**Paul’s Work in the Word**

*Titus 1:1-4*

**Introduction**

1. Paul wrote Titus to charge him and encourage him to be sound in the faith.
   1. Left him on the island of Crete to ***“set in order the things that are lacking” (1:5)*** – this regarded his work as an evangelist, especially one sent by Paul.
   2. **Sound** – 5 times **(1:9, 13; 2:1, 2, 8)** – *hygiainō* – denotes "to be healthy, sound, in good health" (Eng., "hygiene"), rendered "mayest be in health," in **3 John 1:2**; rendered "safe and sound" **in Luke 15:27**. (Vine)
   3. STRONG’S COMMENTS – “metaph. of Christians whose opinions are free from any mixture of error; of one who keeps the graces and is strong.”
   4. **Sound in the faith** – Paul is commanding, and encouraging Titus, and necessarily equipping him to be sound in the faith.
2. Titus was to be sound himself, and to speak things proper for ***“sound doctrine” (2:1)*** – Titus was to preach the truth, and make sure the Christians on Crete were behaving accordingly.
3. Paul thought it necessary to give a backing to Titus’ words so that the hearers would know his words carried the weight of the authority of an inspired apostle – (**1:1, 3** – apostle, word committed to him).
4. In giving this information in the letter to Titus, the people would know it was legitimate.
5. In the introduction, Paul spoke of his own work in the revealed word of God **(1:1-4)** – this is also reflected throughout the epistle, as Titus was preaching the same word, and for the same reasons.
6. By studying Paul’s work in the word, we gain a better understanding of the whole purpose and focus of preaching. We should have this understanding, and approach listening to God’s word with these matters in our minds and hearts.
7. Paul as a servant **(1:1)**
8. While the preaching of the word renders service to others, in that they are graced with the eternal truths of God, and their lives are made better by them, PAUL DID NOT PREACH FOR THE SAKE OF PLEASING MEN. He was a servant of God, and was mostly concerned with pleasing Him, regardless of his audience, and their reaction.
9. ***“Paul, a bondservant of God”***
   1. This is at the heart of Paul’s preaching, and greatly affects how we understand why he did and said the things recorded of him, as well as any who preach the truth in love:
      1. **Bondservant** – doulos – “from deo, "to bind," "a slave," originally the lowest term in the scale of servitude, came also to mean "one who gives himself up to the will of another,"… [by calling himself a bondservant, Paul intimates] (1) that he had been formerly a "bondslave" of Satan, and (2) that, having been bought by Christ, he was now a willing slave, bound to his new Master.” (Vine)
      2. His life is given totally over to Christ. HE DOES NOT LIVE ACCORDING TO HIS THOUGHTS, BUT THE MIND OF CHRIST. **(cf. Galatians 2:20** – Christ lives in him)
   2. **Lowliness** – **cf. 1 Corinthians 3:5-8** – He considers himself a simple minister, doing the will of God, but God is accomplishing these great feats of salvation in the gospel.
   3. **Single goal** – to please his Master – **cf. 1 Corinthians 4:1-5** :
      1. **(v. 1)** – Just a slave and servant of God and His word.
      2. **(v. 2)** – Wants to be faithful to God.
      3. **(v. 3)** – Is not concerned with the judgments of men. (Negative or positive)
      4. **(v. 4)** – Not seeking self-approval.
      5. **(v. 5)** – Seeking praise and approval from God.
      6. ***“FOR DO I NOW PERSUADE MEN, OR GOD? OR DO I SEEK TO PLEASE MEN? FOR IF I STILL PLEASED MEN, I WOULD NOT BE A BONDSERVANT OF CHRIST” (Galatians 1:10).***
10. Paul’s Work in the Word
11. To Increase Faith in God’s People **(1:1)**
    1. ***“for the faith of those chosen of God” (NASB)*** – not simply in harmony with their faith, but for the FURTHERANCE, and GROWTH of their faith!
    2. Connected with knowledge – ***“and the acknowledgment of the truth”*** – **cf. Romans 10:17**
       1. **Acknowledgement** – *epignōsis* – epi strengthens the word – “denotes "exact or full knowledge, discernment, recognition," and is a strengthened form of [gnosis], expressing a fuller or a full "knowledge," a greater participation by the "knower" in the object "known," thus more powerfully influencing him.” (Vine)
       2. **Saving faith** – faith that does not simply know, and believes, but acts on, and in accord with that knowledge.
    3. **Preaching to increase faith:**
       1. Instruct Old men – **(2:1-2)**
       2. Instruct Old women – **(2:3-4)** ***– “not given to much wine”*** (gluttonous behavior – a cultural vice)
       3. Instruct Young women – **(2:4-5)** – ***“discreet”*** (NASB – “sensible”)
       4. Instruct Young men – **(2:6)**
       5. Titus as an example – **(2:7-8)**
       6. Instruct Bondservants – **(2:9-10)**
       7. **Not living in sin anymore, but maintaining good works:**
          1. Remind them that they aren’t the same – **(3:1-7)**
          2. Made for good works – **(3:8, 14)** – NOTE: ***“SHOULD BE CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN GOOD WORKS”***
             1. ***“good works”*** – works that are prescribed by God in ***“sound doctrine” (2:1).***
             2. **Cf. Galatians 5:22-26** – fruit of the Spirit.
12. To Increase Godliness in God’s People **(1:1)**
    1. The truth Paul preached was “according to,” or for the purpose of influencing people toward GODLINESS:
       1. ***“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness” (1 Timothy 3:16*** – metonymy – the effect put for the cause – what the mystery is intended for – godliness.)
       2. **Godliness** – piety, reverence, toward God. (Godward mindset and attitude – seeking to be pleasing to Him in all things)
    2. **Preaching to increase godliness:**
       1. What the grace of God teaches **– 2:11-14**:
          1. Contrast ***“ungodliness”*** with ***“godly”*** of **verse 12**.
          2. The world lives so as to please themselves, and are not worried about God. **They don’t consider Him in their mind. But the Christian lives for God**!
          3. **(v. 14) –** Godly mind because of what God did for you.
       2. **Contrast with the influence of the false teachers:**
          1. **1:16** – profess to know Him, but deny Him.
          2. **Godliness is not just a profession of our mouth, but an obvious thing that can be seen.**
       3. God manifested His word through preaching **(1:3)** – revealed His word to us – **so that we could be conscious of Him, and thoughtful in our lives concerning Him – WHAT DOES GOD WANT.**
       4. **The more we hear, and study His word, the more godly minded we will be – hence, Paul’s work in the word.**
13. To Lead People to Heaven **(1:2)**
    1. The preaching of God’s word is not a hobby, nor a mere intellectual activity. It has a great spiritual purpose and significance.
    2. **God has given a promise (1:2):**
       1. God promised eternal life to those in Christ Jesus – the elect.
       2. **He cannot lie** ***– “it is impossible for God to lie, [so] we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us” (Hebrews 6:18).***
       3. **The preaching of God’s word equips men with the necessary things that will get us to heaven.**
          1. **Cf. John 14:6** – Jesus is the only way.
          2. Paul – ***“we preach Christ crucified…the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:23, 24)***.
    3. **Preaching to Lead people to heaven:**
       1. This is why Jesus died, and saved us.
       2. This is why the word was revealed, **so that we could be saved from our sins, and given hope** – **3:4-7** – we’ve obeyed the Spirit’s instructions to be baptized into Christ, and were washed from our sins, AND GIVEN HOPE – FOLLOW THE SAME WORD PREACHED TO GET TO THE REALIZATION OF THAT HOPE.
       3. Grace teaches us to look for Christ, **and HOW to look** – **2:11-14** – we are looking for His appearing by living faithfully and godly.
       4. **We are to be ever looking forward to the realization of our hope, and the preaching of the gospel equips us to do so, and reach that realization.**
14. To Preach the Gospel as Commanded **(1:3)**
    1. **Paul was not to simply preach, but to preach THE GOSPEL, and nothing else.**
       1. Only the gospel can increase faith.
       2. Only the gospel can increase godliness.
       3. Only the gospel can lead people to heaven.
       4. **NO OTHER MESSAGE, OR PERVERTED GOSPEL CAN DO THAT, SO PAUL WAS NEVER GOING TO PREACH ANYTHING LESS, OR MORE.**
    2. **Preaching only the gospel as God commanded:**
       1. **False teachers in Crete:**
          1. **(1:9)** – they contradict – sound doctrine. (**3:10, 11** – ***“divisive”*** – *hairetikos*; from the same as 140; a schismatic: — heretic (the Greek word itself). (A follower of false doctrine.)
          2. **(1:10-11)** – speak with worthless words, and in pretense, and doing so SUBVERT WHOLE HOUSEHOLDS – leading whole families into sin. (**Insubordinate** – not submitting to authority – by teaching contrary doctrine)
          3. **(1:14)** – fables – tell stories that are void of truth, and substance – the GOSPEL is the power of God to salvation, not made up stories. (Anecdotal preaching)
          4. **(1:15)** – binding where the bible does not. (Judaizing teachers – saying you must abstain from certain meats to be saved)
          5. **(1:16)** – They are actually disobedient to God, and disqualified. (not simply for their character and actions, but because of what they teach)
       2. **Responsibility of Titus and Paul:**
          1. Rebuke them, and convict them – show them they are wrong – **(1:9, 13** – elders, but also Titus, and of course Paul)
          2. **(3:9)** – Do not be dragged down to the muck with them – simply preach the word!
       3. ***“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” (2 Timothy 4:2).***
       4. Only the word of God, the GOSPEL, can save men, so that is what a preacher is to preach, **AND THAT IS WHAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD DESIRE**.
15. To Bring Grace, Mercy, and Peace **(v. 4)**
    1. **(1:4)** – This structure is seen throughout the NT in the greetings of the epistles. Often it is passed over, but is powerful, and helpful.
    2. **Grace, Mercy, and Peace BY PREACHING THE WORD:**
       1. **Initially** – **GRACE** is the MINDSET of God toward us (gracious – desire to bestow favor), **MERCY** is the product of God’s graciousness (mercy instead of just reward of death), and **PEACE** is the result (peace between God and men – thus, a peace of mind).
       2. **Continually – in realization of the reception of such, and strength derived from that knowledge and understanding:**
          1. **Grace:**
             1. **2:11-12** – found in His revelation.
             2. **3:7** – justified by His grace and given hope.
             3. ***“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9*** – knowledge of God’s grace gives us strength to endure and overcome).
             4. ***“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:1*** – such is powerful for us).
          2. **Mercy:**
             1. **3:5, 7** – the reason we were saved – God was merciful to us and washed us from our sins.
             2. **Such knowledge gives an assurance of hope of eternal life – BECAUSE OF HIS MERCY I HAVE HOPE.**
          3. **Peace:**
             1. Because God was gracious, and had mercy on us, we are at peace with Him. (***3:7 – “justified”*** before God)
             2. ***“the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).***
             3. Knowing we are right with God, and because of that we have hope of eternal life, we can have a peace of mind – **SOMETHING THAT ONLY CHRISTIANS HAVE, AND THEY HAVE IT THROUGH THE GOSPEL.**

**Conclusion**

1. Christians need to understand the goals and purposes and nature of preaching the gospel.
2. **It is not a performance, or an event. It is something which includes the entire audience, and is meant to change the hearers of the message preached.**
3. Ultimately, the gospel is preached so that men are led to heaven, and can be with the Lord forever in eternal life.