

The Book of Titus

The Life of Christians in a Congregation:

“The Knowledge of the Truth
Which Accords With Godliness”

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A. THE TEXT

(Titus 1:1-16) Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, (2) in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began (3) and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

(4) To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. (5) This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you-- (6) if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.

(7) For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, (8) but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. (9) He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

(10) For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. (11) They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. (12) One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." (13) This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, (14) not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.

(15) To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. (16) They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

B. THE STUDY NOTES

1. An apostle is one set apart personally by Jesus as his “sent messenger” of authoritative words of truth
(**Mk 6:30; 1 Co 1:1; Eph 4:11-12; Heb 3:1**)
There were 12 apostles and Paul was the 13th apostle to the Gentiles. There can be no more apostles.
2. Every epistle by Paul begins with an introduction of who he is as the author, and then has an intensely packed greeting which summarizes a large amount of doctrine in a very few sentences.
It all needs to be “un-packed” before one starts through the rest of the letter.
 - a. for the sake of the faith of **God's elect (Acts 9:15; 22:15; 26:16-18)**
 - b. their knowledge of the truth, (**1 Tim 2:2-4**)
 - c. which accords with godliness, (**Eph 1:4; 1 Tim 3:16**)
 - d. in hope of eternal life, (**Col 1:5; 2 Tim 1:1; Heb 9:15**)
 - e. **God, who never lies**, promised before the ages began
(**Num 23:19; Heb 6:18; 2 Tim 1:9; 2:13**)
 - f. and at the proper time manifested (**Mk 1:15; 1 Tim 2:6; 6:15; Gal 4:4**)
 - g. in **his word** through the preaching
(**Ac 9:6,15; 20:24; Rom 10:14; Gal 1:1; Eph 1:9-10; 1 Th 2:4**)
 - h. which I have been entrusted by **the command of God our Savior**
(**Lk 1:47; 1 Cor 1:17; 1 Tim 1:1,11; 2:3; 4:10**)
Note: Both Jesus and God the Father are called “Savior” in the New Testament

LUTHER -THE WORD GOD CAN BE TRUSTED, GOD DOES NOT LIE: Vol 4, p. 34

“Therefore the true church of God is the one which does not misuse **the name of God** but hears and keeps **the Word of Christ**, that is, believes **the promises**. When I hear **its name**, I prostrate myself in true humility and worship it, for I am sure that **the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit** dwell in it. But when those who do not keep **the Word of Christ** but persecute it and walk in their self-chosen forms of worship adorn themselves with the name “church,” then the word which by its nature has only one meaning becomes equivocal.

Therefore just as it would be folly to be afraid of a painting of a man drawing a sword, so it is folly to be frightened by the name “church” when it is used in a blasphemous manner; for it is merely the picture or mask of the church. But the true church is where Isaac, **the son of the promise**, is. There **the name of God** should be feared. There is our salvation and our strength, as the psalm says (Prov. 18:10): “**The name of the Lord** is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it.”

In short, where **the Word of Christ** is and is kept—that is, believed—do not be in doubt about the church, even if he who either administers the sacraments or teaches is godless and a blasphemer. “**For the Word of the Lord**, like rain, does not return empty” (Is. 55:10–11).

C. LIFE APPLICATION

1. How have we acquired the knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness?
2. Why does the sure hope of eternal life put your daily life into proper perspective?
3. In your faith pilgrimage, when has God manifested the truth in his word through the preaching you have heard all your life?
4. The Gospel is a LIVING VOICE in preaching, teaching, baptizing, absolving, communing!