

Introduction: The Reformation & Mission

- This coming Thursday, October 31st marks the 502nd anniversary of Martin Luther nailing the 95 Theses to the door the Wittenberg Castle church. At the heart of the Reformation was a recovery of the Gospel message: **Salvation by _____ through _____.**
- Because of the confusion and false teaching that Christians throughout Europe had been subjected to, the early focus of the Reformation was the missionary task of establishing true churches in Europe. The reformers, however, understood that the mission of God involved bringing the good news of salvation through Christ to the ends of the earth.

"God wants his grace to be known to all the world, and he has commanded that his gospel be preached to all creatures; we must (as much as we are able) seek the salvation of those who today are strangers to the faith, who seem to be completely deprived of God's goodness."
— John Calvin (Sermons on 1 Timothy)

"We pray to you now, O most gracious God and merciful Father, for all people everywhere. As it is your will to be acknowledged as the Savior of the whole world, through the redemption wrought by Your Son Jesus Christ, grant that those who are still estranged from the knowledge of him, being in the darkness and captivity of error and ignorance, may be brought by the illumination of your Holy Spirit and the preaching of your gospel to the right way of salvation, which is to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."
—John Calvin (Sermons on Deuteronomy)

Key Point: As those who have been saved through faith in Christ and who are now called to live faithfully as His people, we have the privilege of participating with Him in His _____ to seek and save the lost.

"Fundamentally, our mission...means our committed participation as God's people, at God's invitation and command, in God's own mission within the history of God's world for the redemption of God's creation...Our mission flows from and participates in the mission of God."
—Christopher J.H. Wright, The Mission of God

Living as the Church in the World—Titus 3:1-10**The Orthodoxy & Orthopraxy of Mission — 3:8**

The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. .

- **This verse reflects back on the prior verses (3:1-7) in order to *summarize* their content & *emphasize* their purpose.**
 - ⇒ Paul has employed the 'trustworthy saying' phrase in numerous places throughout the pastoral epistles (1 Tim. 1:15, 3:1, 4:9; 2 Tim. 2:11) to _____ and emphasize the importance of a theological statement.
 - ⇒ The saying serves as the theological _____ for the practical commands that he has given.

"The saying"

Titus 3:4-7—⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- ⇒ Believers have been _____ and _____ by the Spirit.
- ⇒ Believers are _____ of all that Christ has purchased for us.

"these things"

Titus 3:1-2—¹ Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

- ⇒ Believers are to relate properly to both the governing _____ and to the _____ among whom they live.

Key Point: Believers must be taught theological _____ as well as how it should be _____ in their lives.

- **Titus must insist on these things for the *purpose* of believers giving careful consideration to how it is that they live their lives.**
 - "insist"*—διαβεβαίωμα (*diabebaioomai*)—To speak confidently, to insist.
 - ⇒ This term is in the infinitive tense, emphasizing that these things have an intended purpose.
 - "...concerning these things I want you to speak confidently..."* [NASB]

“be careful”—φροντίζω (*phrontizō*)—To give sustained thought to; be intent on, be careful.

“devote”—προϊστῆμι—(*proistēmi*)—To be over, to superintend, preside over; to have an interest in, show concern for, care for, give aid.

* Present middle infinitive—“give attention for themselves”

⇒ These terms function together to emphasize the importance of believers understanding these things and giving careful _____ as to how they are to put them into practice.

“good works”—

Key Point: Knowing Jesus as our _____ should lead us to serve Jesus as our _____.

- The outward expression of the faith of believers is of great *benefit* to unbelievers.

“These things”—

“excellent”—καλός (*kalos*)—Pertaining to being in accordance at a high level w. the purpose of something or someone, good, useful. Good, noble, praiseworthy, contributing to salvation

⇒ This is probably a reference to the observable _____ of faithful living.

“profitable”—ὠφέλιμος (*ōphelimos*) Helpful, useful, beneficial, advantageous.

⇒ This refers to the actual benefit that faithful living provides for those who observe it.

“people”—The term here is *anthrōpos*, and it seems to be used in contrast with “those who have believed in God.” He has already used this term in several places in the letter to refer to unbelievers.

1:14—not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.

2:11—For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people

3:2—to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

Key Point: Mission is enabled by our understanding of the practical _____ about faithful living and the theological truths in which they are grounded.

Concluding Thoughts

1. To give careful consideration to missional living, we must first know the _____ that we are a part of.

⇒ God has demonstrated His love for us by _____ Jesus to accomplish the work that secured our salvation.

Titus 3:4-5a—⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind (people) appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy...[NASB]

⇒ Jesus then sent His _____ to apply that work to us in order that we would be set apart for His service in the world.

Titus 3:5b-6—by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Titus 2:14—who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Example: *The Cleansed Leper of Luke 17:11-19*

2. Some practical thoughts on missional living (from This is Our Time, by Matt Chandler)

(1) _____ everyone you meet!

(2) _____ with people!

(3) Make _____ a priority!

(4) Love the _____!