

Well we've walked straight through Titus and I hope you've heard the message loud and clear.

Titus is a call to a young pastor to establish leadership in the church. It's really an old guy writing to a young guy who is about to face a pretty scary situation.

Titus is headed on a mission that will lead him straight into the heart of legalism, false teaching, amidst of a bunch of power thirsty people. Have fun with that right.

But as I look at Titus it's really broken down to 3 themes...these all work together. But as we revisit Titus as a whole tonight we want to think back to these 3 big themes which all center around one huge thought:

In light of God's grace we should be and do good.

The three big themes are this:

- 1. Identity**
 - 2. Grace**
 - 3. Action**
-

IDENTITY - identity as follower of Christ.

Almost reminding Titus that God will never lead us where He won't also keep us.

His encouragement to begin was & is one we need to pay close attention to as we too go into situations that are tough...as we take the name of Jesus into countless situations and areas we need this encouragement...this reminder of who we are and what we are...it deals with our identity.

The situation was that Titus needed to Put what remained into order (1:5).

The people that Titus was going to lead are described in 1:16 – not a good crowd.

Sure there were some who were honestly following Christ but the majority were simply fakes.

So Paul, before getting to this task reminds Titus who He is in Christ. (vv.1-4)

1. He was a Servant – Titus was to serve in light of what God had done.

After realizing all that God had done it's as if everything else is rubbish.

2. He was Secure – Since God has done this great work He will also keep this great work.

Why fear when the Creator is the one orchestrating all things for our good and His glory?

3. He was Set Apart – This common faith is not a cult or clan but a place to belong. In other words we don't view this world as home...but as a mission field. As we live, as we go, we do so as a servant, secure in his love and power, to make His name known.

Paul was encouraging Titus before the battle began.

Think about you – how is this encouraging to you?

1. What battles are you facing?
2. What situations are you in where you need to be reminded of your identity in Christ?
3. How is your life similar to Titus?
4. How is knowing your identity a huge encouragement to what you face each day?
5. What is a good next step in living for the glory of God?

GRACE –The anthem of our lives.

God doing for us what we could never do for ourselves

Paul continually reminds Titus of what God has done.

If left in our condition, which on our best day with our best effort and our best attempt is still rubbish, if left there we have no chance. BUT GOD showed Grace and not only can we be saved from what we deserved we can also live a life for the good of others and the glory of God...all because of Him.

Two main sections teach us this but really the grace of God is the theme of the entire book, all of it. 2:11-15 – For the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all people. (We can be saved.)

This is the message we are to declare.

3:1-7 – We are to love others, we were once not loving, but, vs. 4...grace appeared.

Paul is saying we serve, we go, we love, we live, we do because of God's grace.

Take away God's grace and we are miserable. Is this true with you?

We serve, not to earn, but in light of God's grace.

In light of God's grace. That statement can make the worst day the best day because it brings HOPE.

You appreciate hope more when you've been in a hopeless situation.

many students don't understand hope because they haven't lived long enough to see it.

Is this true – have you ever been in a situation where you thought it was over, it was the end.

Phase 10 game, AA game, Grade, relationship, life?

even the smallest of situations can seem hopeless to the point that you, at whatever age can know what it means to have hope. Because of God's grace, we have hope. through Jesus

Think about you – where is your hope?

1. How much do you lean on, depend upon, trust in the hope God provides in Christ Jesus?
2. Meaning....do you need Him, His grace, love, provision?
3. Where would you be without this amazing grace God has shown.

Action–The result of our lives

in light of God's grace we serve Him. Much like Paul begins, Paul ends.

Look at 3:14 – let our people devote themselves to good works.

We live a life for the good of others and the glory of God.

We ask the question a couple of weeks ago – is your life different because God has saved you?

Kirk went a step further at DNOW – is your school different because you are there.

You see Grace makes change possible – Actions displays the goodness and grace of God.

Simple question – What are you displaying each day?

In the heated moments, in the joys of life, in the pains of death, in the agony of everyday life.

What are you displaying? When you get what you want or nothing like what you wanted –

How are you responding? What are you displaying.

Paul is saying this in Titus – In light of God's grace – Be and Do Good.

Live for the good of others and the glory of God.

Not because you are special or able but because of God's great grace to you.

Think about you – where is your hope?

What are you displaying? Think through different situations.

Yes it's tough, but may be so close to Jesus that people see his very dust on us . good or bad

When squeezed may we act for the good of others and the glory of God.

What happens when you're squeezed...why?