

Introduction: The Power of God's Word

- The letter of Paul to his young co-worker, Titus, is filled with a great deal of practical instruction. Because of this, we would do well to be reminded of the power of God's Word.
- The Lord Himself uses certain _____ to convey to us the importance of His Word to us.

Isa. 55:1-2a—¹ "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?"

- God's Word does not merely instruct, it gives _____.

Isa. 55:2b-3a—Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live;

Key Point: The Word of God is the means by which come to know the _____ of God, and therefore His instructions to us are vital to our communion with Him.

Reflecting on Paul's Letter to Titus**The Purpose of the Letter — 1:1b-2:a**

"...for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life..."

- Paul is concerned for the *faith* of God's people!

1. We must _____ the truth!

⇒ We must understand the Gospel and its implications for both _____ and _____.

Titus 2:11-13—¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ

2. We must _____ in accordance with the truth!

⇒ Our lives should evidence _____ character.

Titus 2:2—Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.

⇒ Our lives should contrast with the surrounding culture in order that we might live as Jesus' _____.

Titus 1:12-13—¹² One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."
¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,

Titus 3:3—For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

Sound Doctrine is Vital for the Faith of God's People

- There are important means by which sound doctrine is to be both *guarded* and *passed on* within the church.

1. Godly _____ → (_____)

⇒ These men must _____ what it means to live in accordance with the truth.

Titus 1:6-8—⁶ if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷ For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.

⇒ These are to be men who have received instruction in sound doctrine and can both _____ and _____ it.

Titus 6:9—He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

2. Cross-generational _____

A _____ (2:2)

B _____ (2:3-4a)

B¹ _____ (2:4-5)

A¹ _____ (2:6-8)

} Key Phrase: "...and so train..."

- * Through their encouragement, exhortation, and example, older believers are to train younger believers in what it means to live faithfully as Jesus' witnesses.
- * Younger believers should be influenced more by the older believers of the church than they are by the surrounding _____.

Mission is the Logical Outworking of the Faith of God's People

• God's work *for* us and *in* us makes us fit to serve His mission.

⇒ We have been _____ by the power of God's Spirit!

Titus 3:4-6—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,

⇒ We have been set apart for His _____!

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.

• Believers are to live *conspicuously* as Jesus' witnesses.

1. We are to be _____ to serve God's mission.

Titus 3:1—Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work

2. We are to be _____ about our interactions with others.

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

Titus 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.

Concluding Thoughts

1. The fact that much of the content of Titus comes in the form of _____ should not overwhelm or discourage us.

⇒ *Paul's instructions to believers are rooted in Paul's theology of being "_____!"*

Eph. 1:3—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

Gal. 2:20—I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

⇒ *Paul recognizes the centrality of _____ in everything that he has written in this letter.*

Introduction (1:4b) — Theological Center (2:11-14) — Conclusion (3:15b)

2. We must recognize the importance of God's instructions to us because to know _____ is to know _____.

⇒ *To know the things that should _____ His people is to know what He Himself is like.*

⇒ *To know His instructions means to know His _____ and His _____.*

2 Pet. 1:3-4—³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.