

MINISTRY CHARACTER: TITUS 2:1-15

THE GOSPEL & GODLINESS

Jeremy started this session by prayer and then requested everyone to read Titus 2 with each person reading two verses.

What is Titus 2 all about?

It was very significant asking ourselves this question to help us understand some of the main themes that run through the chapter. After a thorough study of the chapter, we observed that:

1. Paul is instructing Titus on what he should teach (**sound doctrine**)-Titus2:1-2, 15
2. Apostle Paul is also outlining basic instructions on how different groups should live together (**uphold godliness**)-Titus 2:1-10

Why is Paul talking about this now?

Titus 1:10-14-There is a great need to emphasize on teaching sound doctrine because there is some sort of false teaching among the Cretans. Most of the Cretans:

1. Were of the circumcision group-they believed that salvation/sanctification came only through circumcision and observing the Jewish ceremonial law (v. 10).
2. Held to unscriptural Jewish myths and genealogies (v.14).

It is quite evident from the Cretans that most of them though had heard about the gospel were still continuing in their former lifestyle. Therefore, it was necessary to remind them of the gospel that leads to godliness.

How does Paul go about saying it?

Titus 2:2-10-He emphasizes to Titus on how sound teaching demands right conduct of all believers regardless of age, gender or position. He provides an example of what should be taught to different groups of people like:

- Older men-(v.2)
- Older women/younger women-(vv.3-5)
- Younger men-(vv.6-8)
- Slaves-(vv.9-10)
- All believers-(vv.11-14): These verses points us all to Christ and reminds us the reason for godliness.

N/B: The gospel (what Christ has done for us) is the main reason for leading a godly lifestyle.

Think about this:

- *What is the gospel?*

- *How many people do you know that have an understanding of the gospel but do not live a godly lifestyle?*

N/B: *The gospel is about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all humanity to reconcile us back to God and leaning on Christ daily to conform into His likeness.* (Eric's definition).

It is the undeserved love that God showed us in Christ while we were still sinners and his enemies and by which we are saved, apart from any moral/religious acts on our part.

How does the gospel teach us godliness?

- a) Christ reconciling us back to God – in view of these mercies (Rom. 12:1)
 1. **Forgiveness** (Matthew 18, Eph 4:32)-knowing how much Christ has forgiven me so I need to forgive and forbear with others.
 2. **Joy/worship/gratitude/love** (as seen in the Gospel accounts, e.g. Zachaeus the tax collector; Jesus forgiving the prostitute woman – forgiven much, love much; 2 Cor. 8:2)
 3. **Died with Christ/risen with Christ** (Romans 6:1-14; Col. 3:1-4)
 4. **Love for neighbor**-I was dearly loved by God so I need to love others (Col 3:12-14; 1 John 4:11,19). I need to share the gospel with others out of love.
 5. **Union with Christ** (1 Cor. 6:15-20)
 6. **Adoption as children of God** (Eph. 5:1; Matt. 5:43-48)
- b) Faith in future grace and hope – Hebrew 11; 1 John 3:3
- c) Walking in a manner appropriate to our new status, calling and destination – Eph. 4:1,22-32; Phil. 1:27 – putting off old and putting on the new life
- d) Turning from idols (and becoming like them) to worship the living God (and becoming like them) – 1 Thess. 1:9-10
- e) Sovereignly conforming us to Christlikeness
 1. **Regeneration/New Birth/Spirit** – given new hearts, attitudes, God working in us (Phil. 2:13), God's love planted in and flowing out through us to others
 2. **Purity** -the mission of Christ is to purify a people for Himself (Titus 2.14). Christ came to forgive and purify us. He will do it (1 Thess. 5:23-24).

What does godliness look like? (Titus 2:2-10)

1. Self- control in every aspect of our lives.
2. Attention to God given roles
3. Living a life worthy of respect (an exemplary life)-v.7
 - A life that bear fruits
 - A life that is productive
 - A life that is effective
 - Doing what is good – not just avoiding doing certain things

Further Reading

- I. *Discipline of Grace* by Jerry Bridges