

The New Testament Church
Book of Titus #7: The Church's Kingdom Focus
 Pastor Paul Jehle – June 26, 2022
 Titus 3:9-15

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; Church an extended family
 - d. **The Ecclesia** can shift a culture when its *attitude is a broken heart toward others*
 - e. Let us remember that **God has given us time to obey Him** (like the first century church);
 - 1. **He will convert key people to stem the tide of tyranny** (like Roman civil officials);
 - 2. **The attitude of submission in the Church** displays Christ and delays opposition...

II Titus 3:9-15 – The Church's Kingdom Focus

- A. The Ecclesia – as part of the local Church – is a *spiritual government of Christ's Kingdom*
 - 1. Believer's attitudes and actions, in covenant with their local church, affect the culture
 - 2. Corporately **adorning Christ** can shift the government of a nation – but we must focus!
 - 3. The challenge they had then – a left-right political frenzy; we have now as well...
 - 4. We must **rise above the frenzy** and display **kingdom attitudes and government!**
- B. Keep the focus on the Kingdom – the main thing – and don't get detoured (Ephesians 4:4)
 - 1. **Avoid foolish disputes** – v. 9 (from pride – Proverbs 13:10; Job 41:34)
 - a. Genealogies – relationships to patriarchs, Christ, famous people, self-importance
 - b. Contentions – endless arguments on minor points of conflict (polarizations)
 - c. Striving about the law – distractions of Talmud instead of the Torah
 - d. We avoid that which is unprofitable (does not edify) and useless (does not sanctify)
 - 2. **Divisive** – v. 10-11 – “heretics” – meaning “sects” – groups focusing on trivial differences
 - a. Reject after first and second admonition – don't give them the time of day!
 - b. Divisive individuals are warped – in other words it is all about *their teaching (revelation)*
 - c. And habitually sin – the focus is on them – their truth – their slant
 - d. Self-condemned – since their focus is on themselves, they have canceled themselves out
 - 3. Paul sends **assistants** for Titus in Crete - v. 12 - train your replacement (humility – His glory)
 - a. Artemas – little is said in Scripture – but maybe he became Bishop of Lystra (assistant)
 - b. Tychicus – mentioned in Acts 20:4; Col. 4:7; 2nd Tim. 4:12; another assistant
 - c. Go to Nicopolis - probably in Epirus (city of victory); where there must be a church
 - 4. Paul asks Titus to **help** those who brought the letter to Titus - v. 13 – **application of the law**
 - a. Zenas the lawyer – could be a Roman lawyer convert, skilled in its application
 - b. Apollos the teacher – Acts 18:24 – skilled in the application of Biblical law
 - c. We are to be skilled in knowing how Biblical law affects civil law in any culture
 - 5. v. 14 – Focus on **good works** – the way the Kingdom is fruitful (advances)
 - a. Learn to maintain good works – this is the critical point (see Matthew 5:16)
 - b. Meet urgent needs – this is the work of good works – what is most urgent?
 - 6. v. 15 – Greet others as a **team** - *All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with all, Amen*