

“Reinforce”

Titus 3:8

December 11, 2016

INTRO: The power of a profound quote...
When so much can be said with so little...

C.S. Lewis Quotes

- "Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither."
- "If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity."
- "The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God."
- Love will find a way. Indifference will find an excuse. – Unknown
- *"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."* – Abraham Lincoln
- "Most teachers waste their time by asking questions that are intended to discover what a pupil does not know... – Albert Einstein

T/S: Einstein's quote reminds me of Rick Hilliard...

NOTE: Both Einstein & Rick Hilliard tapped into what the Apostle Paul is showing Titus and the rest of us...

God doesn't try to trip us up...
He tells us what He wants us to know & do!

CONTEXT:

We find ourselves in a most interesting place...

- Closing in on the closure of Titus
- Looking both backward and forwards...

TEXT:

This saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

BIG IDEA:

The redeemed are to be reminded & reinforced regularly!

PREVIEW:

Christian/Church **Foundations** (Truth)

Christian/Church **Faith & Faithfulness** (Love)

Christian/Church **Fruit** (Warfare)

I. FOUNDATIONS

“TRUST & THRUST *these things!*”
(Faith & Fervor)

*This saying is **trustworthy**, and I want you to **insist** on **these things...***

- A. **“Trust / Trustworthy”** (5X in the Pastoral letters)
 - i. “THIS is...”
 - ii. “They aren’t” (see 1:10-16 & 3:9-11)

B. Thrust

- i. See 1:5
- ii. “I want you to INSIST”
 1. Insistency = Urgency
 2. Insist on God’s standards

This young elder was not to be hesitant, indecisive, or vacillating but rather bold and intense, speaking and acting with the firm conviction that he was obediently fulfilling his divinely appointed ministry. – J. Mac

C. “These things”

- a. Summarize ch.1
- b. Summarize 2:1 – 3:7
- c. Summarize “sound doctrine”

Make them the constant subject of your preaching. -
Barnes' N.T. Notes

Titus 2:1 *Doctrine & Definitions*
Define & Defend the Righteous Church!

- I. **The Righteous** *STAND-Up*
- II. **The Righteous** *STIR-Up*
- III. **The Righteous** *SURE-Up*

Titus 2:1-10 *Distinguished Discipleship*

***** Look like Christ! *****

***** Live like Christ! *****

***** Love like Christ! *****

Our witness IS wearing the Word! - JDP

Titus 2:11a *Defined & Delivered*

**Jesus is BOTH God-incarnate AND
GRACE-incarnate!**

*Above all, grace is the hallmark of the Christian
experience.* - Dr. John Polhill

*“If you don’t truly ‘get’ God’s grace...
you won’t truly GIVE God glory.”* - JDP

Titus 2:11-14 *Devoted & Disciplined*

Pre-Cross we need to GET God’s Grace

Post-Cross we need to GIVE God Glory!

We do not gather simply to pat ourselves on the back and think about how spiritual we are, or even about how nice God is being to us. We have banded together as a church because Christ is the visible evidence of the salvation-bringing grace of God. It is our assignment to see that men everywhere hear the message of our God who loves them.

***“All of God’s grace...
is ALL for God’s glory!”*** -JDP

Titus 2:15 ***Deliberate Declaration!***

¹⁵ Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

14 imperatives in Titus... 4 in this verse...

"Thus says the Lord" = 3800+

R.O.I. vs. Encumbrances & Hindrances

Parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

Titus 3:1-7

vv.1-2 = 1 sentence (7) REMIND

v.3 = 1 sentence (7) REMEMBER

vv.4-7 = 1 sentence (7) REDEEMED

Today: Titus 3:8 = "REINFORCE!"

II. FAITH & FAITHFULNESS

"REMIND & REINFORCE *these things!*"

*This saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, **so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works,***

- A. **Calculated:** "so that"
- B. **Converted:** "those who have believed in God"
- C. **Concerned:** "may be careful"

It is easy to get caught up in various forms of foolishness and nonproductive activity...

- Layman's Bible Commentary

D. **Committed:** “to devote themselves”

E. **Commissioned:** “to good works” (*these things*)

Twice before Paul had instructed Titus to teach these things in accordance with sound doctrine (Titus [2:1](#), [15](#)), and this exhortation is his final reiteration of what is probably the central thrust of the entire epistle.

NOTE: **Ephesians 2:8-10** echoed in v.8

T/S: It’s not about giving up, its about growing up!

VIDEO: *“Disciples-Path” (A)*

III. **FRUIT**

“DELIVER & DISCIPLE *these things!*”

This saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.

These things are excellent and profitable for people.

A. **Deliver:** an implied instruction

- These things are excellent for Salvation...
 - **John 20:21; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8**
 - **IMB...Uganda... India... Seychelles... China**
 - **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

- These things are profitable for all people
 - The lost get found/saved
 - The found get grown...

VIDEO: *Disciples-Path (B)*

B. **Disciple:**

- 2017 Focus... “Miraculous” series
- Disciples-Path for all of 2017
 - Sermon Series...
 - LIFE Group studies
 - One-on-One relationships

These things are excellent for salvation & profitable for sanctification. - JDP

NOTE: *emphatic tone in v.8...*

VIDEO: *Disciples Path (C)*

CLOSE:

1 Corinthians 15:1-10

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,
² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.
³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain...

Let's Pray

“Reinforce”

Titus 3:8

December 11, 2016

3:8 Paul concluded by stating,

“This is a trustworthy saying”

(Gk: *pistos ho logos*).

These three Greek words, used in all three Pastoral Epistles ([1 Tim 1:15](#); [3:1](#); [4:9](#); [2 Tim 2:11](#); [Titus 3:8](#)) serve to emphasize either what is to be said or what has been said and may indicate Paul’s intentional use of creedal, catechetical, hymnic, or liturgical material. Whether this “trustworthy saying” includes all or part of vv. [4–7](#) is uncertain. However, in the absence of convincing arguments to the contrary and **because of the cogent summary of the gospel contained therein, vv. 4–7 probably constitute this “trustworthy saying.”**

Having made a strong theological statement in vv. [3–7](#), Paul exhorted Titus, ***“And I want you to stress these things.”*** Probably, Paul did not intend to limit “these things” to vv. [3–7](#) but included his instructions from [3:1](#).

Paul desired that Titus “stress [speak confidently of, be insistent on] these things.” His similar directive to Titus in [2:15](#) suggests some sense of urgency as well as the possibility that Titus may have needed encouragement to act and speak firmly and confidently.

Paul stated his purpose in directing Titus to “*stress these things.*” It was “*so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.*”

Once again Paul connected theological understanding with Christian behavior described as good works.

Those who have trusted in God (cf. God as “Savior,” [1:3](#); [2:10](#); [3:4](#)) are “to be careful” (in the sense of “paying close attention”) “to devote themselves” to “good works.” In so doing, they will be like the One in whom they have trusted.

Paul observed, “These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.” Good works constitute “these things.” Such intrinsically good works will surely be “profitable” or useful to “everyone” (lit. “men,” in the sense of *society* in general).

- New American Commentary

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (ESV)

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,
² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.
³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

The Theological Basis for Proper Behavior

The expression of humanity's depraved condition (3:3) marks the beginning of the third outstanding theological statement in this brief letter (cf. 1:1–4; 2:11–15).

Paul isn't just expressing his opinions. He "exhorts" Titus to *stress* these teachings—to insist on them (3:8).

They are not only excellent and profitable for anyone who heeds them, they are also trustworthy.

Even after salvation, those who want to experience the abundant life that God offers must be careful to devote themselves to doing good. God makes all things possible, but believers must be disciplined and willing.

It is easy to get caught up in various forms of foolishness and nonproductive activity...

- Layman's Bible Commentary

3:8. The ***trustworthy saying formula*** so common in the Pastorals (cf. [1 Tim. 1:15](#); [3:1](#); [4:9](#); [2 Tim. 2:11](#)) **introduces Paul's return to direct address.**

Because what he had just been saying is trustworthy, Titus should **stress these things** in order to promote godly behavior in his listeners.

Twice before Paul had instructed Titus to teach these things in accordance with sound doctrine (Titus [2:1](#), [15](#)), and this exhortation is his final reiteration of what is probably the central thrust of the entire epistle.

Paul was deeply concerned that God's people **devote themselves to doing what is good** because **these things are excellent and profitable for everyone.**

Titus was to promote good works, for they go hand in hand with sound doctrine.

- The Bible Knowledge Commentary

Verse 8. *This is a faithful saying.* [1 Timothy 1:15](#). The reference here is to what he had been just saying, meaning that the doctrine which he had stated about the method of salvation was in the highest degree important, and entirely worthy of belief.

And these things I will that thou affirm constantly.

Make them the constant subject of your preaching.

That they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. This shows that **Paul supposed that the doctrines of the gospel were fitted to lead men to holy living.**

Comp. Titus 3:1, and Philippians 4:8. The "good works," here refer not merely to acts of benevolence and charity, but to all that is upright and good-to an honest and holy life.

These things are good and profitable unto men. That is, these doctrines which he had stated were not mere matters of speculation, but they were fitted to promote human happiness, and **they should be constantly taught.**

(*) "careful" [Titus 3:1,14](#)

- Barnes' Notes on the New Testament.

We Will Be Rewarded for Good Works

Titus 3:8

Five times in the Pastoral Epistles, we find the phrase, "*This saying is trustworthy*" (1 Tim 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Tim 2:11; Titus 3:8).

It usually serves to emphasize the importance of the words that are to follow. **Here the phrase points back to verses 4-7**. Further, the faithful saying may be something of a creedal statement, a hymn, catechetical guidance, or liturgical material. Because of the importance of the words, they should be repeated, memorized, or even sung. They should also have daily and personal application in our lives, and that is exactly what we see in the closing verse of this section.

We Should Affirm Good Works

This "*trustworthy*" saying and the words that make it up should be affirmed and affirmed constantly.

Paul spells this out specifically: "*I want you to insist on these things.... These are good and profitable for everyone.*"

These are words of truth, of divine origin, and we do a good work to teach them repeatedly (cf. [Deut 6:7-9](#)). A blessing for all is certain to occur.

We Should Be Active in Good Works

Those who have been regenerated and renewed by the Holy Spirit are now described simply as "those who have believed God."

Because they have believed and do believe, they should "*be careful to devote themselves to good works*" (cf. [1:16](#); [2:7, 14](#); [3:1, 8, 14](#)).

The new birth will result in a new life.

Death is replaced by life. The flesh is captive to the Spirit. Evil works are overcome by good works. Such works are more assuredly good and profitable for everyone, saved and unsaved, the latter seeing the beauty of our new life and being drawn to the Christ who changed us, the Christ who can change them too! This is indeed a great reward for those of us who have been regenerated by the gospel of King Jesus.

Conclusion

In an article entitled "Scholars, Interfaith Families Grapple over What Passport Needed for Heaven," Amy Green discusses the perennial question, Who goes to heaven? (*Sun Herald*, May 8, 2005). Discussing the problem [John 14:6](#) presents and the more liberal view of Roman Catholicism since Vatican II, she reports of a Presbyterian pastor in Memphis, Tennessee, who says in a sermon that [John 14:6](#) is "a club with which we beat others over the head." The pastor goes on to say,

"What I encourage people to do is look at the broader themes of the Bible, and what we see is a God who loved the world, a God whose intention is that all creation be made whole and healed. A lot of people kind of had a gut feeling that their God was a more loving God and a bigger God than they had imagined... and were yearning to have their large and loving view of God validated. And I think that's what happened."

The sermon affirmed what Heather Pearson Chauhan had believed all along. Chauhan, 31, an obstetrician/gynecologist, grew up a Christian and then married a Hindu man she met in medical school. Her husband converted to Christianity after they wed, and now the couple plans to raise their 4-month-old son a Christian.

"To define religion or Christianity as this narrow path I think is not a global perspective," she says. "Everyone gets to God a different way."

Not so, says the Word of God. Only those who have been regenerated by the power of God, been renewed by the Spirit, been justified by grace, and believed in Jesus and Jesus alone will go to heaven. Yes, **we all need a new birth for a new**

life today and forever. This new life overflows into a life of good works that testify to the goodness of our God and His love for all people in Jesus Christ. This is the power of the gospel. This is the new birth for a new life.

- Christ-Centered Exposition

3:8. The *trustworthy saying* formula so common in the Pastorals (cf. [1 Tim. 1:15](#); [3:1](#); [4:9](#); [2 Tim. 2:11](#)) introduces Paul's return to direct address. Because what he had just been saying is trustworthy, **Titus should *stress these things in order to promote godly behavior in his listeners.***

Twice before Paul had instructed Titus to teach these things in accordance with sound doctrine ([Titus 2:1, 15](#)), and this exhortation is his final reiteration of what is probably the central thrust of the entire epistle.

Paul was deeply concerned that God's people *devote themselves to doing what is good* because *these things are excellent and profitable for everyone.*

Titus was to promote good works, for they go hand in hand with sound doctrine.

- Bible Knowledge Commentary

Remember Your Mission

This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God may be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men. (3:8)

Fourth, and finally, if we want to live the way God wants us to live in a pagan society, not resenting the very people we are to reach, we must remember our divinely ordained mission to that society.

We must live as we have been instructed in chapter 2.

These things refer to everything Paul has emphasized in chapter 2 AND in the first seven verses of chapter 3: namely, the way believers should live and act in regard to one another within the church (2:1-15) and the way they should live and act before the unbelieving world (3:1-7).

Titus was *to speaking confidently* about those truths to the churches, in order that, as Paul already has mentioned (3:1), *those who have believed God may be careful to engage in good deeds.*

This young elder was not to be hesitant, indecisive, or vacillating but rather bold and intense, speaking and acting with the firm conviction that he was obediently fulfilling his divinely appointed ministry. – J. Mac

Those who have believed God does not refer to theists as opposed to atheists but to genuine Christians, those who have been saved by God's grace and who take God at His word.

Biblically grounded and faithful believers remember their duty to submit to human authority, even that which is unjust, ungodly, and pagan.

They remember their former condition as unbelievers, knowing that, but for the grace of God, they would still be lost and condemned. They remember the marvelous gift

of salvation, which they have received because of God's kindness, His love, His mercy, His washing of regeneration, His renewing by the Holy Spirit, by His Son—all by His sovereign grace. And they remember that the Lord has called them to be His witnesses before the lost and condemned world in which they now live. They therefore recognize that it is not their calling to change culture, to reform outward behavior, to try to redeem society superficially.

They are careful to engage in good deeds, genuine acts of virtue that benefit the unsaved and are produced by a loving heart that is empowered to be fruitful by God's Holy Spirit.

Among those *good deeds* are our sincere prayers for those who are lost, *deeds* that the lost may not even know about but which will work to their blessing and hopefully to their salvation.

When Christians exalt the Word of God and demonstrate God's power to transform lives, *these things are good and profitable for men*—for the believers themselves and, even more significantly as far as the emphasis of this passage is concerned, for the unsaved sinners around them who are drawn to Christ by the exemplary lives of those He has graciously transformed.

- MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Titus.

The "*trustworthy saying*" referred to in [verse 8](#) is one of the so-called "faithful sayings" in the Pastoral Letters.

Note too that what follows ([vv. 8-11](#)) does not have the structure of a quotation.

As noted earlier, **the latter part of [verse 8](#), in common with [Ephesians 2:8-10](#), sets out the importance of good works for those who have experienced God's grace.** One may have expected that Paul would then state that these things are to the glory of God or to the benefit of believers, but instead he makes the broad statement that they are excellent (cf. [Titus 2:7, 14; 3:14](#)) and profitable for everyone.

Once again (in v.8) the apostle shows a concern for the world around him.

Several emphatic words are worth noting **in [verse 8](#):**

1. "***to stress***" (to strongly maintain, exercise authority)
2. "***be careful,***"
3. "***devote themselves to***" (denoting being concerned about or caring for something).

- NIV Application Commentary

CONTEXT:

- Titus 1 = **BE Real**
 - Lovers
 - Leaders
 - Liars

- Titus 2 = **BE Righteous**

- Titus 3 = **BE Ready!**

Titus 3:1-7

- vv.1-2 = 1 sentence (7) **REMINDE**
- v.3 = 1 sentence (7) **REMEMBER**
- vv.4-7 = 1 sentence (7) **REDEEMED**

Titus 3:3

Remember...

Realize...

Respond...

Titus 3:4-7

Christ **Exalted**...

Christ **Explained**...

Christ **Exemplified**

Today: Titus 3:8 = “REINFORCE!”



*** All built on Titus 1:5 ***

Titus 2:1 *Doctrine & Definitions*

How healthy are you spiritually? (How do you know?)

How about the average “evangelical” church?

Let me give you some fresh figures to consider...

- 46% God accepts the worship of ALL religions
- 52% My good works... partly earn me heaven

- **61%** Strongly disagree... **tiny sin = damnation**
- **83%** Believe **man initiates, God responds...**

NOW... let me read a passage of Scripture to you...

16All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17so that the servant(s) of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Keep this truth in mind for the rest of our time together!

Big Idea

Doctrine & Definitions

Define & Defend the Righteous Church!

Preview:

IV. The Righteous *STAND-Up*

V. The Righteous *STIR-Up* (Heb.10:24)

- i. Sin
- ii. Mission
- iii. Biblical Authority

VI. The Righteous *SURE-Up*

i. *“doctrine.”* (17X in pastoral letters)

Truth in love... no more, no less! - JDP

There's NO compromise in the cross! - JDP

**We “Sure-Up the Righteous Christian/Church”
with truthful doctrine & definitions...**

VIDEO: *“Voddie – Sissified Needy Jesus”* 5:45

CLOSE:

We must be true to the gospel of Jesus Christ and true to the Word of God both in belief and in behavior.

Text

“But as for you, teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.”

Titus 2:1-10

Distinguished Discipleship

PREVIEW:

A. Discipleship DEMOGRAPHICS

a. Age:

1. Older-Adults
2. Average-Adults
3. Children

b. Gender:

1. Men
2. Women

c. Status:

1. Slaves
2. Free

B. Discipleship DYNAMICS

- a. **Elders...** to ALL
- b. **Men...** to men
- c. **Woman...** to women
- d. **Women...** to children
- e. **Slaves...** to masters (and visa versa)

T/S: We'll walk thru the text to see & unpack the rest

C. Discipleship DETAILS

D. DIVINE Disciples

E. DISTINGUISHED Discipleship

I. Discipleship DETAILS

- a. **Common Problem:** Liars
- b. **Common Enemy:** Lies / cultural sin
- c. **Common Goal:** God-honoring WITNESS
- d. **Common Means:** Biblical DISCIPLESHIP...

***** Look like Christ! *****

***** Live like Christ! *****

***** Love like Christ! *****

KEY:

- A. To equip the saints to do the work of ministry!
- B. *“so that the Word of God is not reviled”*

C. *“so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.”*

Our witness IS wearing the Word! - JDP

*** See our BRIDGE LIFE Cycle ***



*** See our BRIDGE Manifesto! ***



One FAITH. One FAMILY. One FOCUS.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will BE My witnesses (locally, regionally, and globally).” – Acts 1:8

One Question: *WHAT DO YOU WANT?*

One Offer: *COME AND SEE.*

One Promise: *TRUTH IN LOVE!*

Our Truth-in-Love Distinctives: We are...

- 1.** Responding to grace & repenting of sin...
- 2.** Trusting the Bible & obeying God's Word...
- 3.** Growing in-Christ & living Spirit-led...
- 4.** Praying for guidance & following by faith...
- 5.** Dying to self & carrying our cross...
- 6.** BE-ing the Church & loving one another...(*truly loving* one another)
- 7.** Equipping the saints & exemplifying supernatural unity...
- 8.** Ministering as ambassadors & discerning matters shrewdly...
- 9.** Worshipping God vertically & experiencing Him horizontally...
- 10.** Proclaiming the Gospel (*no matter what*) & fishing for men...
- 11.** Making disciples-warriors & winning spiritual-warfare...
- 12.** Loving our King & serving His kingdom!

*** See our BRIDGE Quilt ***

Titus 2:11a *Defined & Delivered*

Welcome to Titus 2:11a, this is the meat of the letter...

“For the grace of God has appeared...”

BIG IDEA:

**Jesus is BOTH God-incarnate AND
GRACE-incarnate!**

PREVIEW:

- A. The Person & Promise of Grace
- B. The Power & Purpose of Grace
- C. The Process & People of Grace

T/S:

Paul is expanding & explaining the meaning of "Savior" by explaining salvation & sanctification through Jesus Christ. The emphasis is on *grace*—God's lavish favor on undeserving sinners.

God's commands are rooted in His grace.

What God demands of us is possible because of what He first has done for us and in us.

A working definition of grace...

Undeserved acceptance and love received from another, especially the characteristic attitude of God in providing salvation for sinners.

John 1:14

In Jesus Christ "the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory... full of grace and truth

"Of all times, it is the turning-point; of all love, it is the highest-point; of all worship, it is the central-point; of all salvation, it is the starting-point."

*Men are not condemned because
God has not chosen them but because
they have not chosen Him.*

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

T/S: After looking at the Person, Promise, & Power...
Do you better understand "grace?"

VIDEO: *"What Is Grace?"*

* COMMUNION *

PURPOSE

[Luke 19:10](#)

"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

[1 Corinthians 1:9](#)

God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

[John 17:21](#)

that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Grace is the PINNACLE...

Above all, grace is the hallmark of the Christian experience. - Dr. John Polhill

God's grace enables believers to live holy & godly lives

*“If you don't truly ‘get’ God's grace...
you won't truly GIVE
God glory.”* - JDP

Titus 2:11-14 *Devoted & Disciplined*

INTRO: Let me ask you a rather personal question...

What's your favorite kind of sandwich?

What determines the kind/name of a sandwich?

While the bread/wrap is important...
it's the inner content/core that defines the sandwich...

(so it is in Titus 2:11-15... God's “glory-sandwich”)

Titus 2:11-14 is

ALL about God's Grace & God's Glory!

*** This is a message for EVERY:

- **Citizen**
- **Christian**
- **Church**
- **Culture**
- **Continent**

Pre-Cross we need to GET God's Grace

(The **INVITATION** of Salvation)

(The invitation to **COME to the Cross...**)

v.12 = GRACE

training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

Post-Cross we need to GIVE God Glory!

(which is empowered by God's Grace...)

(The exhortation to **CARRY your cross...**)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer coined the term "cheap grace." Cheap grace is in reality a self-imparted grace, a pseudo-grace...

Cheap grace is a contemptible counterfeit. It is a bargain-basement, damaged-goods, washed-out, moth-eaten, second-hand grace. It is a man-made grace...

We do not gather simply to pat ourselves on the back and think about how spiritual we are, or even about how nice God is being to us. We have banded together as a church because Christ is the visible evidence of the salvation-bringing grace of God. It is our assignment to see that men everywhere hear the message of our God who loves them.

- Titus: Patterns for Christian Living.

v.13 = GLORY!

waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

CHRIST is God's Grace...
Christ IS God's GLORY!

v.14 = GRACE

who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

***“If you don't truly get God's grace...
you won't truly give God glory!”***

May we cherish the privilege of serving & showcasing God's “glory sandwiches” for every tribe, nation, and tongue... from locally, regionally, & globally.

***“All of God's grace...
is ALL for God's glory!”*** -JDP

Titus 2:15 *Deliberate Declaration!*

INTRO: VIDEO: *“Interview with an Atheist”*

BIG IDEA:

The PURPOSE & POWER of PROCLAIMING...
comes *from* God’s GRACE, *thru* God’s
GOSPEL, and *for* God’s GLORY!

PREVIEW: (there are **14 imperatives** in Titus... 4 are
in this verse... so we will focus on them...)

- G = *G-3 Proclamation*
- R = *Reinforce*
- O = *Overrule*
- W = *Witness*

*“If you don’t truly get God’s grace... you
won’t truly give God glory!”*

&

*“All of God’s grace is ALL for God’s
glory!”*

T/S: Don't forget Titus's ultimate assignment...
Bring glory to God by growing more glorifiers!

TEXT: Titus 2:15 (ESV)

15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

G. G3-Proclamation...

T/S: Martin Luther (on Titus 2:15)

***"I live as though Christ died yesterday,
rose again today,
and is coming again tomorrow."***

A. "Declare"

1 Corinthians 1:17ff:

“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, that the cross of Christ should not be made void. For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Jeremiah 1&2!!!

B. “these things”

- Expository Preaching... **Exegesis vs. eisegesis**
- **Unpack vs. impact the text...**

“The Bible is the real preacher...” - J.I. Packer

“Preaching is truth through personality.”

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

R: REINFORCEMENT

15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

R. Reinforce (Exhort) ... Believe & Obey

➤ *exhort = press with much earnestness.*

***** 1 Thessalonians 2:9-12 *****

we proclaimed to you the gospel of God... 11For you know how, like a father with his children, 12we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

“God said” or “Thus says the Lord” quoted: 3800+

R.O.I. vs. Encumbrances & Hindrances issues

Discipleship (2 Tim 2) necessity...
and what you have heard from me in the presence of

many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

O: OVERRULING

15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

O. Overrule (Rebuke) ... Receive & Repent

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Matthew 7:21-23

Parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

Luke 12:48 (NLT)... Much for much!

When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

A. *“with ALL”* = read **Matthew 28:18-19!**

B. *“ALL authority”*

*Pastors/Preachers/Proclaimers are
“commanders” in God's army... -JDP*

*Only those proclaimers UNDER God's
authority... HAVE God's authority -JDP*

*Commanding people splits the crowds into the
“wills” & the “won't” - the “dos” & the
“dont's.” Commanding in the “visible church”
will separate the “aints” from the saints! -JDP*

* read **Romans 12:1-3**

W: WITNESS

15 *Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.*

W. Witness ... Mature & Multiply

"Disregard" is a compound word...

- A. Evade, rationalize...
- B. Thinking...
- C. Go around...

VIDEO: *Pastor Jeff: "Normal Church..."*

"you." (the Ambassador & Aroma!)

CLOSE:

Dual-discipleship dynamics:

- G.** G3-Proclamation... Listen & Learn
- R.** Reinforce (Exhort) ... Believe & Obey
- O.** Overrule (Rebuke) ... Receive & Repent
- W.** Witness ... Mature & Multiply

Stephen is an awesome example!

- No matter what!
- Bolder as they picked up the rocks...

CLOSE:

* 1 Thessalonians 2:13 *

13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

It's time to count the cost and pay the price! - JDP

Any plan to eventually obey... is a personal plan to actively DISOBEY. - JDP

Looking @ (Titus 3:8)

- A. Total
- B. Parts
- C. Total

Looking Back (Titus 1:1 – 3:7)

- A. Chapters 1,2,3... BE Real, Righteous, Ready!
- B. Chapter 1:5; 2:1-15 & 3:1-7
- C. Key in on what to do with “these things”

Looking Ahead:

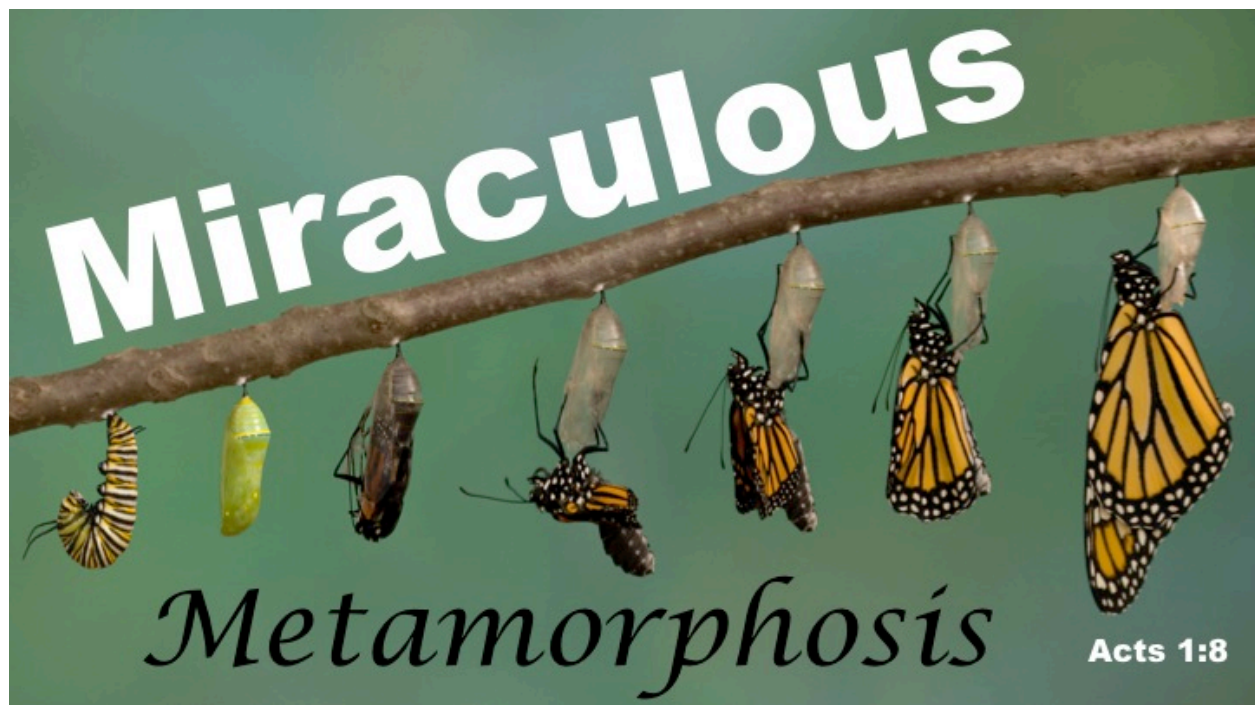
*** apply 3:8**

(Titus 3:9-11)

(Titus 3:12-15)

(THE BRIDGE in 2017)

1. Connect Titus 3:8 with the Great Commission
2. Connect Titus 3:8 to the BRIDGE LIFE Cycle...
3. Connect Titus 3:8 to the Disciple's Path...
4. Connect Titus 3:8, Disciple's Path & Miraculous



5. Connect the BRIDGE, Obedience, & Blessing!

***** In the spirit of Titus...**

- A. What you believe is who you become...
- B. Your behavior reveals your true beliefs
- C. Your theology explains your anthropology
- D. Today's message flow...
 - a. Explain the text... / What to believe.
 - i. Unpacking
 - b. Apply the text... / How to behave.
 - i. Impacting
- E. Overview 2017:
 - a. "Miraculous Metamorphosis" series
 - i. 52 week discipleship sermon series
 - ii. A spiritually progressive, A-Z series
 - iii. The series will tie into the D-Path...
 - 1. Week by week continuity
 - 2. Sermons, groups, 1-on-1 links
 - b. *Disciples Path–The Journey* curriculum
 - c. Read thru the Bible chronologically...

***** In the spirit of Titus...**

- A. Remember our Acts 1:8 commissioning!
- B. Remember the Lottie Moon Christmas offering
- C. Remember to BE a Titus in your Crete!