

Titus 1:1-5

Setting things in Order

There are four questions that surface as I look at the opening verses of this text.

I. Are we totally surrendered to God and His mission? v1a

Paul identifies himself in 2 ways at the beginning of this letter.

1. A bond servant of God
2. An apostle of Jesus Christ

• A Bond-servant of God

The word in the Greek is *doulos*, and its translation is not servant or even bond-servant. It is slave. Paul said to Titus, very clearly, in Greek, I am a slave.

1. There were 10-12 million slaves at the time of Christ and the apostles, so Paul knew what it meant to be a slave.
2. He did not throw terminology around just for emotional affect.
3. He, inspired by the Holy Spirit, chose his words carefully and intentionally.
4. And knowing what he knew about slavery, he said: Paul, a slave of God.

Think about what Paul was saying when He said, I am a slave.

1. I have no life of my own

- a. To be a slave means that you are owned. You were bought with a price.
- b. A slave is someone who's life belongs totally to someone else.
- c. Paul is saying, I am not my own. I belong to Christ.

2. I have no time of my own

- a. A slave had no work hours. He was always on call.
- b. He had no holidays, no time off, and no leisure.
- c. He had no hope of retirement.
- d. All his time belonged to the master.

3. I make no choice of my own

- a. A slave had no choice but one, the choice of his master.
- b. There was complete and constant obedience.
- c. His sole purpose in life was to please his master. "not my will, but yours be done."

John MacArthur said this: *"The slave in the Greco-Roman world had no rights, no ownership, no legal recourse in the courts, no citizenships, no possibility of doing what they want to do, they were not asked what they thought their purposes were, their dreams were, etc. They owned nothing and were totally dependent upon the one who owned them."*

Paul identified himself as a slave, but there is a little word that makes a big difference here: “of.”

1. He was a slave of God.
2. 1, 2, and 3 are all true...but his master is so good!
3. Luke 12:35-38 *“Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. 36 Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks. 37 Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them. 38 Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.”*

- **An Apostle of Jesus Christ**

Paul was not only a slave. He was an apostle.

1. An apostle was one who saw the risen Christ in the flesh and was personally commissioned by Him.
2. The literal meaning is one officially sent forth by Christ himself as a divinely commissioned witness of the resurrected Lord, with authority to proclaim His truth.
3. Jesus met Saul on the road to Damascus where he personally sent him forth as a divinely commissioned witness of his resurrection with authority to proclaim His truth.
4. Acts 26:12-18

He was an apostle of Jesus Christ.

II. Are we living purposeful lives? v1b

Why has Paul been made a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. The next word opens that up for us: “for.” For what?

A. For the faith of those chosen of God

1. Paul, as God’s slave and Christ’s apostle, worked for the faith of those chosen of God.
2. 2 Timothy 2:8-10
 - a. How did he do this? He preached. And by their response to his preaching, the chosen of God were made known.
 - b. 1 Cor 1:23-24 *but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*
 - c. To some a stumbling block, but to those who are called, the power of God!
 - d. Paul preached the gospel to everyone, and by their response to his preaching, the chosen of God were made known.
3. Acts 13:44-48

B. For the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness

1. Knowledge refers to the clear understanding of truth.
2. Knowledge which accords with godliness refers to an understanding of truth that makes us more like Christ...not just more knowledgeable.
3. I treat Christianity more like a theory than a practice!
4. Vance Havner, *“We are challenged these days, but not changed; convicted, but not converted. We hear, but do not; and thereby we deceive ourselves.”*
5. Proverbs 21:2 *Every man’s way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.*

III. Are we a hopeful people? v2-3

He is hopeful. Note that little word “in.” “In” the hope...of what? Eternal life. There is the goal. Eternal life.

What does he base this hope on?

1. The Character of God v2

- a. This God who is incapable of lying made a promise.
- b. This gave Paul hope...not a hope like we think of, but a patient assurance.

2. The Word of God v3

- a. Paul was entrusted with a proclamation...a sermon so to speak
- b. What was Paul’s sermon? THE GOSPEL!
- c. 1 Corinthians 2:1-2 *And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.*
- d. Paul had hope, confident, patient, assurance in the power of the Gospel
- e. Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*
- f. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness!

IV. Are we strategically living our lives for the furtherance of God’s Kingdom? v4-5

1. Reproduction v4

1. Titus was Greek...a Gentile that Paul led to faith and disciplined towards Christ
2. We see here that Paul viewed Titus as his spiritual offspring...his child
 - a. He had a parental love for Titus
 - b. He had a parental responsibility to Titus
 - c. He had a parental authority over Titus

2. Development v5a

1. Titus was not a toddler...he was his mature son in the faith having children of his own
2. Titus was his fellow servant
 - a. He had traveled and served with Paul extensively.
 - b. He had spent a year or so with Paul ministering to the church at Corinth.
 - c. He had delivered Paul’s letter to them
 - d. He handled the church’s offering for the Jerusalem church.
3. Titus was Paul’s partner and fellow worker.
4. He left him in charge at Crete.

3. Multiplication v5b

1. That..... That you would set in order what remains.
2. The church had begun on Crete, but there was still lots of work to be done.
3. Titus, set things in order.
4. The real purpose of this letter, is to guide you in doing just that...setting things in order.

Conclusion:

1. Are you this morning totally surrendered to God (if not repent and believe and come) and to His mission? (we are going to provide you with multiple opportunities to be involved)
2. Are we living purposeful lives? (is Your purpose His purpose?)
3. Are you a hopeful person? (Are you living for the future resurrection and the life to come?)
4. Are you strategically living your life for the furtherance of God's Kingdom?

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you learn about God in this sermon and in the biblical texts used? About Christ? About the Holy Spirit?
2. What did you learn about yourself in this sermon and in the texts used?
3. Were there any clear promises or commands in the biblical texts used?
4. What is the hardest truth that stands out to you from this message or the verses referenced?
5. What is the most impactful point or statement from the sermon?
6. How can you respond to this message?