

God's Design for the Church

Titus 1:1-9

"Finding Faithful Elders" – August 14, 2022



Introduction

In this day and age, it is not so far-fetched to believe that we lack trust in others. Trust is important. Trust and truth go hand-in-hand. This issue of trust is a human problem, but it was also a problem for the people that Paul is writing to in Crete. Paul had a truth worth proclaiming.

Sermon Outline

1. A truth worth proclaiming Vs.1-3
2. A truth worth protecting Vs. 4-9

Read & Discuss

1) Read vs. 1-3

If you were Paul writing this letter, how would you define yourself? Would it be as Paul describes himself here in a humble and approachable way as a servant of God? One of the reasons that he does this is to make crystal clear that he is not writing on his own behalf. He's not giving his opinion on how they should run things. Paul is a messenger for the sake of the faith of those in Crete. He was a messenger of the truth of God, proclaiming that truth to others.

We are all fallen, disobedient sinners. We are guilty and destined for Hell without trusting in Christ. But we can be forgiven. This message is not a message of damnation but a message of hope. Paul is sending a warning. His goal is for you to trust God. Do you have challenges trusting God?

The faith of which Paul writes not only saves you, and it enables you to live as a Christian. You know longer have to worry about being good enough. You do not have to be a slave to sin. In trusting in Christ and walking with Him, you make your Heavenly Father proud. Good works do not save us, but we are saved to do good works with a joyful heart. Are you shackled to the grace of God or to the master of sin? This is a battle! But is it a fight that is already won. It ends in victory. You can have hope and joy.

If you live with trust issues - ask God for help!! He is a good God. Are you hesitant, scared often, and living in doubt? There is better news for you. These promises, this hope and enabling come from a God who NEVER lies? How is your hope? Where is your trust? Is your hope in the God who never lies?

The promise of a Redeemer was to come at "the proper time." And in God's time - the perfect time, He sent His Son. ([John 1:14](#)) God makes a promise and fulfills it. Paul wants you to trust in God. We want to trust. We want to have hope. What is preventing you from trusting? What sin is in the way of your complete trust in and obedience to God?

Why is the preached word so important? The proclaimed word has power, and it is how we hear about the truth of God. ([Romans 10:14](#))

2) Read vs. 4 – 9

Paul is writing this letter to Titus with urgency. The truth of God in which Paul was entrusted was under attack. This truth is a message of hope. There is no other hope. God's people were falling apart and floundering because of false teachers. There was no one to protect the word of God.

Do you care about the truth (the Gospel)? Things must be put in order. What can we learn about God in this passage? He is a God of order and promotes structure and order in His church. God's plan is to replace bad authority with God-fearing authority. Paul told Titus to appoint elders. Just as elders were appointed in the Ephesian church ([Acts 20:17](#)), Paul is calling Titus to do the same thing for the church in Crete.

Elders serve under the Chief Shepherd. You should see reflections of Christ in elders, but you should keep your eyes on the Chief Shepherd.

How do you get elders? You can't create one, but by God's grace you will notice them and then appoint them. Do you see how church membership and members' meetings are important? Church members are the ones who appoint and/or remove elders. Why is it also important that you pray for your elders? In what ways can you pray for your elders?

Elders are overseers - guardians of the Gospel. ([Acts 20:28-31](#)) They are God's temporary under-shepherds. The elders answer to the church and to God. ([Hebrews 13:17](#)) Elders must be gentle giants exercising their authority as a tender shepherd and a loving father.

An elder is meant for the church to give instruction - sound doctrine. They are to teach and preach the whole council of God. They are to rebuke those who contradict the sound doctrine. False doctrine spreads like a disease, and the results are devastating.

God cares about His church. He is a God of order. He is a God of truth. He makes that truth known to us. We have a God we can trust. What are some things that you need to entrust to God?

Additional Reading: 1 Timothy 3

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I understand, believe, desire, or do?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Titus 1:10-16](#) "Silencing Deceivers"