will not repent...reject...refuse to listen to him.
 - f) Not to be contended with, but rebuked.

II. PERSONAL PLANS & GREETINGS. (3:12-15)

A. Paul’s plan to send someone to Crete.

- 1) Would be Artemas or Tychicus.
 - a) Artemas is unknown to us from Scripture.
 - b) Tychicus was a trusted worker with Paul. Acts 20:4; Col. 4:7; Eph. 6:21; II Tim. 4:12.
- 2) Purpose---probably to continue the work Titus had been involved with among churches on Island of Crete.
- 3) This would relieve Titus to join Paul.
- 4) Thus, Paul urges him to be “diligent to come to me at Nicopolis”.
 - a) North of Macedonia...further spread of gospel.
 - b) Titus could help Paul in this work here, or be sent to another location to work.
 - c) “I plan to winter at Nicopolis”

B. “Bring Zenas & Apollos on their journey”

- 1) Zenas:
 - a) Called, the Lawyer.
 - b) Probably an expert in Mosaic Law.
 - c) Converted from Judaism...now preaching Christ to Jews.
- 2) Apollos:
 - a) Very eloquent man in O.T. Scriptures.
 - b) Now was very effective in preaching Christ to Jews.
 - c) Shown way of Lord more perfectly by Aquila & Priscilla at Ephesus.
 - d) Preached & worked at Corinth.
 - e) Now, seems to be traveling about preaching.
 - f) They may have also been at Crete.
- 3) Bring them on their journey diligently.
 - a) Speedily...Paul may have felt the need of their presence.
 - b) Or, may have been on their way to Jerusalem or Alexandria.
 - c) May have been the bearer of this letter to Titus.
 - d) That they may lack nothing.
 - 1—Food, money, escorts.
 - 2—Letters of commendation, etc.
 - e) Facilitate their journey...be hospitable.

C. Final exhortation about good works.

- 1) “Let ours also learn to maintain good works.”

- a) As the Jews did, and even Gentiles in helping their own.
 - b) So, such should characterize God's people. Gal. 6:10
 - c) Learn---to be taught clearly.
- 2) Maintain good works.
 - a) Earnest strivings to have such in their lives.
 - b) Every Christian to be involved.
 - c) Helping their own & others.
 - d) Especially those urgent needs of life.
 - 3) Reasons for such emphasis on good works.
 - a) So we won't be unfruitful.
 - b) Their religion won't be barren or worthless.
 - c) True test of religion....acts of kindness done.
 - d) Good works produces happy effects on themselves & others.
 - 4) Other reasons for good works....elsewhere:
 - a) Glorifies God. Matt. 5:16
 - b) An evidence of our faith. Jas. 2:26
 - c) Makes us acceptable in day of Judgment. Matt. 25
 - 5) Terms used in connection with good works:
 - a) "To be maintained". Tit. 3:14
 - b) "To be zealous of them." Tit. 2:14
 - c) "To be rich in them." I Tim. 6:18
 - d) "To be established in them." II Thess. 2:17
 - e) "To be ready unto all. Tit. 3:1
 - f) "To provoke each other unto such." Heb. 10:24

C. Greetings:

- 1) All with Paul send greetings.
 - a) Workers with Paul in particular that Titus would know.
 - b) Possibly the church where he was also.
- 2) Greet those who love us in the Faith.
 - a) Emphasis upon Brethren...family.
 - b) Love is a characteristic of God's new people.
- 3) Grace be with you all. Amen.
 - a) Wished God's favor & mercy to continually be upon them all.
 - b) Emphasizes the close relationship among widely scattered Christians.
 - c) They are a holy, happy family, united by love.

CONCLUSION

1. Now that you know the work of a preacher.....evaluate his efforts.
2. Encourage him to do the work God has given to preachers of the gospel.
3. Support such efforts here & elsewhere...continue faithfully in the teachings