**Counter-Culture –** **Titus pt5 – Work It Out**

**God was working among some of the hardest and wildest hearts in the Mediterranean - coming to Christ and needing to know what to do next.**

**Paul left Titus in charge – and gave him a mission:**

**Establish these new disciples into healthy churches.**

**Titus is commissioned to disciple new followers with a bad reputation and bad habits; as a result, most of this letter deals w/ reflecting Jesus.**

**Broken into 3 parts – Paul instructs Titus on:**

* **Ch 1 – Character & conduct of the Christian leaders in church**
* **Ch 2 – Character & conduct of Christians in church**
* **Ch 3 – Character & conduct of Christians w/ those outside church**

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

* **It’s now up to Titus to get the churches established.**
* **First things first – set in qualified leaders.**
* **Second – instruct proper conduct after salvation.**

**Some of the things in Titus 2:1-12 included – teach them to have: character, integrity, dignity, purity, patience, perseverance, kindness, self-control, sound speech, marriage and family-focused, and a strong work ethic. (Reminds me of Galatians 5 – the fruit of the Spirit)**

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

**Paul gives Titus three reasons… after several challenges, he adds…**

**Titus 2:5b … (so) that the word of God may not be reviled. (Blasphemetai – profane, slander)**

1. **So that the Word of God will not be discredited**

**Hypocritical Christians give ammo to skeptics, atheists, agnostics, and the bitter.**

**Titus 2:8b … so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.**

1. **So that the critics will be silenced**

**A life that is above accusation and filled with kindness, goodness, generosity – silences people.**

**Proverbs 25:21 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, 22 for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.**

**Hot coals – sears their conscience - Brings conviction**

**Titus 2:10b …so that in everything they (our actions) may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior… (“so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.” NIV)**

1. **So that Jesus is clearly seen**

**Our good deeds adorn our lives with Jesus. Good deeds are more than just good – but they are attached to Jesus (Doctrine)**

**They highlight the truth of God. Decorate the house/windows. Our good actions in the name of Christ make Christ appealing.**

**(Caring for the poor in the 1st century)**

**\*\*\* We live godly lives and do good works – so others can see Jesus.**

**Paul instructs Titus to tell the new believers that living a life that reflects Christ - is a powerful witness to the world.**

**1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. (That means they will then look for it as one redeemed)**

**We are to clear the brush! Mow it down! Pull the weeds!**

**Let them see Jesus – our lives can send mixed messages.**

**Where we left off last week. Paul wraps up this section with a powerful recap. Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. 15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.**

**Wow - Paul drops some rich and beautiful truth here.**

**Let’s break this down:**

**11 For the grace of God has appeared (Jesus – the grace of God - came to us!)**

**\*\* Grace has come**

**GRACE = God’s unmerited (undeserved) favor and kindness**

**The same idea in - Titus 3:4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy (more in this next week)**

**We were not looking for it, didn’t want it, didn’t deserve it, and couldn’t find it (Rom 5:8-10) Given to us by God’s will before time began (2 Tim 1:9-10) Christ has finally appeared!**

**God’s goodness has appeared! Jesus walked the earth.**

**He did not just appear but also…**

**11 For the grace of God has appeared, (Jesus) bringing salvation for all people,**

**This is not universalism (explain) – This is the one and only gospel - lit. means preached and offered to all people.**

**1 Tim 4:9 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. 10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.**

**\*The Cross is sufficient for all, but only effective for the called**

**While his blood is sufficient for all, it is only effective for those who believe it. It is only by the HS that one hears and believes.**

**11 For the grace of God has appeared, (Christ has Come – the cross) bringing salvation for all people (Salvation is given) then… 12 training us to renounce (stop) ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age… (we walk differently)**

**Grace is training us to renounce our old life.**

**“In this present age…” We have our own present age.**

**In light of how this world lives, working against, contradicting the word of God - we live it out – we are counter-culture.**

**\*\* A true encounter with God’s grace will produce godliness**

**Those who are truly saved – begin to walk differently.**

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

**We find this throughout the NT, there is a new way of life.**

**John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments.**

**John 14:23 - Jesus replied, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word…”**

* **Obedience is birthed out of a relationship with Jesus (by the HS)**
* **Obedience flows from a love for Jesus**
* **The greater our love for Jesus – the greater our obedience**

**Temptation: What do you love (desire) more at that moment? Growing in our love for Jesus – results in greater obedience.**

**We are filled with the HS, and he works in us to change us**

**In the meantime, we wait… *(living)* godly lives in the present age 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.**

**Some core foundational pillars: This is the Gospel!**

**\*\* Jesus is God**

**2:10 …the doctrine of God our Savior**

**2:14 …our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**

**Calling Jesus’ savior and God declares the wonderful divinity of Jesus Christ! This is one of many verses that teach this.**

**\*\* Jesus, fully God – died (in the flesh) on the cross for our sin**

**13 …(our) Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself (PSA - the cross) for us to redeem us from all lawlessness**

**The God of all creation and eternity – stepped into skin.**

**Lived a sinless life and died on a sinner's cross…**

**Why? To take your place. To bear your judgment. To redeem.**

**“For all lawlessness” – he took it all. Cast it at his feet!**

**\*\* Jesus makes his enemies, his family**

**14 …to purify for himself a people for his own possession (John 1:12)**

**We are made holy in Christ – and declared his family.**

**You have a place – a home – a family. You are his in Christ.**

**You are wanted. You are a treasure in him. (1 Pet 2:9)**

**\*\* Jesus is coming back**

**2:13-14 3 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ…**

**The return of Jesus – whether now or in 100 yrs - will happen. And so we wait. A happy hope.**

**2 Tim 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.**

**John Piper: if we are not wanting it or loving his appearing.**

**We might not understand it or be on the path for it.**

**\*\* Until then – be eager to do good!**

**…who are zealous for good works.**

**When we see the cross – the blood that is shed – the price that was paid – we are eager – compelled – zealous to live it out!**

**Good works is not the gospel; it is the fruit of the gospel.**

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

**Titus 2 ends with - Titus 2:15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.**

**Declare these things**

**What things? The appearing of Christ – His deity, death, resurrection – and grace to forgive – and to live a godly life!**

**Teach that this is not a cheap grace!! We are saved by faith thru the work of Jesus on the cross, to do good works.**

**exhort and rebuke with all authority.**

**Teach it – encourage it – and when necessary, rebuke and correct with authority those who do not follow it.**

**The cross saves us from our sins and from the power of sin.**

**To know Christ is to walk and talk a different life.**

**Let no one disregard you.**

**Don’t worry about what other people say – live it and teach it.**

**A few walk-aways!**

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.**

**Faith is hands-on - 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.**

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

**Good, good works = a response to God’s favor.**

1. **These behaviors are our best witness**

**These values are so completely counter-cultural - people will notice.**

**Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

**They point to hope and get people wondering – they get attention and get people asking questions.**

**1 Peter 3:15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.**

**We live it – and live ready to explain why.**

1. **Sometimes, the best message is lived out in the mundane**

**Being a good husband and wife – showing up on time to work, keeping your commitments, being kind and generous.**

**1 Peter 2:12 - Conduct yourselves with such honor among the Gentiles that, though they slander you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us**

**Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**

**Our motivation for living godly lives is not salvation security,**

**a fear of God, a desire to look good, or to get attention – it is motivated by helping others meet Jesus!**

* **What we believe matters**
* **How we live matters**

**\*\*\* Christian stumbler – you might struggling to live out your faith. If you are truly a Christian – you have all you need.**

**2 Peter 1:3 - His divine power (The Holy Spirit in us) has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.**

**\*\*\* Curious seeker – the truth is, you need the savior.**

**Unlike every religion in the world, Jesus offers his grace to all who turn to him. The weight of our sins can never be outweighed by our good.**

**A scale of our sin vs our good deeds**

**Our sin vs the cross of Christ**