|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  Overview of Titus Sermon Outline  05/26/24  **INTRO:**  Today start Titus  -Looking at 8 weeks fastest, maybe more  -Paul’s logic is like one chapter at time  -Letters meant to be read one sitting  -Today focus on background/context of book  -See whole forest before getting into individual trees  **BODY:**  So….who was Titus  Titus: Greek/Gentile believer went along Paul missionary journeys | 2  Co-worker w/Paul = beloved  8X mentioned 2 Cor.  2 Cor. = “beloved brother” + “partner and fellow worker”  Mentioned Gal. 2:1 going w/ Paul to Jerusalem council = Jewish believers + Judaizers needed to be circumcised + mosaic law  Titus = well grounded + mature + knew Jewish arguments to handle struggling churches  Possible explanation of difference in tone between 1 Timothy (as well as second) and Titus  Timothy = more warm, personal  Titus = more businesslike  Not that Paul loves Titus less but difference in purpose |
| 3  Titus didn’t need as much encouragement and cheering on as Timothy needed  Timothy = younger believer who wasn’t as equipped and seasoned/experience as Titus  Titus = saw it all  -doctrinal issues not new to him  That’s who Titus is…  What is purpose of letter?  Purpose statement: Titus 1:5  “*For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you*.”  Things were not in order = out of order  Moral disorder  Island of Crete = debauchery, immorality, violence, scheming + lying | 4  Every sin imaginable  In fact: famous phrase “You Cretan” or “you’re acting like a Cretan”  Old phrase but maybe bring it back  Same thing as “You Corinthian”  At same time Crete = very strategic place = spread of gospel  = commercial center + hub = large island  Crete = 5th largest island Mediterranean  260 miles East to West  7.5 – 37 miles north-south  Since many ships/sailors passed through Crete = gospel would spread |
| 5  Titus = shares some similarity + emphases on sound doctrine  1 Tim. 4:16  “*pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching (or doctrine); persevere in these things, for as you do this you will save both yourself and those who hear you*.”  Titus 1:9  “*holding fast the faithful word which is in according with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to reprove those who contradict*.”  1 Timothy = more emphases on sound doctrine  Titus = that too but more emphases on sound living  Titus = more than Timothy emphases need to live godly lives for the sake of witness of church | 6  Ex: = “*good works*” in Titus  Tit. 2:7 urges younger men = “*model of good works, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in word which is irreproachable*”  Tit. 3:1  “*remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to slander no one, to be peaceable, considerate, demonstrating all gentleness to all men*.”  Titus left in Crete = need for godly leaders to be established = light shining in dark place  Culture of immorality so pervasive even believers in Crete were living like that, especially false teachers  Underlying problem of Titus = witness of the gospel  If Cretan Christians = same as world = why believe in Jesus? |
| 7  Titus = reveals Paul’s missionary mindset and strategy for gospel proclamation and living  Titus = actually quite evangelistic in approach, but also how gospel transforms, sanctifies, empowers Christians to live righteously in ungodly age  1 Timothy = sound doctrine = sound living  Titus = sound living = shows who you believe and His glory  How do you act in and through whatever culture God has placed you in?  Is the life you are displaying before unbelievers as well as believers a life that is marked by the transforming power of grace?  Those questions Titus wants you to ask as we go along in this letter.  So…how does this book flow? | 8  What is its structure?  Well no unique structure behind Titus like Timothy  Timothy = 3 doctrinal pillars = book ends  Pretty straightforward  So let’s get into quickly the book from a 30,000 foot perspective  Follow along with me  Titus 1:1-4  = typical Roman introduction  Sender: Paul  Recipient: Titus  Blessing:  “*in the hope of eternal life, which the God who cannot lie promised from all eternity*.” |
| 9  “the God who cannot lie” = deliberately contrasting Greek pantheon gods against Yahweh  Specifically god of thunder = Zeus = lied and manipulated woman to sleep with him  In fact Cretans claim that Zeus was born on their island!  A culture never rises higher than the god or gods it worships = culture of lying  But Yahweh cannot lie = utterly unlike those gods  Then Tit. 1:5-9  Purpose: set in order what remains and to appoint elders in every city  Culture = moral disarray = churches lacking godly leaders  Who should these elders be? | 10  These qualifications = read…  Similar to qualifications in 1 Timothy 3  They need godly elders who will not compromise because  V. 10 “*rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers*”  So called teachers of Law unqualified = what they were teaching and how they were living  Paul again goes back to referencing that Cretans were always “*liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons*”  Paul = this testimony is true  Immorality/teaching = so bad that needed to be rebuked severely so that they will be sound in faith  Then Ch. 2…  Instructions on older and younger and how they act as well as slaves (read Titus 2:1-8) |
| 11  Similar to 1 Timothy  Why does all this matter?  Why do older and younger men and women need to act a certain way?  A: Because grace of God  Paul rehearses and reminds them of the glorious truth of the gospel read 2:11-14  God saved you Cretans not so you would live in filth and uncleanliness of a polluted and debauched lifestyle  But to be a purifying, holy influence on culture for the gospel  In a culture that rejects authority and moral living and standards = you will shine like a bright star in the middle of the night | 12  Then finally Ch. 3, after reminding Cretans of gospel  urges them to do those good works they were made for  What are those good works?  3:1  “*To be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to slander no one, to be peaceable, considerate, demonstrating all gentleness to all men*.”  Make sure Cretan believers will not do these good works out of improper motive like pride  Paul reminds everyone that they were also once like that  V. 3 “*We ourselves also once were foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another*.” |
| 13  But what’s going to attract and ultimately save unbelievers on the island of Crete?  A: Kindness + affection of God our Savior  Reveals His mercy and grace to undeserving sinners who only deserve wrath  To save them from their wretchedness  So V. 9 Paul concludes = like Timothy  warning against false teaching and teachers  1 Tim. 6:20  “*O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, turning aside from godless and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called knowledge-which some, while professing, have gone astray from the faith*.”  May seem like odd way to end letter | 14  But again realize witness of gospel is at stake here  Island of Crete watching churches and believers to see whether their Jesus does indeed change them as they claim  To see a church divided and imploding within from false teaching = destroy witness of gospel  So, Paul is pretty serious about not tolerating any of that  And so should we if we care about the glory of God and souls of the unredeemed  Finally vv. 12-15 = side-note, update of missionary situation + final concluding thoughts  And so…  as we look at different sections of this letter in upcoming weeks, let Titus challenge you to examine your own life = what is message you are giving in how you live? |
| 15  To the unbelieving cashier, the store clerk, your neighbor across from you  You might know sound doctrine and eloquently explain the intricacies of gospel, but does your life reveal a life transformed by the very gospel you are proclaiming?  If your life oozing the love of Christ?  Are you living in the culture to impact the culture for Christ or are you trying to fit in with the culture to not stand out,  Maybe you are even compromising with the culture and sharing in its sinful practices  And if any of you is sitting here today = have not been purified of your sins by the blood of Jesus, I invite you to do so today  Examine your life and be honest before the Lord  Recognize that the life you are living is not pleasing to God  In fact, if you are living according to your fleshly passions, you are at enmity with God, you are at war with God  But it’s time to be at peace with your Maker | 16  1 Peter 4:3  “*For the time already past is sufficient for you to have worked out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries*.”  Don’t keep living this way for your lusts  End of those things is only death and hell  Living a life of sin will only produce misery and sorrow  And the only way you will see that it is a vain and empty life is if God reveals that to you by His Holy Spirit  So pray that God will show you grace and that He will illumine your darkened mind to see His glory and what He has done for you on the cross  He died on cross = forgiven = justified = declared righteous = begin to live life not for your own pleasures but for God’s pleasures |
| 17  As you listen to the Word of God in Titus, I pray God will open up your eyes to behold His glory and that as you behold Him, = you will be transformed into His likeness as rest of His redeemed have been  Let’s pray | 18 |