

TIT 3.0



NT10: TITUS

(TITUS CHAPTER 3)/PRAY

Well, we have entered into our final CHAPTER of this AMAZING BOOK that we have TITLED...

The Missionary's Operations Manual

And like any good operations manual, WHAT GOD GIVES to us (through the inspired PEN of PAUL to TITUS—his missionary comrade in Crete) IS FULLY SUFFICIENT for EQUIPIING that MISSIONARY for what HE needs to FOCUS ON and FUNCTION BY while in his respective MISSION FIELD---INLCUDING as WE SEE (in what will PROVE to BE OUR THIRD SUBJECT (from the book)...

S4 = How churches in the mission field are to respond to “outsiders” and why (1-15).

-NO DOUBT the missionary (and those churches he plants) will encounter “outsiders” in their work and witness---AND so INSTRUCTION needs to be given as to their HANDLING...(or their response to them)...

-AND when I say “outsiders”—I am referring to the THREE GROUPS/PEOPLE Paul reveals in this CHAPTER

-(IOW) There are three types of “outsiders” he reveals (as those the missionary and the churches he plants will have to deal with—and know how to respond to :

-government and governing authorities

-factious people

-travelling/visiting missionaries

(How the churches in the mission field are to respond to the government and governing authorities...)

1. In service and complete respect.

((1-2))

“Remind them” = the missionaries and the churches they plant.

“rulers...authorities” = (ἀρχη: rule ... ἐξουσία: power) = those human beings currently ruling--or in power (legally or illegally) where we currently are in the world (Luk 12:11; Rom 13:1-3).

* The Romans in Israel were a perfect example of “illegal” rule and power on many occasions (Deu 17:15, 23:6)--yet consider Christ’s response (Mat 22:15-21; Luk 13:1-3; Joh 19:11).

**Every text in the NT dealing w/ this issue makes it clear that (as Christians), we must recognize all gov’ts and governing authorities ruling --or in power—whether they received such positions lawfully—OR ILLEGALLY (and that includes even in this country!)

“to be subject (to them)...to be obedient” = though these are different words in Greek, they refer to the same thing--which means the REASON we find them together (here) is FOR EMPHASIS—Paul is stressing how important it is that WE SUBMIT to those governing authorities which God has placed over us.

*The only time we disobey; when we they command us to do is in direct violation of God’s commands (Act 5:29)

“ready for every good deed” = (As we saw last week) this is part of what the grace of GOD does in the hearts of all those who are truly saved—He makes us “zealous for good deeds” (2:15)---and that includes (then) even “good deeds” in relation to unbelievers (which is what governing authorities are assumed to be in this context!). This is what Jesus is talking about in ((Mat 5:38-47...ex.Mat 17:23-27)).

“malign no-one...” = (βλασφημέω) = (lit.) “blaspheme” no-one---meaning those government authorities. Example: saying disrespectful things about our President.

“to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.” = Again this is referring to the governing authorities! We are to present our best behavior before those in those positions—not getting angry—or irritated—by their actions/decisions—or laws---even (when) suffering under evil/perverted men! (1Pe 2:11-17, 3:15-16)---this is one of the KEY WAYS (according to Peter) that we show we do have a “hope” and are truly born again --((1Pe 1:22-2:10)) ((This was Paul: 2Co 6:1-8))

*This (BTW) is why believers make the BEST citizens---they are always respectful of those governing authorities GOD has placed over them. ((Paul’s example before Agrippa—Act 26:2, 28-29))

**This is invaluable instruction for missionaries and the churches they are attempting to plant on foreign soil...since these are the kinds of questions they must ANSWER (in relation to the foreign governments they will encounter):

-What SB the church’s policy toward the government of the nation where that church is planted?

(and likewise...)

-What should it be toward the local governing authorities in the village or city in which they exist?

-Should they reach out to them—or exist in isolation from them?

-Should they let them know they are in the community and attempt to serve—or show no consideration for the community and its concerns?

-Should they teach their people to have an attitude which is critical and condescending in relation to the government and governing authorities and their laws—or one which communicates honor and respect?

-(According to Paul—and what we just saw from these verses)...WHEN churches are planted in a community they should show that community (and its authorities) an attitude of service and respect—(IOW) that they are there to truly be an ASSET—or TEAM PLAYER (in that community)—not a critic or trouble-maker (1Pe 4:15) (Paul's example: 1Th 2:9; 2Co 1:12).

**In considering this we need to remember that the first century had many of the same problems that we have today (abortion, crime, drunkenness, immorality, poverty, corrupt and evil rulers, etc.)...YET never do we find Christians living during that time rioting, complaining against the government, starting political groups or picketing at the capital! They had every reason to do so—but NEVER did---instead they did their best to SHOW their respect for their GOVERNING AUTHORITIES no matter how bad it was.*

“The early Christians of the first century lived under a much more oppressive government than we in America, and yet they willingly submitted to Rome and never once attempted to form a political party—or even change Roman laws that they deemed immoral. They had much more justification for doing so than we in America, but never did.” --Darryl Erkel

**What THEN this looks like practically for us (as a church): NOT “church-community days” where we all go out to a local park and plant trees—BUT RATHER individuals living lives w/in that community/nation which DO NOT get caught up in the cynical and critical crowd which dominates the American landscape and internet; refusing to make pot-shots at gov't officials/policies---OR TO THINK that the political process is the KEY to CHANGE!*

“Today’s misspent enthusiasm for political solutions to the moral problems of our culture arises from a distorted view of both politics and Christianity—too low a view of the power of a sovereign God and too high a view of the ability of man. The idea that human systems, reformed by Christian influence, pave the road to the Kingdom—or at least revival—has the SAME utopian ring that one finds in Marxist literature. It also ignores the consistent lesson of history that shows that laws are most often reformed as a result of powerful spiritual movements (not vice versa). I know of no case where a spiritual movement was achieved by passing laws.” --Charles Colson (2Co 10:3-5; Eph 6:18).

-The kind of “political involvement” which God approves of—and makes us the best citizens of any nation: praying for our gov't leaders and voting for the freedom of the Church so the gospel goes unhindered into the world---((1Ti 2:1-8)); making sure that when we get the opportunity before authority figures our pleas are not for social reform—but sharing the gospel --(Act 24, 26)-- Felix, Festus and Agrippa—when Paul was before them he didn't complain about wrongdoing in the gov't—but shared the gospel!

-What this looks like practically means also refusing to be the kind of person who THINKS they can ignore those laws which they consider silly or unreasonable—or minor—or something (you think) no one cares about—or will find out about---BUT RATHER doing your part to help BAIL OUT the country where your CHURCH currently resides. ((Jer 29:7))

**What to keep in mind: WE ARE ALL (informal) MISSIONARIES—EXISTING in THIS MISSION FIELD of the United States of America—so what applies to the foreign mission field and missionary applies to US well! (Heb 11:13; Phi3:20)

(Why-then, missionaries and the churches they plant must respond IN THIS WAY to the government and governing authorities...)

2. B/C such kindness exemplifies the kindness shown to us by God.

((3-8))

“For” = (like we have discussed when we found this little word in 1:5, 10 and 2:11) it indicates that what is about to be given is the REASON for what was previously said...THIS (IOW) is WHY there must be an attitude of service and complete respect for the gov’t and governing authorities... “FOR”—or “B/C” -----→ “we also once were foolish ourselves....”

-THIS and all the other words used in verse 3 to DESCRIBE US (“**disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another**”)---ALL refer to our former STATE as unbelievers (before 2:11—“The grace of God appeared bringing salvation...”)...BEFORE THAT (as we discussed last week) we were all of these things---WHICH MEANS WE were ONCE operating from the same place THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES are operating from: a place of absolute BONDAGE to SIN and SATAN---a place not only of foolishness but also blindness and insanity (2Co 4:4; Ecc 9:3).

*The difference maker = ((4)) –what (then) causes men to differ is NOT that some are smarter or have more discipline/will power—or grew up in a better neighborhood. THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE IS GOD and HIS GRACE (alone)! ((7))

(BTW) verse 3-5 are ESSENTIALLY the “TRINITY of DEATH” for ARMINIANISM—since in these verses we see (first) that man’s will is BOUND (not free) (v3), (secondly) that what causes men to differ IS God’s grace (versus men)(v4), and (thirdly) that God’s grace is Not something given to all men as just a “spiritual nudge” in the right direction (also the view of Arminianism)—but rather effectual unto regeneration (v5)...

-Additionally, the word “**appeared**” at the end of verse 4 is ALSO meant to PUSH US back to (2:11) WHERE (as we discussed last week) makes it CLEAR that where God’s grace appears—there ALSO you find SAVED people!

-AS a matter of FACT –what we find in chapter 3 is essentially the same thing we discussed in (2:11-15)

-The only difference: IN CHAPTER 3 Paul reveals more of the INTERNAL and INVISIBLE workings of God's SAVING GRACE---(IOW) what is happening behind the scenes (in the spiritual realm) from God's perspective:

-(4) His **"kindness"** and **"love"** is being extended.

-(5) He is mercifully saving us (**"not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness but according to His mercy (unmerited favor)"**)

-(5b) He does it in the PERSON of the **"Holy Spirit"** --((5-6)).

"washing of regeneration" = this refers to our new birth spiritually which WAS the point at which God gave to us the gifts of faith and repentance leading to OUR JUSTIFICATION in Christ (Eph 2:5-8; 2Ti 2:24-26---HS resp. for new birth: Joh 3:8).

"renewing by the Holy Spirit" = this refers to our SANCTIFICATION which takes place b/c the Spirit has made us a new creation (thru our new birth)—one which desires to live in obedience to God and Christ (2Co 5:15-17; Jer 31; Eze 36)---and ALSO HELPS us to DO it thru HIS indwelling presence and power (we however are the primary agent—Act 5:32)

*KEY THING NOT TO MISS: BOTH JUSTIFICATION and SANCTIFICATION are the GOAL of GOD's GRACE (something we discussed last week)—BUT which is also a part of these verses—MOST ESPECIALLY vv7-8.

-These verses ARE some of the most important in the whole book B/C they further RE-INFORCE the GOSPEL Paul expected all those serving as God's missionaries would PREACH---a gospel which understood the NEED for both JUSTIFICATION and SANCTIFICATION----as well as the fact that those who are truly JUSTIFIED WB those who are concerned for that VERY THING—for growing in the sanctification (or as we have been discussing it in previous chapters—in their godliness or SOUND BEHAVIOR)!

-(IOW) if we are those WHO have REC'D God's AMAZING GRACE which justifies and saves—THEN we are also those WHO are concerned about LIVING GODLY/SANCTIFIED /obedient lives to GOD---this (once more) is what is re-enforced in verses 7 and 8...

((5-7-8))

"heirs according to the hope of eternal life" = This truth implies a previous one (not mentioned) here—but elsewhere in the bib. Text—THAT we are "sons"---since only sons are heirs---and sons are identified as those concerned about obedience to GOD (godly living) and mortifying what is ungodly (or sinful) – something they do (accessing the power they have thru the indwelling Spirit) ((Rom 8:12-17)). (Notice we are the primary agent or first mover—the Spirit is merely the "Helper"—which is what Jesus calls Him! "Paraclete"-Joh 14)!

-This (then) is why Paul says what he does in verse 8—**((8))**---(IOW) if they have truly believed by God's grace—then they ARE also NOW people **"careful to engage in good deeds"** (i.e. godly deeds/behavior)...

“These things are good and profitable for men” = [TRANSLATION] good and profitable UNTO eternal life! (what else would it mean?)

*THE IDEA that OUR DEEDS do NOT matter to GOD (or are of no benefit) IS completely FOREIGN to SCRIPTURE!

THEY DO MATTER!--NOT as it relates to JUSTIFICATION—only Christ can secure that (6)—BUT as it relates to our SANCTIFICATION...

In that sense they are **“good and profitable”** and something we must **“be careful to engage in”**---
OTHERWISE we show ourselves to NOT BE those WHO HAVE RECEIVED CHRIST’S JUSTIFICATION or GOD’S SAVING GRACE....

-And this (as Paul starts verse 8) is a **“Trustworthy statement”** (IOW) you can bet your life on it!

-IF GOD has truly made a difference in your life---THEN the WAY that is made most EVIDENT is by the FACT that YOU are a person actively pursuing godliness and good deeds...

-NOT AGAIN as a means to earning your JUSTIFICATION—but as a SIGN that you have (indeed) RECEIVED it from CHRIST—and Are NOW indwelt by the HOLY SPIRIT—this is a trustworthy statement---AND—a trustworthy GOSPEL MESSAGE—that we SHOULD speak confidently to others about: THAT IF you have RECEIVED the GRACE of GOD---which brings with it SALVATION, the INDWELLING SPIRIT and CHRIST’S FULL JUSTIFICATION—THEN you are a person WHO (as a result) are LIVING VERY DIFFERENTLY from the WAY YOU USED to---you are no longer **“foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending your life in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another”** NOR are you a PERSON who THINKS those things are no longer TRUE b/c of your great smarts or discipline.

--YOU are a person WHO instead REALIZES that YOU are DIFFERENT --only B/C God’s grace---AND so (as a result) DESIRE to show the same kindness and respect and consideration to THOSE WHO don’t know such GRACE in their lives---MOST ESPECIALLY the GOVERNMENT and GOVERNING AUTHORITIES where you and your church RESIDE.

AND this (not only b/c it demonstrates that we really do believe GOD to be the game-changer and not ourselves)—BUT ALSO B/C this is HOW GOD’S MISSIONARY and the churches he plants in the mission field, ESTABLISH the BEST RELATIONS—and BEST opportunity for sharing the GOSPEL w/ those ruling – or in power.

-THIS (then) IS PAUL’S INSTRUCTION to the MISSIONARY in relation to THIS FORM of OUTSIDER on the MISSION FIELD (the gov’t and governing authorities)—BE RESPECTFUL, OBEDIENT, SUBMISSIVE and READY TO SERVE and DO GOOD DEEDS...remembering always that (if not for the Grace of GOD) you would be NO different!--AND (if they are to see that—and hopefully embrace the gospel which proclaims it) ---THEN it will BE BY such BEHAVIOR from YOU (and the churches you plant)...

GOD’S GRACE produces the BEST CITIZENS AS the BEST HOPE for reaching those in authority---MAY WE BE those kinds of citizens by Gods grace in the mission field of DENVER COLORADO!--Let’s PRAY