

TITUS

PAUL'S LETTER TO TITUS

Importance of Good Works

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Note from Publisher:

Grace Assembly is privileged to publish and post this commentary on our Web Site, www.graceassemblysandiego.com. We believe these commentaries rank among the best for Bible students who desire to learn about the Word of God and the Pauline Revelation. These commentaries were written during the early days of the latter rain outpour of God's Spirit and they continue to provide enlightenment to the reader. These are the original writings of the authors. Grace Assembly has not made any changes or additions to these writings other than format changes for the convenience of the Bible student. In the left-hand column, we have added the King James Bible version as it applies to the commentary on that page. Where the authors have referred to scripture references without quoting the scripture in the text, we have added the scripture as a footnote. In some places the authors have referred to Bible versions other than the King James. Since Grace Assembly holds to the King James Version as the preserved text, we, therefore, have added in the text the same scripture from the King James Version. We trust these ancillary changes will be helpful to the Bible student.

Introduction

THE GOSPEL was taken to Crete by persons who from there attended the Jewish feast on the day of Pentecost - *Acts 2:11. Titus was a Greek by birth. He was present at the great apostolic conference in Jerusalem. Compare **Gal. 2:1 with Acts 15. The word "messengers" (**2 Cor. 8:6-9) is "apostles," which proves that Titus was one of the seven church apostles. He was an evangelist and an overseer, having charge over the assemblies in Crete, which he had planted in that island. The word "good" occurs 10 times in the Letter; hence, "good works" is the keynote. These notes fittingly follow those on James and prove our interpretation of his Epistle. They read like a heart talk of a father to his son. We quote especially from the Revised Version, which is clearer on some points.

***Acts 2:11**

Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

****Galatians 2:1**

Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.

*****2 Corinthians 8:6-9**

⁶ Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. ⁷ Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. ⁸ I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. ⁹ For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Chapter 1

1:1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Chapter One **INSTRUCTIONS TO ELDERS**

"Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the Truth which is according to godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before times eternal" – **(1:1,2)**. "Eternal life" was a great theme with the Apostle Paul. He mentions it twice in this epistle with special emphasis. Note **(1:2 and 3:7)**. God had promised eternal life before times eternal, or before the ages of time, or before the world began. Therefore, from Adam to Christ, people were looking for life everlasting. According to ***2 Tim. 1:1, 9**, the promise of eternal life was in Christ Jesus according to God's own purpose and grace, which were given us in Christ Jesus. ****Rom. 1:2** indicates that the Gospel, of which eternal life is the quintessence, was foretold by the prophets in the holy Scriptures; that is, the Old Testament. These words to Titus agree perfectly with *****Eph. 1:4** - "According as He (God) hath chosen us in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love," etc. And since eternal life is in God's Son (******I John 5:11, 12**), eternal life was revealed to mankind in the birth of Christ. The hope, of which Paul wrote to Titus, took form in the lowly Nazarene.

Now when we receive the Spirit of Christ in the new birth, we possess eternal life. "That being justified by His grace, we might be made heirs (heirs of God -*******Rom. 8:17**) according to the hope of eternal life" Chap. **(3:7)** ; that is, the hope entertained from the beginning till Jesus came. Very wisely did Peter exclaim, when some disciples went away from Jesus, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words

***2 Timothy 1:1, 9**

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, ⁹ Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

****Romans 1:2**

(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures.)

*****Ephesians 1:4**

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

******I John 5:11, 12**

¹¹ And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

*******Romans 8:17**

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

1:3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

of eternal life" - ***John 6:68**. For these gracious words, we have been looking and longing all our days. Shall we now turn from them? Nay! NEVER. People who fight the glorious doctrine of eternal life, do so for one of two reasons. Either they do not understand what eternal life means, or they do not want God's grace, but say, "This is a hard saying; who can hear it? -- ****John 6:60, 66**. To reject eternal life is to reject Jesus Christ, the purchaser, the author, the possessor and the first preacher of eternal life in some measure.

"The faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth," **(1:1)** according to which Paul was a servant of God and an apostle of Christ, were in hope of eternal life. The proclamation of life everlasting was entrusted to Paul as its chief advocate after Christ's ascension **(1:3)**. See again - *****2 Tim. 1:1**. Here he passes the publishing of it on to his son Titus. Although he pronounces the Cretans, "liars, evil beasts, idle bellies" **(1:12)** (unfruitful); yet he does not once say that they are on the way to hell. But he sends Titus to teach them and lift them out of their carnality and worldliness. Therefore, "sound doctrine, sound speech, and good works" are dwelt upon in the Epistle. The phrase, "the faith of God's elect," **(1:1)** means the faith of Abraham and of the prophets, who looked for the Messiah to come.

The hope of eternal life was wrapped up in Him. That faith came by the Word of God, spoken to them - ******Rom. 10:17**. Paul said, "I live by the faith of the Son of God" - *******Gal. 2:20**. The three Persons of the Godhead are held distinct in this epistle, as in all Paul's writings. "God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior" complete the introductory words, even as "God" and "Jesus Christ" begin them **(1:1)**. Jesus is never termed the Father; neither are they ever mentioned as one and the same Person. It is exceedingly sad that would-be Bible

***John 6:68**

Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

****John 6:60, 66**

⁶⁰ Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? ⁶⁶ From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

*****2 Timothy 1:1**

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

******Romans 10:17**

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

*******Galatians 2:20**

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

1:4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

teachers are hurling confusion amidst God's people by attempting to destroy the Trinity and Tri-unity of Deity. In chap. (3:4-6), the three Persons of the Godhead are distinctly named. God saves men by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, having poured out the Spirit upon them copiously (*Acts 2:4 and 10:44) thru Jesus Christ. Compare **John 7:39 with ***Acts 2:33. Had Jesus not redeemed humanity by His death and resurrection, the Holy Spirit could not have been poured out upon them. Everywhere, as clear and distinct as words can make it, the three Persons of Deity are named. Only men blinded by their own conceit and by Satan, jumble the three together and rob them of their respective and distinctive honors and glories. In this Epistle, God is mentioned several times as "our Savior;" for He is the Originator of our salvation (1:3,4). Jesus is also called "our Savior," because He is the channel thru whom salvation has been provided. This does not mean that Jesus is the Father and God is Jesus, as some nonsensically teach.

Elders and Bishops - "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting and appoint elders in every city, as I gave thee charge" – (1:5). Verses (1:5-9) name the necessary qualifications of elders, or bishops. We need not dwell upon these 16 marks of ministerial character. They are all very simple and plain. Every honest person will take them deeply to heart. If anyone is too dishonest, or self-willed to observe them, he has no business with the office of elder, or bishop. The title "elder" is derived from the custom of giving older men places of responsibility under the Old Covenant. For example, see ****I Sam. 16:4-6.

***Acts 2:4 and 10:44**

2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

****John 7:39**

(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

*****Acts 2:33**

Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

******I Sam. 16:4-6**

⁴ And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably? ⁵ And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice. ⁶ And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.

1:6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

1:8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

The offices of "elder" and "bishop" were in some sense interchangeable, in Paul's day, as these verses indicate. In ***I Tim. 5:17**, it appears that some were termed ruling elders, while others were rather advisory elders, because of their age and experience. Some elders also ministered the Word. A ruling elder was called a "bishop," which means an overseer (**1:7**). He always knew and gave forth the Word. All elders and bishops should have a shepherd heart, or spirit - ****I Pet. 4:1-5**. Those officers were not elected by a vote of the people but appointed by an overseer - *****Acts 14:23** with (**1:5**). The seven letters to the seven churches in Rev. 2 and 3 indicate that in these closing days the offices of elder, or bishop and deacon are not emphasized. The Lord, the Head of the church, is dealing with individual assemblies through "the angel of the church;" that is, through the pastor, or shepherd of each congregation. (The word angel means messenger.) He holds the angel in His hand and expects him to feed and lead the flock and keep out all error, even as an angel, or bishop. And Jesus is dealing with individual believers also.

Note several traits of an accepted bishop, or pastor. "The bishop **MUST** be blameless, as God's steward; not self-willed, etc." Let young ministers take this deeply to heart. "Holding the faithful Word; exhort with sound doctrine and convict the gainsayers" (**1:6-9**). Paul always emphasized the Word of God, and especially the Gospel committed to him. Men travel around and say, I do not preach doctrine. Of course, such fellows disobey the Apostle's injunctions. How can anyone preach prophecy, lead sinners to Christ, or build up the saints without doctrine? What is doctrine, but teaching? "Sound doctrine" is called "healthful teaching" in the margin (**1:9**). If ever healthful teaching was needed it is greatly needed today.

***I Timothy 5:17**

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

****I Peter 4:1-5**

¹ Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; ² That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. ³ For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: ⁴ Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: ⁵ Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

*****Acts 14:23**

And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

1:10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

1:11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

1:12 One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, the Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

1:13 This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

1:14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

1:15 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

1:16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

The following twelve marks of unfaithful teachers are cited as proofs of the absolute need of sound doctrine.

Empty, Harmful Vessels. In verses **(1:10-16)**, Brother Paul names these traits. He describes them as "unruly, vain talkers, deceivers, liars, evil beasts, idle gluttons, turning away from the truth, defiled, unbelieving, Christ-deniers, abominable, reprobate." What a catalogue of evil garments for a Gospel minister to wear. The Apostle says, "Their mouths must be stopped." Therefore, "reprove them sharply." Do you censure us then, for speaking out against such Christian(?) workers? Do you insist that we should show love? We do show love to the Truth and to those who proclaim it; but we have no pity for those who deliberately, with their eyes open, go against God's Word and destroy His people. Note the Lord's rebuke of the angel, or pastor of the Pergamos Assembly - ***Rev. 2:14-16**. Men may get by today without feeding the lambs and sheep, as Jesus instructed (John 21), and fleece them instead; but oh, the shame and rebuke that awaits them. Remember that judgment begins at the house of God, and primarily with the shepherds, the stewards.

When We Think Not

The time is drawing near.
May be this present year,
That Christ may call His chosen home.
Perhaps when we think not,
But cumbered with our lot,
We're apt in fields of gloom to roam.
The thought brings joy and cheer
That Jesus might appear
Before the end of forty-one.
Oh, I think not so soon,
Say some, but at high noon
Of tribulation days half run.
O Bride of Christ, why fear?
You are to Him most dear.
He's shuffling furniture on high
For your supreme delight.
He's your most august Knight.
When we think not, He may draw nigh.

***Revelation 2:14-16**

¹⁴ But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. ¹⁵ So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. ¹⁶ Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Chapter Two

2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

2:2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

2:3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

2:4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

2:5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Chapter Two **PURPOSE AND POWER OF GRACE**

But speak thou the things which befit the sound doctrine" (**2:1**). Again, teaching is made prominent. Also, sound, or healthful things are emphasized. He speaks of being "sound in the faith ... sound doctrine," "sound speech," that the whole assembly may be scripturally healthy and growing and fruitful. "The Word of grace" builds up the saints; and nothing else does. Eloquent speakers and glib talkers may entertain the people and get their money; but the hearers are left empty-empty hearts, empty minds and empty purses. Healthful teaching will be crowned with a blessed future also. "An inheritance" will reward the preaching of the Word of grace - ***Acts 20:32**. Oh, brother, feed the flock on the pure Gospel. Give babies "the sincere milk of the Word" (****I Pet. 2:2**), and "strong meat" (****Heb. 5:14**) to adults in faith. Let others gather and hold the crowd by giving them froth and foam, flattery and fables; be thou satisfied with feeding the few hungry ones. These will be your crown in the glory, when the deceived will arraign the flatterers for fooling and fleecing them. Sound doctrine begets sound faith; sound faith begets sound speech and sound speech begets good works.

Who to Teach. The aged men, the aged women, the young women, the young men and servants are properly named as subjects of instruction – (**2:2-10**). The purpose of teaching them is, that they may love the "good." Ten times the word "good" occurs in the Epistle. Five times "good works" are mentioned; not as a means of salvation, but as the supernatural and logical result of being saved. God has ordained good works for all His people, in which He expects them to walk by the power of the Holy Spirit - ******Eph. 2:10**. The Cretans were by nature such loose and reckless characters, both old and young, that they needed special teaching concerning the

***Acts 20:32**

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

****I Peter 2:2**

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

*****Hebrews 5:14**

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

******Ephesians 2:10**

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2:6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

2:8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

2:9 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;

2:10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

practical, everyday life. "Sober mindedness" (**2:6**) is emphasized again and again.

Then the Apostle supplements his instructions to Titus by exhorting him to "show himself an example of good works" (**2:7**). He had to treat them as children. His clear example would have great weight in confirming his instruction. Paul gave Timothy also similar advice to be an example to believers - ***I Tim. 4:12**. Nothing turns people against a minister quicker than for him to teach beyond his experience or exhort them to do what he himself fails to do. The supreme object of a godly walk and of good works is, "that the Word of God be not blasphemed," and that we "may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things" – (**1:5,10**). Let the reader, old and young, therefore meditate upon the instructions that Paul gave to Titus for the Cretans. Are we blaspheming God's holy Word by bad conduct, or fruitless works? Do we make the doctrine of God appear hideous and repulsive by our unchastity, lightness, carnality, or un-tempered zeal? Oh, let us compel people to come along the full Gospel way by our upright, victorious, loyal, faithful and unselfish conduct and service. "He that winneth souls is wise" - ****Prov. 11:30**. Jesus said, "Compel them to come in," (*****Luke 14:23**) not by argument, not by force and awkwardness, not by over-persuasion, but by love and holy living.

"For the grace of God hath appeared to all men, bringing salvation, instructing us to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present age" – (**2:11, 12**). We, who teach divine grace, are accused frequently of offering a do-as-you please message to sinners. We deny such a charge. We agree with Paul's doctrine and practice. Such accusers misunderstand the meaning of grace, which is a wise teacher. Grace shows us our need, our weaknesses and our dependence upon the mighty God. It instructs us both negatively and positively, what not to do and what actually to do. Ungodliness and worldly lusts, the former life of sin, must be ignored and abandoned. Grace came to deliver us from the career of the old creation. Grace instructs us to "live soberly;" (**2:12**) not melancholically, or affectedly pious; not flippantly or effusively, but sanely,

***I Timothy 4:12**

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

****Proverbs 11:30**

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

*****Luke 14:23**

And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges,

2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. seriously. It teaches us to "live righteously," to do right to others, pay our debts - debts of finance, of love, of pity, of brotherly kindness. It teaches us to "live godly;" that is, as God lives; love as He loves. He is unselfish, always seeking to bless humanity. He shows grace. So, He means for us to do. If we live godly, we will live righteously and soberly. Now let no one think that he can do these things by stamping his feet and biting his lips and resolving to do them. No. Take Christ to live this life in you. Settle it as Paul did - "It is no longer I that live; but Christ that liveth in me" - ***Gal. 2:20**. With your eyes fixed on Him, you will live to God's glory and the good of your fellows. Grace teaches us how to live and furnishes the wisdom and power to do it. Here is another important item of this victorious life - "Looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" - **(2:13)**. Notice the word "appearing." We saw before that the grace of God "had appeared." The Greek verb is "epiphaino," which means to appear, as stars - ****Acts 27:20**. It means to give light, or shine upon, as *****Luke 1:79** and ******Eph. 5:14**. It refers to Christ's first advent in *******2 Tim. 1:10** and in Titus **(3:4)**, which see. Elsewhere it refers to Christ's advent in behalf of the church and must be kept distinct from His "coming" or presence (parousia Gr.), which occurs especially in the Gospel records, because it refers chiefly to His revelation from heaven to the Jews. See Matt. 24. "The blessed hope" means the catching away of the bride. "The appearing of the glory" may include His revelation. In *******2 Thessalonians 2:8** is a very peculiar statement, "the

***Galatians 2:20**

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

****Acts 27:20**

And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

*****Luke 1:79**

To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

******Ephesians 5:14**

Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

*******2 Timothy 1:10**

But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

*******2 Thessalonians 2:8**

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his

2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

coming:

brightness of His coming." The Greek reads, "epiphaeneia tes parousias," or the appearing of His coming, or presence. In ***2 Tim. 4:1**, it is distinct from the kingdom, and agrees with ****2 Tim. 4:8**, which speaks of those who "love His appearing." But the space between His appearing for the Bride, called the rapture, and His revelation to Israel, is so brief, that the one implies the other. The Greek word for "appear" in *****Heb. 9:28** is another word, which means to see, to behold, to observe, and refers to the Jews, who will be looking for their Messiah and King. "Looking for the blessed hope" (**2:13**) is the same as "loving His appearing" - 2 Tim. 4:8. This is the qualification for the catching away. Real overcomers love the soon coming of Jesus and look for Him steadfastly.

Basis of Every Hope. "Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a people for His own possession, zealous of good works" (**2:14**). Christ gave Himself for those good-for-nothing Cretans, but in hope of making something glorious out of them. Thank God, He redeemed us from "all iniquity." And now He undertakes to "purify unto Himself" every one that believes on Him. The saving and purifying are His tasks, not ours. He does it as we yield to His workmanship. The phrase, "peculiar people (Authorized Version), or "people of His possession," occurs also in ******I Pet. 1:9**. The Greek for peculiar means "made to remain, over and above, protected, preserved, purchased, acquired for oneself." Such a Gospel appeals to the weak and helpless, the poor and needy. It appealed to the "ragtag" Cretans. The God of abounding grace ventured to make of such hopeless material, a people protected, preserved (not consigned to hell), because they were purchased by blood, acquired for Himself at infinite cost; hence a people over and above man's expectations, a people built to remain. Let us preach Paul's Gospel of unmeasured resources and unthinkable possibilities. Many hearts are starving for this Gospel, not knowing where to find it, or how to get it.

***2 Timothy 4:1**

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

****2 Timothy 4:8**

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

*****Hebrews 9:28**

So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

******I Peter 1:9**

Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

2:15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Chapter 3

3:1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

3:2 To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

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

3:4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

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 Ghost;

3:6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

Paul's Gospel of grace is fitted to bring down the self-righteous pharisaical egotist and make a lowly saint of him or lift up the beggar from the dunghill and the vagabond and unruly from his immoral filth and set them among princes. "Nothing is too hard for the Lord." Mark the Apostle's stern charge in conclusion -- "These things speak and EXHORT and REPROVE with all authority. Let no man despise thee" (**2:15**).

Chapter Three SCRIPTURAL HUMILITY

Put them in mind to be in subjection to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready unto every good work, to speak evil of no man, not to be contentious, to be gentle, showing all meekness toward all men" – (**3:1, 2**). The Scripture throughout teaches us to obey the powers that be, as the servants of God. We are not to sling mud at them, even though they do not rule to suit us. Obedience to superiors is a rare grace. Saints should not forget their relations to others, and to one another. And we should not forget that we were no better than other sinners, when we were unsaved – (**3:3**). "All have sinned" - ***Rom. 3:23**. Then see how adroitly Paul again brings in the Gospel of wondrous grace. He magnifies the kindness and love of God (**3:4**), and exclaims, "Not by works of righteousness, which we did ourselves; but according to His mercy He saved us" (**3:5**). O, that everyone would deeply acknowledge, that salvation is absolutely of mercy and grace. By what means? "Through the washing (laver) of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost" – (**3:4-6**). In ****John 1:12, 13**, Jesus Christ announced our right, or privilege to become children of God thru the new birth, if we received Him. In chap. 3, He taught the nature and necessity of the new birth. "Except a man be born of water (the Word) and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" - *****John 3:5**. In ******John 13:10**, He taught the new birth by symbol, saying to Peter, " He that is bathed (laved)

***Romans 3:23**

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

****John 1:12, 13**

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

*****John 3:5**

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

******John 13:10**

Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

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

3:10 A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;

3:11 Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

needeth not save to wash his feet." The priests washing their hands and feet at the laver was symbolical of the new birth - ***Ex. 30:21**. Jesus did not teach saved one day and lost the next, or the possibility of being born again more than once. The same Greek word, "louo," rendered wash, or bathe in ****John 13:10**, is used in *****Eph. 5:26** and **(3:5)**, all three referring to the new birth. The double statement, "the washing (or laver) of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, is simply another way of saying, "Born of water and of the Spirit" - ******John 3:5**. The Word of God is the sufficient means (*******I Pet. 1:23**) and the Holy Spirit is the efficient Agent of the new birth. Hence, human effort availeth nothing. We are not saved by the catechism, by water baptism, by speaking in tongues, by doing penance, nor by weeping; but by believing on Jesus the Savior - *******Eph. 2:8**. Therefore, the conclusion - "Being justified by His grace, we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life;" **(3:7)** that is, the hope entertained by the patriarchs and prophets, which was realized by the first advent of Christ. It does not mean that we, who are born of the Spirit, are hoping for eternal life, which we shall have if we hold out faithful. Nay, the new birth is eternal life.

"Shun foolish questionings, genealogies and strifes and fightings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain" **(3:9)**. We are to be occupied with matters of great importance. "Maintain good works" is mentioned twice in closing **(3:8, 14)** as of paramount importance. After exhorting a heretic twice, avoid him **(3:10, 11)**. We saw that sound doctrine, sound faith and sound speech are to be emphasized in view of glorifying God by noble deeds.

***Exodus 30:21**

So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations.

****John 13:10**

Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

*****Ephesians 5:26**

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

******John 3:5**

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

*******I Peter 1:23**

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

*******Ephesians 2:8**

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

3:12 When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter.

3:13 Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them.

3:14 And let our's also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

3:15 All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Concluding Words. The Apostle desired Titus to meet him in Nicopolis, north from Philippi, where he hoped to winter. He wished Artemas, or Tychicus to take his place in Crete for a time (**3:12**). Artemas means safe and sound. He is mentioned here only. Evidently, he was living up to the meaning of his name, or he could not have been a successor of Titus. He compared favorably with Tychicus, which means fortunate. The latter is mentioned four other places. He was one of the faithful seven with Paul when he wrote to the Galatians - ***Acts 20:4** and ****Gal. 1:2**. Possibly Paul wrote to Titus before leaving Ephesus (*****Acts 19:21, 22**) and spent the winter thereabouts. If so, this was his second Epistle, as the Letter to the Thessalonians was his first. Doubtless the same companions were with him then as when he wrote to Galatia. Compare (**3:15**) with Gal. 1:2 and ******Acts 20:4**. He was also deeply interested in Zenas, who was an able teacher of the Mosaic law before he accepted Christ (**3:13**). Paul loved Apollos (**3:13**), known for his eloquence and fervor in preaching the Word of God - *******Acts 19:24-28**. This unique Epistle closes with the Apostle's usual benediction - "Grace be with you all."

***Acts 20:4**

And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.

****Galatians 1:2**

And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:

*****Acts 19:21, 22**

²¹ When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." ²² So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time.

******Acts 20:4**

And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.

*******Acts 19:24-28**

²⁴ For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; ²⁵ Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. ²⁶ Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: ²⁷ So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth. ²⁸ And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

SO BE MY GOING

Mary M. Bodie

If some time you should hear across the night
A hallelujah chorus winging through the air,
Rise not up from thy rest to mark its flight,
But listen to the challenge it doth bear
Against the hosts of darkness dense and drear,
Who ever seek to keep the soul in fear.
And after the last, lingering sound has gone,
You may not know it bore me forth, nor ever guess
That in its flying, my soul outreached the dawn
And went beyond the night and loneliness.
You may not e'en remember me at all
Until many later years, some dear friend may say,
As chance brings up my name, Do you recall
Her closing words before she went away?
She said, "In Jesus' name there's victory."
Let this be ever thy kind thought of me.

AN ODE TO TITUS

Paul to Titus once has written.
From his heart the Truth flowed out;
For legality had bitten
Many saints, thus tossed about.
Like a brother to a brother,
Though in Christ his son indeed;
For he scarce could find another,
Who so tenderly would feed
Hungry hearts, and guide them rightly
To the over-comers' goal.
Paul gave charge, that daily, nightly,
Some to warn and some console.
Goodly deeds were made emphatic.
Sound in doctrine led the van.
One who reads it, grows ecstatic .
And would tell it ev'ry man.
No ambition to be greatest.
One ambition -- to be true.
Despite conflicts, hottest, straightest,
Heaven's plan he must pursue.
Onward till the Lord's appearing,
Faithful be to God and man,
Paul his son was always cheering
From Beersheba unto Dan.

THE OTHER COMFORTER

The other Comforter ascended to abide.
To send Him, once the Savior died.
The other Comforter now teaches me to pray
And gain the vic'try every day.
My Jesus knew the other Comforter Divine,
And gave Him that He might be mine.
He came from heaven to guide us into all the Truth,
To fill the elders and the youth.

Not only does the Spirit comfort and caress;
With power He doth also bless,
For wonders, signs and miracles He doth command,
That Christ be praised throughout the land.
The other Comforter a Training School is too,
That we may run the race straight through.
Without Him, who can hope the Bridegroom to win?
Without Him, none would e'en begin.
Be not deceived. He did not come to earth in vain.
He's here, that we the best may gain.
Should we not emphasize this truth today,
Lest compromise impose delay?
The bridal crew must like the Bridegroom surely be -
Immersed, in love and hope, yea free.
The other Comforter alone can make them so,
Prepared in the first rank to go.

