

Introduction: Commending 'The Faith'

The Greeting

Titus 1:1-3—¹ Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began ³ and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

1. Paul introduces himself using two important titles (1:1a)

"servant of God"—δοῦλος (*doulos*)

- ⇒ Used in the NT of Christians and their relationship to Jesus as _____ / _____. (Acts 4:29; James 1:1; Rev. 1:1)
- ⇒ Used of key OT figures such as Moses, David, and the _____. (Rev. 15:3; Acts 4:25; Matt. 21:34)
- * *This title is intended to emphasize the _____ of Paul's ministry to the work of salvation that God had begun in the OT.*

"apostle of Jesus Christ"—ἀπόστολος (*apostolos*)

- * *This title is intended to emphasize the _____ of Paul's ministry in light of the NT revelation of the person and work of Jesus Christ.*

Key Point: The use of these titles is intended to establish from the beginning of the letter that Paul's words to the churches bear the _____ of God Himself.

2. Paul describes the goal of his ministry (1:1b)

"the faith"

1 Tim. 1:4-6—If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

"elect"

- ⇒ Although Paul's ministry certainly had an evangelistic component, his concern in this letter is to _____ the faith of God's people.

"their knowledge of the *truth*, which accords with *godliness*"

- ⇒ True faith must be grounded in the _____ about Jesus Christ.

(1) His _____:

(2) His _____:

- ⇒ True faith must lead to a _____ way of life.

"godliness"—εὐσέβεια (*eusebeia*)

Key Point: Paul's instructions in this letter will center on what the churches must _____ about Jesus and how they must _____ in light of these things.

3. Paul describes the reason for his ministry (1:2)

“in *hope* of *eternal* life”

⇒ Confident _____ for the future should characterize the life of the one who lives out the faith.

John 6:40—For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

“which God...*promised* before the ages began”

⇒ The hope that believers have for the future rests in God’s decision in eternity _____.

2 Tim. 1:8b-9—share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began

Heb. 13:20—Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant

Key Point: Paul wants the churches to be reminded of the _____ purposes of God so that they will appreciate the significance of living out the faith in everyday life.

4. Paul situates his ministry in the unfolding of God’s _____ (1:3)

“and at the proper time manifested in his *word*”

⇒ God’s works are always accompanied by and interpreted through His _____.

Heb. 1:1-2—¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

1 Tim. 2:5-6—⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

“through [my] *preaching*”

⇒ The fullness of Gospel truth was made manifest to the churches through the _____ of Paul.

“with which I have been *entrusted* by the command of God our Savior”

Key Point: Paul ends his introduction by linking his ministry directly to the _____ of God, in order to once again establish his authority to instruct the churches.

Concluding Thoughts

1. _____ of and _____ to godly authority is one of the primary means by which God strengthens the faith of His people.

2. Godly authority will always point God’s people back to the truth of _____.

- To remind us of the _____ →
- To remind us of our _____ in God’s plans and purposes →
- To remind us to have an eternal _____ →

Questions for Reflection:

1. What godly authorities has the Lord placed in my life? In what ways am I prone to resist them?
2. In what areas has the Lord given me the opportunity to exercise godly authority for the benefit of others?