

Prayer List

Veda
Wallace
Sheila
Judy
Rose

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 10:00 a.m.
Assembly 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Brad Behrens - bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Michael Odom - MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com

This Week's Question:

Who boasted to David that he would give David's body to the birds for food?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

Daniel - Daniel 8:3-4

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Titus: Made to be an Example, Used of God

Wayne Moody

Titus, my true child after a common faith ..." (Titus 1:4). That's how Paul described Titus. That phrase is used by Paul to describe one other man, Timothy, in 1 Timothy 1:2. There was something special about Titus, something deeply genuine not only about his character, but about his relationship with Paul and his commitment to Christ.

He had been with Paul, learned from Paul's teaching, experience, and example. He had proved himself to the point that Paul knew he could be left in Crete to "set in order the things that were wanting, and appoint elders in every city."

Apparently both men knew the character of the people of Crete, and Paul reminds him of that. Titus had the strength of character to stand his ground in the face of opposition and "reprove sharply" those that opposed Christ. He was a teacher of some ability, otherwise he would not have been able to reach the entire population, old men, young men, older women, young women in the manner he was instructed to do.

In Titus we see that he was made to be an example and used of God in three areas: the providence of God

(1 Corinthians 7:6), the redemption of God, universality of the Gospel (Galatians 2:1–5), and the workmanship of God (Titus 2:7–8).

1. God's Providence

“Nevertheless he that comforteth the lowly, even God, comforted us by the coming of Titus; and not by his coming only, but also by the comfort wherewith he was comforted in you, while he told us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced yet more.” (2 Corinthians 7:6 and 7).

Paul indicates that he is waiting to hear from Titus before he makes a decision about when he would return to Corinth. Apparently he had attempted to go on another occasion, but decided the time wasn't right. He was waiting to hear about the condition of the saints in Corinth, about how they had received his letter and whether or not they responded by taking care of the situation described in 1 Corinthians. When Paul did hear from Titus, it was good news. It was through Titus that Paul was comforted. But Paul doesn't say that Titus comforted him, but that God comforted him through Titus. It was God who used Titus to demonstrate his providential care and indicate His sovereignty. God is in control. He uses people and circumstances to achieve His ends. Some commentators believe that Titus succeeded in Corinth where Timothy failed. If that is true, it just means that different circumstances require different methods and often, different people, to succeed. Titus and Timothy were in the “good fight” together, working toward the same goal, God's goal and God's end. But the bottom line is that God will use men and circumstances for His purposes.

2. God's Redemption

“But not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised: and that because of the false brethren privily brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us under bondage: to whom we gave place in the way of

subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.” (Galatians 2:3–6).

Paul is rehearsing the things that he had preached and taught. He took Barnabas and Titus with him. He was preaching to the Gentiles the gospel of Jesus Christ. There were some who taught that men must be circumcised in order to be saved. Titus apparently was the object of some of these discussions, but Paul said that he did not have Titus circumcised as he had Timothy because if he had, it would have given quarter to the Judaizing teachers. He would have been a party to their false doctrine, and compromised the truth. Titus was made an example by God through Paul to all that the Gospel, in the form that God delivered it, was and is for all, and men, in whatever time, have no right to add or subtract from the conditions of salvation that God instituted.

3. God's Workmanship

In Titus 2:6 and 7, Paul tells Titus to “show himself an example of good works; in thy doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of us’.

Paul also stated in Ephesians 2:10 that “we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works ...” Titus was to be an example of these good works that “God afore prepared.” People were to see Christ in him. His example centered around the doctrine. That was the foundation and that was the starting point, everything goes back to the doctrine or the teaching. If the doctrine is not right, the teaching and the behavior will not be right. Yes, Titus had to watch what others saw in him and he had a responsibility in the impression he left with people. Paul told him also that he should “let no man despise him,” but to conduct himself in a manner consistent with the name he was wearing, with the responsibility he had, and with the foundation upon which he stood.