LIFT – **Titus pt2 – Work it Out**

**Left on the Island of Crete by his Spiritual father (Apostle Paul) – to finish the work of church planting. (map) 160mi X 35mi of beautiful rock formations with crystal clear waters. The only issue – the people were has hard headed as the rock mountains he saw every day.**

**He was the one called to do it – placed there – with God’s mission – he reads this letter from his mentor.**

**Previously on - TITUS**

**It was a time of fast growth, persecution and great discrimination. Traveling preachers (some good / some wolves).**

1. **Written by – The Apostle Paul**

**Titus 1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ**

**Paul is passing down official leadership and instruction.**

1. **Written to – Titus**

**Titus 1:4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith…**

**Titus is now the overseer of churches on the island of Crete.**

**Crete has an empire wide bad reputation. The people were known as - dishonorable, disgraceful, liars, untrusting. Free-booters = pirates.**

**Titus is disciple-ing new followers who had bad habits; as a result, most of this letter deals w/ living lives that reflect Jesus**

1. **Written for – Encouragement – instruction – and answers.**

**Titus 1:5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished… (set in church leadership and address a few issues)**

**Churches were growing and troubles were developing.**

**It’s compact, practical, to the point, and powerfully important.**

**It’s a challenge to us - We don’t look for a church that fits us – we look for a church that fits the scriptures. One that teaches it and lives it.**

**This week – Paul address the life of a follower of Jesus**

**Let’s get personal- personal. Sung to tune of- let’s get physical**

**So let’s dive in – Pt 2- The Character and conduct of a Christian - Titus 2:1 You, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. (what is doctrine?)**

**TO THE ADULT MEN**

**2 Teach the older men to be temperate (sober minded, watchful, not a drunk), worthy of respect (don’t act foolish - humility), self-controlled (not a wild life), and sound in faith (knows and holds firmly sound theology), in love (loving & kind, godly affection) and in endurance. (You’re not a quitter – patient)**

**Older men – do you have sound doctrine? Do you know what that means? Do you reflect these qualities? Do you invest in others?**

**TO THE ADULT WOMEN**

**3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live (actions, dress, behavior, speech), not to be slanderers (gossiper - character assassins), or addicted to much wine, (issue with men and women in Greek culture – and today – bondage – 70% Instagram / Facebook pics) but to teach what is good. (teach thru example and with words) 4 Then they can urge (encourage) the younger women… (what a great responsibility)**

**Do you live these? Where do you need to grow? Are you fulfilling your role to impart into younger women?**

**TO THE YOUNG WOMEN**

**4 Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, (loving and affectionate with your family. Keep your family – the main thing) 5 to be self-controlled and pure, (discreet, chaste, pure hearted) to be busy at home, (taking care of the home with care) to be kind, (generous with others) and to be subject to their husbands, (understanding godly roles in the home – equal with differences – lit. let Him lead – Eph 5:22, Col 3:18) so that no one will malign the word of God. (Christian when we don’t reflect Christ - God looks bad)**

**Do you reflect the heart of this? Are you growing in your marriage, relationships? What is the central pursuit of your life?**

**TO THE YOUNG MEN**

**6 Similarly, (the principles of above – plus) encourage the young men to be self-controlled. (sober minded – take life seriously – stop being foolish) 7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good. (older men – given them an example to follow) In your teaching show integrity, (depth of scripture – and how to handle it) seriousness 8 and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, (your words matter – take it serious. Let your speech reflect the attitude of Jesus – life giving words) so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. (above accusation)**

**Do you walk in integrity? Do your words and actions reflect the attitude of Jesus? What are others saying about you?**

**TO THOSE WITH JOBS (SLAVES)**

**9 Teach slaves (bond servants – slaves in Roman culture – powerful employers)**

**9 Teach slaves (in their work life) to be subject to their masters (their bosses) in everything, to try to please them, (good work) not to talk back to them, (not argumentative, good attitude) 10 and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, (trustworthy) so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive. (what is it about you? The work – the joy – the hope? It’s Jesus)**

**Do you respect the position of your boss? Are you argumentative or have a bad attitude at work? Are you trusting - a hard worker?**

**Walk Away’s From Titus 2**

1. **True gospel beliefs precede a true gospel behavior.**

**Titus 2:1 You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. 2 2 Teach the older men… older women… young women… young men… servants**

**Again, and again Paul tells us in this in this letter. They go hand in hand. Right living flows from right doctrine.**

**It is the Love and Truth principle… Lemonade – Sugar water and lemons – both makes it sweet**

1. **We are to love God completely with our heart, head, and hands**

**We find this here and throughout the NT – follow Jesus is a heart, head and hand issue – we feel it – learn it – live it.**

**Faith is hands on - James echoes – James 1:22** **Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. / 2:18 But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.**

1. **We are to reflect Jesus in every aspect of our life.**

**Paul addresses to Titus - Marriage – kids – work – society.**

**Some compartmentalize their faith. Pulling out the God box out on the weekends, church events, or around other Christians.**

**Jesus is not a weekend gig. It is a daily relational walk w/ the creator.**

**Luke 9:23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.**

**1 John 2:6 Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.**

**Following Jesus affects every area of life**

1. **Freedom in Christ is expressed with-in the context of a society rather than overturning it.**

**Paul is not endorsing slavery or demeaning women’s ability.**

\* **Paul often mentions slaves and masters in the many letters.**

**Shockingly Christians saw no diff between a slave & master = equals. It’s groundbreaking - they worshiped, fellowshipped, lived together – a slave could even be a church elder over his master.**

**\* As far as women – each local culture (even in Paul’s letters) were different. Women had more rights in Christianity than almost anywhere**

**Roman Empire with its diff cultures in each area… Jesus was not about over throwing a govt, system, or a king - but calls us to live opposite the system under a new King (Jesus) - being attractive & contagious!**

**This is true counter culture! Bringing change by being the change.**

**Not looking to legislation – but our own radical way of living! That is how true Christianity has thrived and grown for 2000 yrs.**

1. **We are saved out of our bad works, through the good work of Jesus Christ – to do good works.**

**The phrase. “good works” is repeated in many diff ways in Titus.**

**Bad – good works = an attempt to get God’s favor**

**Good – good works = a response to God’s goodness**

* **We are not made right with God through good works or actions.**

**Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. (Romans 3:24-28. 2 Tim 1:9, Titus 3:5, Galatians 2:15-21)**

**You cannot do enough, attend enough, give enough, be good enough to earn the grace of God – we are dead in spirit. Good needs do not bring the dead back to life. Only the cross.**

* **However - The Gospel that saves us out of ungodliness transforms us into godliness**

**A. Paul says we are saved by faith in Jesus then follows it with this - Eph 2:10** **For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

**Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (John 15”8, 1 Peter 2:12**

**Good - good works: Kalos Ergon**

**Good - Kalos = Beautiful / attractive / handsome / worthy /**

**Good that inspires = an outward reflection of inward good.**

**Works – Ergon = An action. Doing business. Labor. To toil. To sweat.**

**This work is not about good intentions or well wishes – this is getting off our blessed assurance. When we reflect Jesus w/ our actions - you look Kalos (goooood)**

**It’s not giving speeches, passing out tracks, positive post on Facebook Good works defined by Jesus - Matthew 25:34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’**

**James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**

**We are not made right with God through them – We are saved by grace thru faith in Jesus alone not works (Ro 3:24, Ep 2:8-9, Ga 2:16) - But we are saved thru Jesus to do good works**

**Saved to be doers - of love, of justice, of truth, action people!**

**Why this is all so important? Why are our actions so important?**

**Paul tells Titus why next…**

1. **We live godly and do good works – so others can see Jesus and know his salvation.**

**Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. (knowing this and having a desire to see others know Jesus) 12 It (Jesus grace) teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,**

**Our motivation for living godly lives is not salvation security, a fear of God, a desire to look good, or get attention – it is motivated by helping others (all people) meet Jesus!**

**Titus 2:13 while we wait for (looking for) the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, (return of Jesus) 14 who gave himself for us (on the cross) to redeem us (bought us back) from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, (a special people) eager to do what is good.**

**We are compelled to renounce worldly ambitions and godlessness by the HS – to live self-controlled lives, upright & godly – so others might see Jesus!**

**1 Peter 2:12 Live such good lives among non-Christians that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (That means they look for it as one redeemed. Phil 2:13-16)**

**We want to clear the brush! Mow it down! Let them see Jesus – pull the weeds!**

**Titus 2 ends with - Titus 2:15 These, then, are the things you should teach. (that we are saved by faith thru the work of Jesus on the cross, to do good works) Encourage (teach it – encourage it) and rebuke with all authority. (correct it – when necessary) Do not let anyone despise you. (don’t worry about what other people say – live it)**

**Take a good look at your life – is your life distracting the view of Jesus? Are you taking steps to clear the brush? Are your actions and choices reflecting the salvation you are been given?**