

“Paul’s Letter to Titus — The Beginning”

Review: “Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy — Why Should We Follow Paul?”

- ***Why Should We Follow Paul? Christ Spoke with Him from Heaven (Acts 9 & 22)***
- ***Why Should We Follow Paul? His Words are the Very Words of Christ (1 Tim. 6:3)***
 - ***Those that were being taught by the false teachers were teaching doctrine contrary to Paul’s, but Paul’s standards were the Lord’s as well, in fact, these words themselves given by Paul and others were “even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ”. We must take full note of this and its fundamental importance. How can we not “follow” and “imitate” Paul considering this? Those that don’t are skating on thin ice as it were, are they not?***
 - ***So why should we follow Paul? Because his words were the very words of Christ.***
- ***Why Should We Follow Paul? His Doctrine Must Be Our Guide (Col. 2)***

Col. 2:4-10

4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

- ***There are consequences of believing the Pauline truth — separation is implied, for if we would receive and cleave to this truth must we not also without compromise separate from the world and its teachings along with its “messengers”.***

Col. 2:11-15

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

- ***Here is the strongest statement in Paul's letters regarding the "legal essence" of the false teacher's dogmas, and the heavenly satanic beings energizing that religious and worldly system. How can we not follow Paul considering his words here?***

Col. 2:16-19

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ.

18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

- ***If we compromise we surely loose our reward. There are consequences to fellowship with the world. After all, the world is managed by satan and his spiritual counterfeits are designed to be attractive and even compelling.***
- ***Why Should We Follow Paul? His Life Demonstrated Abundant Grace***
 - ***What is our life communicating? Central to Paul's ministry of the word was his "dying" and yet still "living" by the power of God — and his abundant grace. And he is our example, our model, our type.***

2 Cor. 4:2, 5-7

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. [Christ, face to face as it were, or “in person”]

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

2 Cor. 4:11-15

11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.

15 For all things *are* for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

- *In Paul Christ's resurrection life was being manifested to all confirming the power of grace to all who saw it. If we went no where today but here it would be profitable indeed... but the apostle continues with this:*

- ***Why Should We Follow Paul? His Sufferings Are Our Example***

Col. 1:20-23

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

23 **If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;**

Col. 1:24-29 [and this is the pinnacle of the teachings here]

24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

- *Such bold and transparent testimony is found here. For Paul knew his sufferings were the very sufferings of Christ in his body (verse 24) and therefore he proclaimed it with boldness and simplicity.*
- *This word spoken conveyed the power of God giving his testimony the spiritual means to accomplish Christ's purpose and will under the rule of his working in this dispensation of grace. Isn't this what "for my sake" or "for my benefit" must mean? Paul's sufferings were designed to accomplish the purpose of God under grace. The risen Christ taught Paul those very things (including the Sacred Secret, the Mystery, and bestowed his power to Paul as he testifies in verse 29. Therefore his living out of grace was truly as he proclaimed here the work of Almighty God: "I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily"*
- *How can we NOT therefore follow this man as he speaks the very words of Christ and suffers TOGETHER with him for the sake of the Lord and his glorious ministry of abundant grace?*
- **Why Should We Follow Paul? Because His Last Will Leaves Us No Choice**
 - *Earlier he had written these words:*
 - **1 Cor. 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. See also 1 Cor. 4:16.**

But it was in his prison letters that he was free to write what we should never forget today, for it is such a blessing indeed:

Phil. 3:17-21

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is their* belly, and whose glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

- *What does imitate mean? Does it not mean to share in? This written to us, beloved, to us! How can we not desire to follow and imitate him, therefore? Are we not drawn by the spirit to do so? I well remember the day in 1970 when these and others of his words drew me.*
- *That Settles It! We must follow / imitate Paul.*
 - *No more words of my mouth are needed. You have it all here written and available for your own faith and blessing. Amen.*

Our Outline:

- *The Author of the Letter: Paul, Apostle of Jesus Christ, God Our Savior*
- *The Addressee of the Letter: Titus, Beloved Son in the Faith — Listen*
- *The Subject: Titus, Commanded to Lead All Believers in Crete — Continue!*

I. The Author of the Letter: Paul, Apostle of Jesus Christ, God Our Savior

[READ] Tit. 1:1-3

1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

- One phrase at a time — what do we have here?
 - *“Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ... [Paul, bonds slave and apostle of Christ.]*
 - *according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness ... [Interesting that*

godliness is at the center of the eternal and redemptive plan of Almighty God — see also 1 Tim. 3:16.]

- ***In hope of eternal life which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began ... [Paul is revealing promises made before the ages began regarding eternal life.]***
- ***But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me ... [There were unique times determined for the revelation of this great to be revealed through preaching.]***
- ***according to the commandment of God our Saviour” [This commandment was by the Lord to Paul from heaven’s glory.]***

○ ***What an amazing and wonderful beginning of this letter here.***

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II. The Addressee of the Letter: Titus, Beloved Son in the Faith — Listen

[READ] Tit. 1:4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. [His OWN son in the faith]

[READ] 2 Cor. 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia. [So Paul’s ministry was critically dependent on Titus!]

[READ] 2 Cor. 7:6 Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus [God is a wonderful comforter and he is pleased to use each of us for that great purpose.]

[SAME] 2 Cor. 7:13 Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all. [The comfort was multiplied in and through the Corinthian believers.]

[SAME] 2 Cor. 7:14 For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth.

[READ] 2 Cor. 8:6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

[SAME] 2 Cor. 8:16 But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.

[SAME] 2 Cor. 8:23 Whether any do enquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren be enquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ. [Paul is so very confident of Titus and his work for the Lord. The glory of Christ. This must have been so encouraging to many in the Corinthian church.]

[READ] 2 Cor. 12:18 I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?

[READ] Gal. 2:1 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.

[SAME] Gal. 2:3 But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

[READ] 2 Tim. 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

- ***Thirteen times Titus is mentioned in Paul's letters. 8 times in 2 Cor. alone, for it was to Corinth that Paul sent Titus to minister.***
- ***His "son" in the faith. Only Titus, Timothy and Onesimus are called by this designation. This is a most personal kind of reference, isn't it? If you were introduced to the faith by someone, would you ever forget them? Wouldn't you always hold them in the highest regard? And the converse is equally true. Those the Lord used to bring others to Christ are usually help in special regard, aren't they.***
- ***What is most of interest in these Pauline references is this: he is mentioned 13 times in four different letters. Eight times Titus is referred to by name in 2 Cor. with three times in chapter 7 and three in chapter 8. It is clear that the reason for this is that Titus is a very special person to Paul and also to the Corinthian church as we have seen here in our readings.***
 - ***Yes, some would be critical of Titus and would question his honor. But Paul was sure there would be no basis for such a challenge.***

III. The Subject: Titus, Commanded to Lead All Believers in Crete — Continue!

[READ] Tit. 1:5-9 [Keep on keeping on ...]

5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

- ***The principle in effect in Paul's ministry is made so very clear here. The multiplication principle I have called it many times here.***
- ***Paul had begun what he now wants Titus to continue***, “set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee”.
- ***But the requirements were very high and exalted.***
 - ***If any be blameless,***
 - ***the husband of one wife***
 - ***having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.***
 - ***For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre***
 - ***But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men [things]***
 - ***sober, just, holy, temperate***
 - ***Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.***
- ***There are very, very high standards set here. You might wonder how the Gentile converts could full such high standards. But no matter, Paul expects Titus to uphold the same standards he had set for himself. What we know for sure is that Paul did not consider them to be too high, for it was the work of the Holy Spirit of God and not the work of Titus that would make the difference.***
- ***What catches my attention here so early in the letter are these words in verse 9:*** “Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.”

- *So the teaching ministry would need to be central to the work of Titus. I am sure he had been well taught by Paul or he could not have written this letter as he did.*
- *Paul's level of confidence in the work of Almighty God is astounding. We would probably consider these words to be risky but his confidence was in the Lord, not Titus. But the one reflected directly on the other of course.*
- *"Faithful word ... sound doctrine": This is the most important criterion for anyone placed in a leadership position over the churches and God's people. Fewer and fewer of the leaders and the pastors today are serving honorably, it seems. So sad.*

Application: