LIFT – **Titus pt3 – Remember When**

**The rocky beautiful island of Crete just off Greece. Once an island of culture and wealth – it has become an island of freebooters & drifters – with a bad reputation as dishonorable opportunists.**

**Titus was left there by his spiritual father to be a pastor to pastors – and lead new believers (former pirates) in how to be disciples.**

**Previously on – TITUS**

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

**Written by – The Apostle Paul - Titus 1:1**

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

**Written to – Titus - Titus 1:4**

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

**Written for – Encouragement & instruction - Titus 1:5**

**Titus is disciple-ing new followers who had bad habits, most of this letter deals w/ living lives that reflect Jesus - and understanding the salvation of Jesus.**

**\* Titus 1 - Christian leaders conduct / Titus 2-3 - Christian conduct**

**Big idea: New wild believers: picking godly leaders & living godly lives**

 **This week – we pick up where we left off – Chapter 3**

**Titus 3:1 Remind the people…**

7 Reminders To Give To The People

**Titus 3:1 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, (submit to the govt) 2 to slander no one, (leaders / neighbors / friends / strangers – anyone – when it seems things are going to crazy town – and a person seems out of control – we are to instead) to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone. (have a gentleness and humility – with everyone)**

1. **Remember who God is and that He is always in control**

**\* God has all authority under control – “subject to rulers & authorities”**

**Does not sound easy in the world we live in today – it especially wasn’t for them. Roman (Violent & evil) Crete (crooked leaders).**

**1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.**

**Romans 13:1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which is from God. The authorities that exist have been appointed by God.**

**Issues of Civil disobedience = when it contradicts God’s law. To protect the rights of the innocent and against injustice.**

**\* God has every circumstance under control –**

**“slander no one… be peaceful, considerate, gentle”**

**It’s not always easy to be kind – when we are being attacked or don’t like something - hold your tongue. Turn down the drama.**

**Matt 5:44 - I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.**

**Luke 6:28 - Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.**

**1 Peter 3:9 - Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.**

**Christianity is not a faith of retribution, but of restoration & peace.**

1. **Remember who you where before Christ**

**Titus 3:3 (Remember) At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.**

**Think back, what was your vice? What was your life like? Take a walk down the road again - remember how foolish you were**

**Your attitude? Actions? What rat hole were you rescued from.**

**When we remember what we were like - we can have grace with others – because we know what it’s like to be lost and in need.**

1. **Remember what Christ has done for you**

**Titus 3:4 But - when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, (love that - the kindness of God – love of God = Jesus) 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.**

**Saved not because we deserve it - none of us deserve it. It is by his will and favor. Pulled out of the mud – guilty as sin – deserving judgement - instead Jesus generously poured out his blood!**

**A few dynamic Christian words are in this passage – let’s take a look**

**Titus 3:4 But - when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, (love that – the kindness of God – the love of God = Jesus) 5 he saved us,**

**\* Saved (rescued from our sin, self, and sentence) Are you saved?**

**5b …not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.**

**\* Mercy (compassionate pardon) We don’t get what we deserve!**

**5c… He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal**

**\* Reborn (new life, born-again, rebirth, fresh start!) Dead in spirit come to life (2 Cor 5:17 - if anyone be in Christ…) Are you born again?**

**\* Renewed (make right) God takes what is broken & makes it right**

**Are you broken? I know the healer of the heart and soul.**

**5d …by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,**

**\* The Holy Spirit (God takes up residence) Working in and thru us – poured out and poured in – to lead, guide, instruct, make new**

**7 so that, having been justified by his grace, (two great words!!!)**

**\* Justified (declared not guilty) – “just as if you never sinned”**

**\* Grace (underserved favor) – can’t earn or deserve but you get it!**

**God’s amazing grace, that saved one like me!**

**7b … that we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.**

\* **Heirs (eternal life) We inherit the riches of God = eternity. Again not because we deserve – but out of his loving kindness!**

**John 1:12 - Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (As his child, we inherit his riches) Are you a child of God? You can be!**

**The sound doctrine Paul was instructing them to follow in Titus 2:1 – this is that!**

**Here’s the next reminder – Titus 3:8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.**

1. **Remember that others need to know this**

**We need to talk about these things – tell others about these things – About our story – our new life – the cross of Jesus - grace of God!**

**Others need this – many are lost and confused – searching – or wandering thru life - invite others to know the hope of God!**

**That is our mission – go and tell – compel them to come!**

**Here’s the next reminder – Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish (lit. stupid) controversies (disputes) and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, (The Jewish Rabbis spent their time focusing on opinions and conjecture – making us pedigrees and arguing about who was more important in the OT) because these are unprofitable (not helpful and divisive) and useless.**

1. **Remember your attitude can negatively affect others**

**The big point of this is – don’t be divisive. Some people just like to argue and look for things to argue about – Paul reminds us - Don’t!**

**How we treat others - talk to others – act with others – what we pick to focus on. Some attitudes can be useless and hurtful for others to find Jesus. When the world sees us throwing rocks at each other…**

**Rock - Open handed and close fisted issues - Keep the main ting the main thing. (we are to hold tight – sound doctrine)**

**Titus 3:10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. (Confrontation is not easy, but necessary) 11 You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.**

1. **Remember some things are worth fighting for**

**Paul is teaching us in Titus 1-2 – Fight for the truth!**

**Paul is teaching us in Titus 3 – Fight for unity!**

**There comes a time when some have to be called to the table!**

**Not easy – but necessary. Unity and confrontation a delicate dance. Confrontation is to keep unity,.**

**Apostle Paul’s losing comments – Titus 3:12 As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. 13 Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. 14 Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives. (Remind them to be good hosts to them)**

**15 Everyone with me (friends) sends you greetings. Greet those (friends) who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. (He Mentions four friends by name – and speaks of others with him and those on Crete)**

**I love how Paul is investing in his current friends and looking out for his old friends. Even if he can’t be with them. Paul is a real person w/ real friends - who he hung out and cared for.**

1. **Remember healthy friendships need nurturing**

**People may come and go – but true friends keep in touch and nurture the relationship.**

**Sometimes you really see the depth of the friendship at a distance.**

**Friendships are hard to maintain and important – they need to be cherished and nurtured – care for – worked on.**

**Jesus in his humanity, had friends. He laughed, loved, and even cried with and for his friends.**

**It was to his friends, when speaking of the cross - Jesus said – John 15:13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.**

**Church is people - not a building. It is friendships & family living their best to lift up and reflect Jesus in our lifestyle, actions, words, & deeds. So that - YOU - might see Jesus in us and know His salvation.**