

TITUS 1:1-4

A. Introduction

1. Titus is one of three letters that the apostle Paul wrote, which are known as the Pastoral Epistles.

These are letters addressed to individuals who were church leaders.

2. One of those church leaders was a man called Titus.

Titus was Paul's problem solver.

He had been given the task of persuading the Corinthian Christians to support Paul's collection for the poorer Jewish churches in Judea (2 Corinthians 8:6, 16-17, 23-24).

Now he has a new problem to solve.

The church in Crete needed leaders who would establish right beliefs and right behaviour in the congregation.

So Paul writes to Titus, who he has sent to Crete, to instruct him how to do this.

3. Why Titus?

Titus is a great book for us to study together because it gives us a model for how to lead a local church that is healthy in terms of what it believes and how it behaves.

In the opening greeting to Titus, Paul reminds us what the goal, method and motivation of our ministry is.

B. The Goal of our Ministry

1. What was the aim of Paul's ministry?

"Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness." (Titus 1:1)

Firstly, it was the salvation of God's elect – 'for the faith of God's elect'.

One goal of Paul's ministry is to bring those whom God has chosen to faith in Jesus.

But he does not stop once people are converted.

Secondly, it was the maturing of God's elect – 'for... the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness'.

He wants to see converts become disciples as they grow in their obedience to everything Jesus has commanded.

2. Application.

Although we are not apostles (in the sense Paul was), we are servants of God, and therefore the goal of our ministry in this local church should be the same as his.

We want to see people become Christians.

We want to see people remain as Christians.

We want to see people grow as Christians.

This is the purpose for which we serve as elders.

C. The Method of our Ministry

1. How do people become Christians, remain as Christians and grow as Christians?

"A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour." (Titus 1:2-3)

Through the preaching of the gospel.

2. What is the gospel?

That God has promised eternal life for those who trust in Him.

That God has provided eternal life for those who trust in Him.

3. Application.

It is only by preaching of the gospel that we will see people become Christians, remain as Christians and grow as Christians.

Why?

Because only the gospel saves people.

Because only the gospel changes people.

D. The Motivation of our Ministry

1. What is it that will cause us to preach the gospel with the aim of seeing people become Christians, remain as Christians and grow as Christians?

"To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour." (Titus 1:4)

It is knowing God's grace and peace.

Those who know God's grace and peace will serve not only because they have to, but also because they want to.

Those who know God's grace and peace will serve knowing that no matter they do, their salvation is secure, because it depends not on what we do, but on what God has done.

2. Application.

Before we speak the gospel to others, we need to speak the gospel to ourselves.