

Last week we introduced Titus a bit...tonight we get into it. We've been saying this
What you believe will shape who you are **and** who you are will determine what you do in life.

What you believe influences what you do....so in all you do....REACH

So our challenge and hope for the year is seen in 2 Peter 3:18

"But grow (reach) in the GRACE and KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This thinking is very close to what Paul was doing when he wrote this letter to Titus.

So Paul writes to offer Titus encouragement....all the while encouraging us as well.

tonight we look at the first four verses....really just an introduction.

But in this introduction we see some crazy good things...encouragement and challenge

Really this is the "Dear Andrew, this is is Chris" portion of your text, voicemail, letter.

But this one is longer than normal....and in it we see 3 huge things that are the perfect foundation for a life that is lived for the glory of God, a life that simply is spent being and doing good

This foundation is built around one huge theme - Our bottom line:

Your identity, as a child of God, is sealed in the completed work of Jesus Christ.

As a follower, there is no pressure....simply be and do good.

((The Salvation we have in Jesus leads to a life of godliness and service to God.))

A huge question you may have, you may think about it when no one else is around.

You may be open and honest about it to your parents, friends or life group leaders.

But I think we all wonder from time to time....I think the world is trying to figure it out

But it's this: **Who Am I & Why Am I Here?**

I think you think about this, struggle with this from time to time.

I know you'll all ask it and question it at

some point in life....maybe many times throughout your life...

So as you ask it and as you struggle with it I pray tonight, this foundation, becomes the voice you hear above all the noise. This is your Identity..

This greeting from Paul helps us with this because what Paul is saying about himself as **he opens this letter**, is the same for us as followers of Christ. If you are here tonight and you haven't trusted in Christ I'd encourage you to listen....hear the goodness of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ which has the power to transform you.

So let's read them together again – **READ VV. 1-4**

3 things that are true about each person who belongs to God.

1. You are a Servant – v.1 – ((1 Peter 1:18-19, 1 Cor. 6:19))

you are saved into good works...you exist for the glory of God and the sake of God's elect.

Salvation is a work of God, man can't produce it but we, as his children, are His ambassadors, apostles who are sent out to herald this good news. (old school paperboy)

We are not our own...this price was huge....we serve Him in light of this.

What I believe will affect how I live and how I live will communicate what I believe

So I must ask this....What do I believe based on how I'm living?

2. You are Secure – v.2-3 – Get this....this is huge...you are not responsible for your salvation in any regard. God is the one who saves....God is the one who keeps. The moment you stop depending on your own ability is the minute you begin to back up, lose confidence, and wither away.

Isaiah 43:1 is a beautiful passage, written to the children of Israel as a reminder of the power, love and grace of God....now through Christ, we can read this and we can find comfort, confidence and peace....I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine!

My service to Him is based on what He provides!

Some may preach the Gospel better but none will preach a better Gospel (Aiken)
the content of the message we live and share rest in promises made by a God who cannot lie.

Are you trusting Him to do His work or are you still relying on self to do the work?

3. **You are Separated** – v.4 – This is not really “be different” as an action but as a statement. Paul is saying....you are separated....this is a declaration....it's “common faith.”

All throughout scripture there are metaphors or images to describe believers. (temple of God, building, body of Christ, bride of Christ) Here it's a family.

You have been set apart for His service, Love, purpose.

Again...it's not an obligation if it's true.

True love comes back out of want not obligation.

He saved you that you may serve Him

He saved you that you might enjoy Him.

Are you enjoying Him, are you serving Him or are you trying to fit where you don't belong?

Your identity, as a child of God, is sealed in the completed work of Jesus Christ.

As a follower, there is no pressure....simply be and do good.

This is your identity...this is the goodness of our great God.

Trust in Him, not self. Reach further in, deeper down.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not lean on your own understanding but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths – Proverbs 3:5-6

Questions: REACH DEEPER WITH THESE QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from tonight's sermon and Scriptures?
2. Why is it important that Paul start our with so much encouragement and reassurance for Titus?
Have you ever been encouraged before you were challenged with a tough task?
How would these first 4 verses been encouraging to Titus? How did they encourage you?
3. How hard is it for you to remember your identity is found in Christ?
*How is the message of the Gospel different from the worlds message when thinking about identity?
In other words, what is the world telling you and what does the Gospel say? Is it different?*
4. You are a Servant – v.1
Does how you live support what you claim?
Does how you live communicate what you ultimately believe to be true about God and Jesus?
Go back and read 1 Cor. 6:19-20 – What do you think about this...how should we respond?
5. You are Secure – v.2-3
How much pressure do you feel to live right, holy, Godly?
Is it right for you to feel this pressure?
Who is ultimately responsible for saving us? Keeping us?
Then who is the pressure on to save and keep?
Bottom line is this: Do we trust God to be able
6. You are Separated – v.4
You are saved into something bigger than you can muster or come up with.
Are you ok with this? or are you still trying to fit where you don't belong?
This is a struggle..leaving the world behind for something better, God.
Do you struggle with this?
7. Read the statements and discuss. Do you agree, how or how not, what is the next step for me? Finish by praying together.
The hope is you see the goodness of God tonight and you begin to rely on Him rather than self.
God has done this great work, He will keep it, we must walk in this newness of life.
Your identity is found in God, through Christ, stop worrying about that and start enjoying Him through serving Him.