

“Realities to Remember”

Titus 3:1-8

Pastor John Miller

I. Introduction

- A. Paul has given Titus instruction on belief and behavior in the church in Chapter 1 and in the home in Chapter 2. Now, Paul moves purposefully from the inner circles of the home and church to the outer circle of secular society in Chapter 3.
 - 1. The pattern of Chapter 3 is the same as that of Chapter 2. It begins with ethical instruction on how Christians are to behave in a non-Christian world.
 - 2. After, he grounds our behavior in Christian belief.
- B. Paul tells Titus (v.1) to “put them to mind” or literally to “remind them.”
 - 1. Why? Because the teaching he is about to give is not new. They had heard it before.
 - 2. Illustration- Because one of our great dangers as Christians is forgetfulness
 - 3. *“So also today, pastors and Bible teachers need to be delivered from the unhealthy lust for originality, and take paths to make old truths new and stale truths fresh.”* –John Stott
- C. What did Paul want Titus to remind the believers on Crete of? Three realities to remember.

II. Remember Your Civil Obligations (Titus 3:1-2)

- A. Your Christianity should make you a better citizen.
 - 1. Christians have their true citizenship in Heaven, yet that does not relieve them of being good citizens on earth.
 - 2. God has ordained human government.
 - a) “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers for there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God” (Romans 13:1).
 - 3. Paul said that “we should pray for all that are in authority” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
 - 4. Paul puts our civil obligations into two categories
- B. Toward rulers (v.1)
 - 1. “To be subject” (v.1)
 - a) It’s voluntary (Romans 13:1)
 - b) Illustration- Peter (Acts 5:29)
 - 2. “To obey” (v.1)
 - a) Law abiding
 - b) Magistrates (v.1)
 - 3. “To be ready for every good deed” (v.1)
 - a) Not just law-abiding, but public-spirited and eager to do what is good

- b) The purpose of the state is to punish evil and to promote good. If the state starts to promote evil, then we cannot cooperate with it.

- 1) Illustration- John Bunyan

C. Toward all men (v.2)

- 1. Paul opens with reference to “no man” and ends with “all men.” (v.2)
 - a) Paul is telling us what our social attitudes and behavior should be toward all unbelievers.
- 2. Negatively
 - a) “Speak evil of no man”
 - 1) Blaspheme
 - 2) Don’t slander
 - 3) Wrongdoings are to be exposed and rebuked
 - b) “Don’t be a brawler”
 - 1) Contentious
 - 2) Peaceable
 - 3) Fighting and quarreling
- 3. Positively
 - a) “Gentle” or “considerate”
 - 1) To show clemency and to be conciliatory
 - b) “Meekness” or to “show courtesy”
 - 1) Be like Jesus
 - 2) Towards unbelievers, no matter what their race or religion is
 - 3) It’s difficult
 - a. God’s grace in our lives should produce grace living.
 - b. Remember, we are to “adorn the doctrine of God” (Titus 2:10).

D. Paul goes on now to spell out the theological reason why Christians are to have a social conscience and behave responsibly in public life.

III. Remember Your Former Condition (Titus 3:3)

- A. Paul reminded them that before salvation, their behavior was sinful or anti-social.
 - 1. We are to be Christ-like toward the world, for you were once just like them.
 - 2. We see human life and behavior without the saving grace of God
- B. We were “foolish” and “disobedient” (v.3)
 - 1. We were both mentally and morally depraved
- C. We were “deceived” and “enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures” (v.3)
 - 1. It hurts others
- D. We lived in “malice” and “envy” (v.3)
 - 1. “Malice” is wishing people evil, while “envy” is resenting and coveting their goods.
 - 2. Both disrupt human relationships
- E. We were “being hated” and “hating one another” (v.3)

1. This is how society lives apart from knowing the Savior, Jesus Christ
2. They don't know the grace of God
3. Should not be in the church
4. Our former life was the opposite of how we are now to live.
 - a) *"Thus a deliberate antithesis seems to be developed between the kinds of people Christians should be and the kind of people we once were. It is a contrast between submissiveness and foolishness, between obedience and disobedience, between a readiness to do good and enslavement by evil, between kindness and peaceableness on the one hand and malice and envy on the other, between being humble and gentle and being hateful and hating."* –John Stott

F. How does a person break out of the old mindset and lifestyle and move into the new?

IV. The Source of Salvation (Titus 3:4)

- A. Salvation originates with God.
 1. We were deceived and enslaved, and we could not save ourselves.
 2. Contrast with all other philosophies and religions
 - a) New Age
 - b) Know yourself, save yourself
- B. Paul traces our salvation back to its source.
 1. The kindness and the love of God (v.4)
 2. It came in the person of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior
 3. We acted in hate and disobedience, but God acted in kindness, love, and mercy (v.5)

V. Remember Your Great Salvation (Titus 3:4-8)

- A. The answer to leaving the old life of foolishness, disobedience, and being enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures
 1. He saved us (v.5)
 2. Paul gives a full and comprehensive statement on salvation (vv.4-7)
 3. The heart of Christianity is that God sent His Son to save us.
 - a) Something we couldn't do for ourselves
 - b) "The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world" (1 John 4:14).
 4. Ingredients of salvation
- B. The need for salvation (v.3)
- C. The grounds of salvation (v.5a)
 1. Not by our works of righteousness
 - a) His mercy
 - b) He sent His Son
 - c) The cross
 - d) His love and mercy led Him to send His Son
- D. The means of salvation (v.5b)
 1. The washing of regeneration (v.5b)

- a) It's salvation pictured as a bath
 - b) Illustration- (John 13)
 - c) The water of the Word
- 2. Renewing of the Holy Spirit (v.5b)
 - a) To be entirely new in kind
 - b) The Holy Spirit is the agent in regeneration, and the Word of God is the instrument.
- E. The goal of salvation (v.7)
 - 1. "Being justified by His grace"
 - a) "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds" (Romans 3:28).
 - 2. "Heirs according to the hope of eternal life"
 - a) With Him in Heaven (John 14)
 - b) It's our hope of Heaven
- F. The evidence of salvation (v.8)
 - 1. Paul's faithful saying (vv.4-7)
 - 2. Now again, the doctrine of God that we are to adorn
 - a) By our good works that we are to maintain (Titus 2:14)
 - 1) "Who gave Himself for us that..."

VI. Conclusion

- A. Our past
 - 1. Justification and regeneration
- B. Our present
 - 1. A new life of good works in the power of the Spirit
- C. Our future
 - 1. The inheritance of eternal life forever in Heaven with our Savior, Jesus Christ
- D. All because of the kindness and love of God