

Titus

Chapter 1

1 Paul a slave¹ of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ according to the faith of God's elect and knowledge of the truth according to godliness².

2 Through the eager expectation³ of life eternal that the trustworthy God has promised from the ageless past.

¹ The word slave is a repulsive word to those of the 21st century but its literal meaning is to be under the ownership of someone. Paul was under the ownership of God, which He places first in His list of qualifications to Titus and those who would also read this letter. It is a great honor to be considered a slave or servant of God. We look back through the history of men and we discover that the greatest men were His slaves. Abraham, Moses, David and Daniel were all called the slaves of God (Psalms 105:42; 1 Chronicles 6:49; 2 Chronicles 24:9; Nehemiah 10:29; Daniel 9:11; Psalms 89:3; Daniel 6:20).

There is something so important about our need to recognize that when we were redeemed by the blood of Jesus we were purchased. We were bought with a king's ransom. We belong to God and we should live our lives under His ownership and do those things that bring glory and honor to His name (1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23; 1 Peter 1:18).

As those who are under the ownership of God we are to walk in faith and truth, which reveals and expresses godliness in our lives. Paul is leading up to the point that we are to deny ungodliness and worldly lust and live righteously and godly (2:12). The world needs to see the light and revelation of the ways of God and now that we are born of God we can by nature walk in His ways. The knowledge of the truth and the faith of God's elect is that we were washed with the water of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5). As those who have been born of the Spirit and of the water of life we are to find all our identity in the one who redeemed us. That identity is the life of godliness and purity of the life of Christ. As we walk in the life of Christ the light and life of God is revealed to a perverse and wicked world.

² Both the faith and the knowledge of the truth that have been granted to us by God through the gospel are all about godliness. Through the divine power of God we have been given everything that pertains to His life and to His godliness (2 Peter 1:3). We were redeemed by His blood so that sin would be removed and so that we would be empowered to live in the glorious ways of the Most High. God did not make sin okay rather He further judged it and condemned it through the death and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 8:3; John 12:31; 16:11; 1 John 3:8; 2 Timothy 1:10; 1 Peter 2:24; Romans 6:6; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14; 1 Peter 4:1-2; John 1:12-14). Jesus destroyed the power of the devil and delivered us from his tyrannical reign. Through redemption we were entrusted with power and authority over every unclean spirit and every force of sin and evil (Luke 10:17,19; Mark 6:7; Mark 16:17; Romans 6:12,14,18; 8:2; Titus 2:14). The will of God for our lives is manifested in the fact that if we give Him complete control He will keep us from stumbling (Jude 1:24).

Godliness is not some sort of Old Testament mentality steeped in legalism; godliness is the behavior and conduct of God. Godliness, righteousness and holiness are the ways and nature of eternal life and the witness of the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14,16; Galatians 5:16,18,25; John 16:13; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13, 4:30). Those who would treat godliness, righteousness and holiness as something other than essential to walking with God no nothing- "If any teach otherwise, and consent not to sound words- the words of our Lord Jesus Christ and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud and knows nothing... (1 Timothy 6:3-4). Come now, let us walk in the light of the Lord (Isaiah 2:5)

³ God has not left us wondering about what He intends to do but has made promises that we can all be certain will take place. He is a trustworthy God who through His faithfulness to do what He has promised leaves us confident that the things, which He has spoken will surely come to pass. The Greek word 'elpsis' is translated by the Hebrew words for trust, confidence and expectation in the Septuagint; the most common one being the Hebrew word 'teqvah' meaning 'eager expectation' (Harris, R. L., Harris, R. L., Archer, G. L., & Waltke, B. K. (1999, c1980). Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament). We are those who wait in eager expectation for all of those things that a trustworthy God has promised. Thus the concept of hope brings both expectation and trust together in a confident disposition of receiving the promises of

- 3- And has revealed in His own time His word through preaching⁴ which I was entrusted with according to the command of God our Savior.
- 4- Titus my true child according to a common faith- grace, mercy, and peace from Father God and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.
- 5- For this reason I left you behind in Crete so that which is lacking may be corrected and that you may appoint elders in the towns as I directed you.
- 6- If someone is blameless a man of one woman having children of faith not accused of debauchery or rebellious.
- 7- For a Bishop must be blameless as God's steward not arrogant, not quick-tempered, not a striker, not greedy of gain.
- 8- But hospitable, a lover of good, prudent, righteous, devout, self-controlled.
- 9- Devoted to the teaching of the faithful word so that he may be able to both exhort with teaching, correcting and exposing those who contradict it.
- 10- For there are also many rebellious, talking nonsense and deceivers most of all those of the circumcision.
- 11- They must be silenced for they are overturning entire households by their teachings who are not ashamed that they do it for profit.
- 12- It was one of them, their own prophets who said Cretes are constant liars, evil beast, lazy gluttons.
- 13- This testimony is true for this reason rebuke them severely that they may be sound in the faith.
- 14- Paying no attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who reject the truth.
- 15- To the pure all things are pure but to the defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure but their mind and conscience are corrupt.

God. "It may thus be said that God is the hope or confidence of the righteous." (refer to 'elpsis' in the Theological dictionary of the New Testament. 1964-c1976. Vols. 5-9 edited by Gerhard Friedrich. Vol. 10 compiled by Ronald Pitkin. (G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley & G. Friedrich, Ed.).

⁴ God has anointed us with the ability to preach (Luke 4:18; Romans 10:14-15; 2 Corinthians 1:21; Matthew 10:20). Preaching is not story-telling; it is a divine inspiration that goes from us by the Spirit of the Lord. In that anointing we are empowered to speak as the oracles of God - those who unveil the divine word (1 Peter 4:11). Through the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, the word of God comes out of us as a river of life: in knowledge, revelation, prophecy, and doctrine (1 Corinthians 14:6). The word of God is living and it pierces the heart; dividing soul and spirit, joint and marrow (John 6:63; Hebrews 4:12). Only the Holy Spirit can unveil the word and cause it to be understood by the hearts and minds of men. Unless we allow God to train our mouths to speak and allow His utterance to come forth from our lips, we will only have the intellectual teachings of men and not the heart-piercing, Holy Ghost-convicting revelation of the living word. Men have trained their minds to organize concepts and ideas, but more importantly they need to train their hearts to yield to the Spirit of God.

The Eternal Word that was made flesh is revealed through the proclamation of the gospel. There is no new word of God; there is only the eternal word. The entirety of the word of God that we call the Bible is all about the Eternal Word, Christ Jesus. The word of God is forever settled: nothing can be added to it and nothing taken away (Galatians 1:8-9; Psalm 119:89; Deuteronomy 4:2). What does change is our understanding of the word. Through the revelation of the Holy Spirit, the eyes of our understanding are opened so that we might know all of the wonderful things that have been freely given to us in Christ Jesus (Luke 24:45; Ephesians 1:17-18; Psalm 119:18; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10). This word of faith is in our hearts and our mouth, and it goes forth under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the miracles of salvation.

16- They profess to know God but by their works they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and to every good work disqualified.

Chapter 2

1-But you speak what is consistent with sound doctrine.

2- Old men be temperate, worthy of respect, prudent, healthy in faith, in love and in endurance.

11- For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

Chapter 3

5- Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit⁵.

6 - Which He poured out abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord⁶.

⁵ We were saved from the former way of life through the new birth. Because of what Jesus did for us at Calvary the whole of mankind were made candidates to be born of the Spirit (John 1:12; 12:32; Titus 2:12; 1 John 2:2; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:13). Through the new birth the former life and conversation was washed away; the old things passed away and everything became new (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15; Ephesians 2:10; 4:24; 1 Peter 1:23; Colossians 3:3; John 3:5; Romans 6:4; 8:9). We did not earn any special right to be born of God rather it was by the unmixed mercy and grace of God that reached down into our lives and gave us the opportunity to be born of Him.

God not only gave us a new heart and a new spirit through this regeneration He also put His Spirit within us. The new heart that we have been given is a heart just like Fathers. Our hearts have been inscribed with His laws and He has establish His ways in our nature (Hebrews 8:10; 10:16; Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26-27; 2 Corinthians 3:3; 2 Peter 1:4). One of the challenging things for even those who have been regenerate to believe is that all things are new. Too many people hold on to the old and attempt to carry their former conversation and way of life into this glorious new creation. Satan lies against the truth and attempts to convince us that nothing has changed. He tries to lay the sin and shame of the past on us. He would demand that we carry the hurts and the iniquity of the former life along with us but this is all a lie! Should we only believe that all the nature and goodness of God has been restored to us then the faith, which is by Christ Jesus would produce a miracle provision of grace and we would discover that we can live the abundant life of Christ Jesus. If we are to occupy all that God has supplied then we must walk in the Spirit. The only way that we can walk in the Spirit is to live by the word.

⁶ God who is rich in mercy has done for us what we could have never done for ourselves. Our heavenly Father loves us so much that He gave us the most valuable and sacred things precious to His heart: the blood of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. He poured out the blood of Jesus at Calvary so that every stain of sin could be removed and every power of Satan broken. Through the blood of Jesus, the life of God flowed into everyone who would look to the sacrifice of God and accept so great a salvation. He poured out the Holy Spirit upon us so that the miracle of new life could be formed within us - the miracle of a new heart and a new spirit, the very life of Christ conceived and brought to life, all through one act of grace. We are washed and regenerated by the power of the blood of Jesus and by the Holy Ghost. The fountain of life pours out His undiminishing grace freely and continuously upon all who will receive. The blood of Jesus is as active today as it was when it first flowed from His body at Calvary. It will cleanse you and wash you and make you whiter than snow. It is undiminishing in its power, and is a continuous witness of God's mercy supplied, as He calls all men everywhere: "Come to the fountain that flows from Emmanuel's veins!" His forgiveness is unlimited when we confess our sins and take hold of His mercy, which He has poured out abundantly by the blood of Jesus to cleanse us from every one of sin's stains (Matthew 26:28; Isaiah 1:18; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5; 3:18; 19:8; Romans 3:25).

The fountain from on High of the Holy Spirit - which creates the miracle of the life of Jesus within us and the supply of the Spirit to do all that the Father demands - it is like a mighty river. This fountain cannot run dry; this river is deep and wide, forever flowing to the heart of man from God. All heaven cries out "Come and drink!" The Spirit and the Lamb say "Come!", the bride and everyone who has received cry out in unison "Come take freely of these waters of life and live!" The provision of God is more than enough to do all that He commands. His grace that is given cannot fail those who will put their trust in Him. The blood of Jesus is always there to cleanse, and the Holy Spirit is always there to give us the ability to do what God demands. These two can never fail if we will only put our trust in them. There is no reason to linger in your doubt or be overcome with sin or disappointment. There is a fountain flowing, the refreshing from the Lord. Come and abide here; His love will never fail!