

The New Testament Church  
*Book of Titus #5: Christ in the Church*  
 Pastor Paul Jehle – June 12, 2022  
 Titus 2:9-15

I Titus' Mission to Crete

- A. The Challenge – how do you transform a culture that has abandoned absolute truth?
- B. The Mission – *reaching a lost culture whose homes have largely been ruined*
  - 1. Paul sends Titus (Greek) to strengthen spiritual foundations of believers (Acts 2:11)
  - 2. He is to appoint elders (God's hand, people's hand, leaders confirmation)
  - 3. But what should a church emphasize in reaching a culture that has rejected truth?
    - a. **Character is critical** – higher priority than gifts, talents and intellectual debate
    - b. **Conscience** (a pure *motive*) must be discerned – it may take time to restore trust
    - c. **Discipleship** through *organic relationships* of old and young in the Church

II Titus 2:9-15 – The culture seeing Christ through the Church

- A. From the individual to the **ecclesia** – *or the corporate church*
  - 1. *Only a government can shift another government* – when the whole church moves together
  - 2. A shift in addressing individual character and conscience to church as an extension of family
- B. Bondservants – v. 15-16 – *why would the Bible exhort slaves to be submissive to their masters?*
  - 1. *We must understand the power of the ecclesia moving in the opposite spirit of the culture!*
  - 2. The Old Testament and slavery – voluntary, criminal, permanent (conquered), no chattel
  - 3. Jesus and the Jubilee; corporately we are all slaves to sin, and Christ is our corporate Jubilee
  - 4. The Roman Empire and slavery – *this was the context in which the Church was born*
    - a. 40% of population were slaves; women less than men; girls abandoned; racism normal
    - b. Wealthy dominated the poor; lifespan was 20; no knowledge of health; no rights
    - c. Slavery was in every nation of the world; that was the norm; but Christ would change that
  - 5. *Every right (life, liberty, property) requires responsibility and takes time to be protected*  
**Note:** believers in Crete were slave-holders as well as slaves and God focused on a change of **heart** and **conduct** as a church – they had no legal standing to repeal slavery itself.
    - a. Submit to your masters – *an attitude of service*
    - b. Well pleasing in all – *we desire to please our boss, even the bad ones*
    - c. Not answer back – *we are not quick to react in anger*
    - d. Not pilfering – *we do not steal commodities or time*
    - e. Showing all good fidelity – *faithfulness in all of our commitments*
  - 6. *That they (the church) may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things*
- C. **Adorn Christ** – (put in order and decorate) – by incarnating Christ to a dark culture (in the **heart**)
- D. **Let Christ Appear** through the church through corporately, as a team...
  - 1. Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts – *self-denial as a church is powerful*
  - 2. Living soberly – *a church whose members act as one team when things are serious*
  - 3. Righteously – *a church that corporately does the right thing before God*
  - 4. Godly – *when a church is considered godly by the culture (not just a leader)*
  - 5. Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior...
  - 6. Who gave Himself for us – *we are expectant that as a church we can get a good report*
  - 7. Zealous for good works – *we are zealous to do good deeds without a desire for recognition*
- E. **Expect Christ to redeem** us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a special people
  - 1. That we might be zealous of good works – *good deeds without a desire for recognition*
  - 2. That we speak, exhort, *rebuke* with all authority – don't despise the power of a new heart
- F. Example – Anthony of Padua (1195-1231) – June 13 – basic history and character qualities...