

TITUS CHAPTER 3 – Graces of the Heirs of Grace; Avoid Dissension; Final Messages; Farewell!”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Outline of Titus

OUTLINE:

I. The church is an organization, Chapter 1
(As such, it should be orderly [v. 5].)

A. Introduction, vv. 1-4

B. An orderly church must have ordained elders who meet

prescribed requirements, vv. 5-9

C. The bad reputation of the Cretans, vv. 10-16

II. The church is to teach and preach the Word of God, Chapter 2

A. The church must teach sound doctrine, vv. 1-10

B. The church must preach the grace of God, vv. 11-15

III. The church is to perform good works, Chapter 3
(To do this, it should be eager, anxious, and learning to perform good works [vv. 1, 8, 14].)

A. Good works are evidence of salvation, vv. 1-7

(The work of the Holy Spirit in contrast to the old life.)

B. Good works are profitable for the present and future, vv. 8-15

Titus – Chapter 1:1-16 - Paul opened his letter with several admonitions for Titus to heed in order that he might fulfill his ministry.

TITUS CHAPTER 3

In the two epistles to the Thessalonians, Paul speaks mostly of the coming of Christ—it is a bright and beautiful hope for him and for us! In Titus, we have a good picture of the New Testament church, developed in the community as an organization.

We see here the ideal given to us of an ideal church is to have or has three things:

1. It has an orderly organization (chapter 1)
2. It is sound in doctrine (chapter 2)
3. It is pure in life, ready to every good work (chapter 3)

Tit 3:1-15

This chapter continues Paul’s exhortation to Titus concerning the ministry of the local churches. He has discussed the aged saints, young men and women, and servants. Now he deals with two additional classes of people:

I. Civil Rulers (Tit 3:1-7)

Christians ought to be good citizens. True, our “citizenship is in heaven” (Php 3:20), but while we are here on earth, we ought to apply our Christian faith in practical daily life. The church is not to get involved in party politics, but certainly Christian people should seek to apply Christian principles to the affairs of city and nation (Rom 13:1-14; 1Pe 3:8-17).

II. Heretics (Tit 3:8-11)

The word “heretic” comes from a word meaning “to choose” and suggests a person who causes divisions in the church because he forces people to choose: “Are you for me or for the pastor?” Gal 5:20 lists “heresy” (forming of parties, divisions) as a work of the flesh; it was prevalent in the carnal church at Corinth (1Co 11:19). These church troublemakers loved to argue about words and genealogies, which suggests that they had a Judaizing background and tried to build novel doctrines on OT ideas. Such unprofitable and empty discussions are to be avoided; they will never convince the enemy and only divide the church. How was Titus to handle these problem people? For one thing, he had to avoid arguing with them. Then, if they persisted in causing strife even after two admonitions (and this implies public warnings), they were to be dismissed from the fellowship.

"HOW GREAT THOU ART " – Stuart Hine - Shea (3:00)

*Oh Lord my God when I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder Thy power throughout the universe displayed*

Refrain: Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee, How great thou art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee! How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When Christ shall come With shout of acclamation To take me home What joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration And there proclaim my God how great Thou art. (Refrain)

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Tit 3:1 Remind (*imp.* you constantly need to remind) ***them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,***

Tit 3:2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable (*amachos*), ***gentle*** (*like Christ – Mt. 11:29*), ***showing all humility to all men.***

Tit 3:3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

v. 1 Church, constantly, remember good works, especially in the totally pagan Crete. ***Remind them:*** How we need to be reminded! It’s in the present imperative tense: “Go on reminding.” Titus was to constantly remind the Christians under his care to show proper respect and humility towards all people, particularly those in a position of authority. Knowing the sometimes difficult character of the people of Crete (***Tit 1:12***), this command ***to be subject to rulers and authorities*** (***Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17***), had special meaning. ***Ready for every good work:*** If we simply focus on being ***subject to rulers and authorities***, it is easy to make the Christian life passive. Titus should not allow this, and also ***remind them*** to be ***ready for every good work***. Not only be subject to but, a step above, be ready for every good work, not just the minimum. How can we do good on top of that!

v. 2 ***Speak evil of no one . . . to be peaceable . . . gentle, showing all humility to all men:*** A Christian has to be ready to say “no” to the wicked culture, such as was at Crete. Our standard is not what is spoken in the culture, but that no evil come out of our mouth. ***Be peaceable, be gentle, showing all humility to all men.*** –this is to be our temperament toward people! Our attitude toward other people. I going to be an influence for peace, to be gentle and to show all humility to all men.

v. 3 Because as unsaved, we had no spiritual perception! Remember what you used to be. Why? ***We.. were once.. foolish*** – crazy and ignorant, ***disobedient*** to God’s authority and laws, ***deceived***... talking about Christians, you and me! If people knew what we were before coming to the Lord, we wouldn’t want to trust. We can’t expect an unbeliever to act like a believer. That can’t be, no more than we were able to walk a Christian walk, being as foolish and ignorant of God’s wisdom. But God changes our lives! Some of us knew better, but others were just deceived – buying the lies of sin. Now, because of the Holy Spirit, we can spot sin! ***Once serving various lusts and pleasures*** ..we were as lustful and serving pleasure as they (***Ephesians 2:2-3***), ... We would still be the same way, if the Lord hadn’t come into our lives! ***Living in malice and envy***... the Bible talks about the last days, fierce times! ***malice, means to hate with the intent of doing harm!*** Certain people are addicted to malice as much as to pleasure. Angry people, wanting to do harm to people. Apart from the Lord we would be the same. ***Envy***, is worse than jealousy. Jealousy says I’s surely like to have that coat! Envy, having strong selfishness, says, I’d like to have that coat and if I can’t, I hope its gets stolen! ***Hateful and hating one another.*** We lived detestably, forcing others to hate us. They hated us, we then hated them in return! Remembering that, it helps us to be more patient with people. It helps us to understand what needs to happen in their lives. They need to come to know the Lord. Paul is making the point to Titus, that ***we also were once that!*** Titus, that’s what you were, but you’re not that anymore are you, because of what God did in your life through the Gospel. Titus, God can do that in any life, in any culture, in any corruption. He will do it even in Crete! There are no cases too hard for God. You keep preaching. And anyone who has had that conversion experience with God, that makes me say, I used to be that, but I am nothing like that anymore, by the grace of God! When that man or that woman delivers that word of God, or that gospel, they will deliver that with an authority that someone who has not experienced that, ever will. If someone’s life has not been changed and delivers that message it will be as weak as water! There’s no power in it! But when a man says I know this to be true because the Bible says it, and it has changed my life! What God did in me, He’ll do in you! I know what darkness He can bring people out of! I know what He can free you from, even when you have no hope of ever being free from that sin. But Christ will deliver you right now! Because God Almighty will come into your life tonight and He’s bigger than all those things! So Titus, in that awful Cretan culture, you remember what God did in your life. And what He did in your life, He’ll do in any life! In Crete, too! You keep preaching!

v. 1 Do you agree we need to be reminded? Are we always looking for something from the Scriptures we haven’t heard before? As Christians are to be the very best of all citizens, plus, a step above, to be ready for every good work! A great example! This is the kind of citizen we should be.

v. 2 How is our attitude toward people? Will we be a good example, influence to be peaceable, to be gentle and to show all humility to all men?

Mat 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

v. 3 Eph 2:2-3 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, Eph 2:3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Are we surprised by the state of the unregenerate world? It shouldn’t surprise us. We need to remember what we once were! How much does our life demonstrate that we are no longer what we were? What is our present level of spiritual perception?

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Tit 3:4 *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared.*

Tit 3:5 *not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved (emancipation from slavery of sin!) us, through the washing of regeneration (new creatures in Christ Jesus, washed and cleansed from our sins) and renewing of the Holy Spirit,*

v. 4 Remember the great salvation of God. **But** – now notice what produced that change – “**but**”! We used to be all these things, but what made the change? The gospel, **but when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man..** That’s the motivation of God for saving you and I **because He is kind and He is loving!** He was kind and He was loving even when we were on our worst behavior. Why is there salvation at all, forgiveness at all, for man in this world? **It all begins with Him, the fact that He is kind and He is loving!** How is God our Savior? **He is our Savior in the fact that He has sent His Son. appeared** – How did it appear? It appeared in His Son, Lord Jesus! His kindness and His love wasn’t just verbal, but it was demonstrated. **Rom 5:8** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* We needed a demonstrated love for our sins. And God did it! He did it when we were our worst. And He described salvation,

v. 5 *not by works of righteousness which we have done*, No one can work their way to heaven. **Eph 2:8-9** *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, [9] not of works, lest anyone should boast.* Here is a second great passage that teaches from the Bible, that no one can be saved on the basis of good works! Notice it says **not by works of righteousness we have done**, let alone by works of unrighteousness! You take the very best we can do -- our **righteousness!** And it can’t get us into heaven! Isaiah said, **Isa 64:6** *But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;* To God, they are defiled, unclean! And that’s our best, not even our worst! But we stop and say, Praise the Lord! God is that holy that even my best is unacceptable to Him. My sin has separated me from a relationship with God. So, no one can get into heaven on the basis of their own works! Remind them of this, Titus! Nobody can get there, no matter how many good works that they do. Remember when they came to Jesus, **Joh 6:28-29** *Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”* The idea was, what can we do so that we can work our way to heaven? [29] *Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”* That’s the one thing you can do to have everlasting life. Trust in Me for salvation! You ask the average person what they believe they need to do to get to heaven—the reason this is repeated over and over in the Bible. Ninety per cent will say that I just have to be a good person - to live a good life and do more good things than bad. That’s the prevailing view in the world and right here in S Ca. There is one big problem with that. It’s not true! That’s a glaring problem! No one can work their way to heaven! The only way we get to heaven is a free gift from God! So **it’s not by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us,-- Joh 3:16** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him (trusts in Him for salvation) should not perish but have everlasting life.* He **saved** us when we trusted in His Son! What’s the one great thing that I can for God to bless His heart? Trust in His Son!

v. 4 When we were in the place described in verse 3, we didn’t rescue ourselves. We were rescued by the kindness and the love of God. He reached out to us, in His kindness and in His love, long before we reached out to Him.

v. 5 Our salvation isn’t based on any works of righteousness which we have done. In and of itself, response to an altar call does not save. Saying the sinner’s prayer does not save. Baptism does not save. Church attendance does not save. Giving does not save. Reading the Bible does not save. Each of these may be wonderful works of righteousness, but they do not save us. Instead, according to His mercy He saved us. He saved us: This is the essence and distinctive of the gospel. Through the washing of regeneration: What a blessing it is, the work of God’s Spirit in our lives, doing for us what we can’t do for ourselves as He is transforming us into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ. We’ve been washed from our sins! The regeneration—we are new creatures in Christ Jesus, washed and cleansed from our sins and renewing of the Holy Ghost; And by the renewing of the Holy Spirit, that work of God’s Spirit in our lives, transforming us from what we were, into what God wants us to be.

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Tit 3:5 (continued) not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved (emancipation from slavery of sin!) us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

Tit 3:6 whom He poured out (gush, pour out) on us abundantly (richly, as though submerged, baptized in the spirit) through Jesus Christ our Savior,

v. 5 (Continued) As a Christian, you’ve already done it! Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. You can’t do more to bless the Father’s heart, than to have entrusted your salvation to His Son. If you don’t know the Lord, you’re not a Christian, you haven’t received the Lord, that’s the one thing He wants from you! That’s how you can bless His heart tonight! You bless Him. You’ll never out give Him. He’ll out give you by simply saving you into a great life! According to His mercy – That word, mercy, is a gifts’ word! ~ It’s not a works’ word! We’re saved on the basis of mercy. He does the saving! We don’t save ourselves! Notice how it happens through the washing of regeneration. The word, regeneration literally means, “again, birth”! Through the washing of the again, birth. It speaks about a new birth. (Eph 5:26). What is it? A **birth is a start**, isn’t it? **At the moment of salvation, God gave every one of us a fresh start!** He washed away all of our sins from our past. I’ll never have to answer for a single sin in heaven that I have committed, at all. He’s washed away all the dirt, all the things that used to mark our lives and gave us a brand-new start. Just as a baby is born into life, comes out of the womb, they’ve got a new life ahead of them. That’s the same thing that happened to us when we came to know the Lord. 2Co 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* What God does in saving us, He gives us a fresh start! But then notice, and renewing of the Holy Spirit, He renews us in the Holy Spirit. When we give our lives to the Lord, what happens? God’s Holy Spirit comes inside of our lives and now lives inside of us, giving us the power not to waste the new start, as we would otherwise waste it! What’s the use in being given a fresh start, if you don’t have any power in living a different kind of life? So, **the Holy Spirit comes into our lives providing us with the will to do and the power to do of God’s good pleasure. He gives us the will to do what God wants us to do and then when we want to do it, He gives us the power to obey His word!** Have you ever experienced that? Here you are just going along in life as a Christian, and the Holy Spirit says inside of you, what are you doing? He knows what you’re doing. And now the Holy Spirit lives inside of you and gives you the ability to live a different kind of life, always moving us toward it. So here is this new start being given, but we would ruin it just as surely as first one we had, without the power of the Holy Spirit. So, the two things – **a fresh start** and now **the ability by the Spirit to make the most of that fresh start.** The Lord thinks of everything!

v.6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, Titus may have thought, people are getting saved here, but the surrounding culture is so bad, they will never be able to change the way they live. But the Holy Spirit has been poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior. That **whatever we need, in whatever environment to live a different kind of life, God will give it to us by the power of the Holy Spirit!** We live in a nation of victims, don’t we? Nobody is responsible for anything! All of these excuses, it’s never going to change. But, God Almighty, in the person of the Holy Spirit has come into our lives to give us the will and the desire to live for God, and then gives us the power to do it. And that is sufficient, no matter what our background or our context is in life, to live a different kind of life. God has thought of everything in this salvation, that He has provided.

2Co 3:18 *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

we all. Not just Moses, or prophets, apostles, and preachers, but all believers.

with unveiled face. Believers in the new covenant have nothing obstructing their vision of Christ and His glory as revealed in the Scripture.

beholding as in a mirror. Paul’s emphasis here is not so much on the reflective capabilities of the mirror as it is on the intimacy of it. A person can bring a mirror right up to his face and get an unobstructed view. Though the vision is unobstructed and intimate, believers do not see a perfect representation of God’s glory now, but will one day (cf. 1Co 13:12).

being transformed. A continual, progressive transformation.

into the same image. As they gaze at the glory of the Lord, believers are continually being transformed into Christlikeness. The ultimate goal of the believer is to be like Christ (cf. Rom 8:29; Php 3:12-14; 1Jn 3:2), and by continually focusing on Him, the Spirit transforms the believer more and more into His image.

from glory to glory. From one level of glory to another level of glory—from one level of manifesting Christ to another. This verse describes progressive sanctification. The more believers grow in their knowledge of Christ, the more He is revealed in their lives (cf. Php 3:12-14)

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Tit 3:7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life

Tit 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

Tit 3:9 But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

v. 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Justification is one step further than forgiveness of sins! That is God has erased, blotted out, the charges. So now, what does He do? He throws in *eternal life* on top of everything else! And not **only eternal life, but eternal reward in everlasting life.** This is the salvation that God has provided for us -- a reward! He not only gives us the power and He gives us the will to live a holy life, He does it, but then He rewards us for doing it!!! How awesome and good is our God? He's so very good. Jesus said, *God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son that whosoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.* That's the promise! I believe it! And I thank God for the glorious hope of eternal life. And it is not only based upon the promise of God, but it is confirmed by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. **1Pe 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, [5] who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.** Oh, the grace of God towards us! In the richness of His grace, He has promised us, eternal life with Him in His kingdom!

v. 8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, Keep saying it, Titus! Nobody else is saying it in Crete! *that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works.* Keep reminding them to know the Lord and to be saved, should translate into a different kind of life, no matter how evil the surroundings. Titus, no one on the whole island of Crete is telling them that! You keep telling them that because they need to keep hearing it from you. *These things are good and profitable to men.* What things? The things told us in *verses 1-8!* You are not going to do anyone harm by telling them. This is good for people and it's profitable for them! *Those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works:*

v. 9 Remember to keep on course. But avoid foolish disputes, He's going to tell Titus some things to steer clear of, as a young pastor, but it's good for all of our lives! One of the things to avoid are foolish disputes – a classic example, Can God make a rock He cannot lift? The example in **Mat 22:25-29**. *Foolish disputes,* whether the angels kept the Sabbaths! Steer clear. What's better for us? Go tell people the truth about God. In addition avoid, *genealogies,* which had become the focus of a lot of churches in those days, people trying to trace their line to a priestly line – coming from a better line than you, convinced that they were more spiritual than you! Apostle Paul new something about genealogies - **Php 3:4-7** I wasn't spiritual until I came to the Lord! Avoid *contentions,* There are some who just like to fight. Another thing that nice about getting older. You get too old to fight! Rather than say, do you want to fight, say, Do you know the Gospel? *and strivings about the law;* There were many arguments about the law in those days. For example in the law of Moses, what constituted 'bearing a burden', doing work on the Sabbath Day? Couldn't spit into the dust! You were plowing on the Sabbath! I anybody going to talk about God here? God got lost in the shuffle in all of these discussions. *for they are unprofitable and useless.* Stay on message! Keep preaching the Gospel! Stay clear of this junk.

v. 7 The wonderful grace of Jesus, being justified by His grace that *we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.* God has adopted me as His child! And as His child, I've become an heir in the family of God! And I have that hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ! And the hope that I have is predicated upon the promises of God, which He has promised. So, I have God's word. God has promised me eternal life! And I believe the promises of God!

v. 8 These are the things that I want you to affirm constantly. There are certain truths that we need to have affirmed over and over and over again. Because they are so marvelous that we are prone sometimes, to doubt them! And so affirm these, over and over! This reminds us what we are saved for - *to maintain good works.* Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is not alone. We must never put works before grace.

v. 9 We are to avoid foolish disputes, foolish questions. There are questions, which art not foolish, not to be avoided:

- 1 Do I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ?
- 2 Am I renewed in the spirit of my mind?
- 3 Am I walking not after the flesh, but after the Spirit?
- 4 Am I growing in grace?
- 5 Does my conversation adorn the doctrine of God my Savior?
- 6 Am I looking for the coming of the Lord, and watching as a servant should do who expects his master?
- 7 What more can I do for Jesus? Such enquiries as these urgently demand our attention. Let us be peace-makers, and endeavor to lead others both by our precept and example, to "*avoid foolish disputes.*" (Spurgeon)

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Tit 3:10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

Tit 3:11 knowing that such a person is warped (twisted) and sinning, being self-condemned.

Final Instructions and Greetings

Tit 3:12 When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

v. 10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition: Titus must take measures against those who insist on going their own way. Their self-will makes them *self-condemned*. Sometimes there is a divisive person, who is willing to divide or even destroy a church over issues Paul is discussing here. There are people who are so selfish and so want to be right and prove someone else wrong, that they're willing to take an entire church down, fighting over these issues. Paul is saying don't let that kind of a person have an influence within the church. You go to that kind of a person and you warn them once and you warn them a second time. Two warnings is enough. If they don't back down from the division they're trying to bring, into the body – you're doing the work of the Holy Spirit, Titus, - then you reject them! Move them out of the fellowship! You have a responsibility to do that. It's a loving them to do to them and it's a loving thing to do for the church, that you do not let that kind of person destroy a local church. They will destroy it if giving an opportunity. Division in the body of Christ is very serious business in the eyes of the Lord. If he is not going to listen to you and is destructive, then you have to remove him from that place!

v. 11 knowing It is such a draining thing to have to go to someone and if necessary, put them out of the fellowship. Paul said, when you know you have such a divisive in the church, and you have gone to him twice, and there is no movement, then know ***that such a person is warped***, meaning “twisted”. You can talk to a twisted person until you're blue in the face and they won't get what you're saying! Titus, get him out of the fellowship so he does not destroy the church! The reason this is encouraging, is that if you ever have to deal with this kind of a person, not only will they not think they are twisted, they think they are the only spiritual people left on the planet! They think they're the super spiritual person, that all the rest of the body of Christ is carnal, nobody else is as serious about God because if you were, you would be involved in these things that I'm in. Paul says let me tell you this kind of a person has no concern for the health of the body over these issues, which mean nothing and are absolutely unbiblical. This person is warped, twisted ***and sinning***, because of their failure to submit to biblical authority in the church, forcing you to put them out, ***being self-condemned***, by their actions.

v. 12 He closes with some personal remarks. ***When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis***, As this letter is being brought to Titus in Crete, probably carried by Zenos and Apollos. I don't know whom I'm going to send to you, but when I do, I want you to break free and come to Nicopolis and meet with me there ***for I have decided to spend the winter there***. This fascinating because one of the things Paul does, because it's such a beautiful picture of his heart. Paul could have stripped away all the leadership resources of all of the churches in the whole region and brought them to him, but he needs to meet with Titus, but he doesn't pull Titus away without replacing him with somebody else! He's not going to strip away the resources from one church and make it weak to make something else even stronger. He's looking out for the health of the whole thing.

v. 10 What is the possibility that we could be such a divisive person, one who holds their own selfishness so strongly, that there is a willingness to destroy the whole church, rather than give in from our position, which we think is so spiritual and correct, when it isn't?

v. 11 (God hates) - ***Pro 6:19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren. A divisive person is so dangerous as they can easily cause division in a church and often will totally destroy the church body. Do we bring division or unity to our church?***

v. 12 We have a great example here of Paul's heart in not stripping away leadership from the Cretan churches, but insuring that a qualified replacement be put in place prior to Titus' leaving! We should have Paul's outlook in having concern for the health of the whole church!

TITUS CHAPTER 3 – Graces of the Heirs of Grace; Avoid Dissension; Final Messages; Farewell!”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Tit 3:13 *Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing.*

Tit 3:14 *And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.*

Tit 3:15 *All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.*

v. 13 *Send Zenas the lawyer* (here we have a Christian lawyer in the Bible. We don't know whether he was an expert in Roman Law or in the Law of Moses) *and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing.* Church, give them whatever they need, as they have some things to do for the church when they get there.

v. 14 *And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.* Take care of the needs of these men who are serving the Lord. Let the church do that, so that's modeled before the churches in Crete for their own edification. This is what the Christian life looks like in serving one another. ***That they may not be unfruitful:*** This is a recurring theme through Paul's letter to Titus. Paul was concerned that Christians might be barren and unfruitful, yet still have a “wonderfully” confident assurance of their standing in the Lord. Instead of being *unfruitful*, God's people must *learn to maintain good works* and *to meet urgent needs*.

v. 15 *All who are with me greet you.* Everybody around Paul is saying, greet them for us! What an encouragement that would be to Titus. They are encouraging words, in effect saying, “We're pulling for you: We know you exist! How encouraging! ***Greet those who love us in the faith,*** not those false teachers. ***Grace be with you all:*** The closing benediction is in harmony with the opening salutation. It is a benediction of grace, the only difference being in the beginning it was addressed to Titus, at the close all those to whom he ministered were included. ***Amen.***

v. 13 *That they may lack nothing:* The final word concerning occupation shows clearly the duty of church members to contribute to the support of those devoted to the work of the ministry. A good example for us.

v. 14 As believers, how well are we learning and have learned to *maintain good works*? God's purpose for your life is that you be fruitful. We need to look at our lives, from time to time, to determine whether or not we are really bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God. Are our lives bringing forth good fruit for God's Kingdom? How fruitful is my life?

v. 15 There is nothing to commend the people more than to the grace of God, so he closes with saying “*Grace be with you*”!

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Michelangelo's David.

The most famous statue in the world?

For Michelangelo, his statue of David proved to be a defining moment in his artistic career. The story begins with a commission for a statue of David dating as far back as 1466 when the artist Agostino di Duccio began work on the marble block. Agostino did not make much progress, only managing to mark out the shape of the legs, feet and drapery, his work on the project ceased for reasons that remain unclear. The project was resurrected some ten years later when the artist Antonio Rossellino worked on the statue but his contract was terminated with no real progression being made.

The marble block, purchased from the famous quarries at Carrara, remained in the courtyard workshop of Florence Cathedral and lay neglected for the next twenty-five years.

After the success of the Rome Pieta of 1499-1500 Michelangelo was recognised as a genius, a master of his craft.

The Guild of Wool Merchants wanted to revive the abandoned project for David, Michelangelo was the artist who was offered and accepted this prestigious contract. Working with a second-hand piece of marble that had deteriorated during its years of exposure to the elements did not please the artist, however, the Guild of Wool Merchants did state in Michelangelo's contract that the stone was "badly roughed out". The wording is perhaps intended to make it clear to the artist that the aged marble block (too expensive a commodity to waste) *was* to be used for the statue.

Michelangelo was only twenty-six years old when he won the contract for David. He began work on Monday, September 13th 1501 and it would take him two years to turn the marble block into the iconic image that we know and admire today.

Michelangelo was constrained by the shape of the second-hand marble he was working with. Despite this, he has created a youth with a slim muscular build.

Study for David, 1503-1504 (s)

The intended location for the finished statue was the roof of Florence Cathedral but this plan was abandoned when it became clear that raising the **six-ton seventeen-feet tall figure** was not feasible. A committee including the artists Leonardo da Vinci and Sandro Botticelli was set up to decide on an appropriate site for the David. The chosen location was the Piazza della Signoria outside the Palazzo Vecchio (the town hall of Florence). The heavily guarded statue was pulled into place by a specially prepared cart and it took four days to position in its new home.

According to Vasari Pier Soderini (*the Mayor of Florence*) was standing beneath the statue as it was put into place. The Mayor complained to Michelangelo that the nose was too thick. Michelangelo tricked Soderini by climbing the statue with a chisel and some marble dust concealed in his hand, pretending to work on the nose and sending down a shower of dust, he asked Soderini if it was improved, the Mayor replied: "I like it better, you have given it life".

Michelangelo's David differs from earlier versions (*see the Three David's*) in that it does not show the severed head of Goliath, instead, the artist has depicted the moment *before* the young shepherd begins his battle with the giant Philistine.

In 1873 the statue was moved to Accademia art gallery in Florence to protect it from damage, a replica now stands in its original location at the Piazza della Signoria.

