|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  Titus 1:1-4 Sermon Outline  06/02/24  “The Hope of Eternal Life”  **INTRO:**  First impressions are very important  -They set the tone for how the rest of the interaction or conversation will go  -So it is with the introduction of a letter  -An introduction acts as a summary for the entire book or letter  -A helpful tip I learned in college and in seminary was if you don’t have enough time to read an entire book for whatever reason…read the introduction and conclusion  -And there is a lot in Paul’s introduction here in Titus  -Packed full of doctrine and can spend several sermons | 2  **BODY:**  Opening = heart of apostle  Verse 1:  “*Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ*…”  Some translations: = “servant” really = “slave”  “Slave” = completely sold out in bondage to will of master  = vessel  But same time = also “apostle”  sent + commissioned directly = reveal divine truth  Privilege = write over half of NT  Paul = least of all saints = most unlikely  = chosen instrument = bring gospel to gentiles |
| 3  Identifying purpose for life/ministry =  “*for the faith of God’s elect and the full knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness*.”  Starts off with “the faith”  Faith = not only in believing/experiential trust  But faith as catch all term for entire Christian life  Entire body of truth revealed to us in God’s Word  Same sense Jude = “*earnestly contend for the faith once for all handed down to the saints*”  Faith = entirely of what we believe = sound doctrine  Ephesians 1:5-6  “*predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He graciously bestowed on us in the Beloved*.” | 4  Similar to what I mentioned before in devotional (God’s sovereignty) = glad election not based on us  Relived election not based on single molecule on us = if salvation is dependent on you even one bit, all of you should be rightly in dread of losing our salvation  Mormon story illustration:  “Do you know you will be going to heaven?”  “I’m not sure, I don’t know if I ever will be good enough”  = sum of all other religions  Never have assurance and confidence to go to heaven as believer do = relying on their own strength and flesh  You will never be good enough = that’s why Christ had to obey and fulfill all righteousness |
| 5  Romans 11 Paul anticipates “God rejected Israel”  But has saved a remnant:  “*In this way then, at the present time, a remnant according to God’s gracious choice has also come to be. But if it is by grace, it is no longer of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.*”  There it is  Grace no longer be grace if it can be earned even a little bit  = sweetest sound you will ever hear  Mormons, Catholics, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Buddhist, Shintoist, Muslims, etc. = no longer be grace if it can be earned  If you have received the grace of God through JC = assured you are one of the elect  Praise God for His unmerited grace | 6  Paul reveals other purpose of ministry  Doesn’t just leave it election, but goes on to glorification  Also after election = God brings you to full knowledge of truth which is according to godliness  Not only justifies you before Him, but He also sanctifies you  Doesn’t just turn car around…makes car run in that new direction  Word here for knowledge is more than just head knowledge of facts about Bible and doctrine  All encompassing knowledge that affects and drives will/emotions to carry out truth in practical living  Not just knowledge but knowledge of what?  Knowledge of truth |
| 7  Only when encounter life altering/life shaping/reality shaping absolute truth = equipped to live godly lives  That’s why it’s “knowledge of truth that leads to godliness”  Point of election = not gloat and sit there  No, nothing special about you that God couldn’t resist to place His love on you  He elected you so that you would become like Him “godly” to become “god” like in who you are and how you act  James “to him who knows the right thing to do and yet does not do it is guilty of sin!”  Knowledge should lead to application of that knowledge in real life  In fact 2 Peter 1:5-11 makes that connection  Turn there | 8  “*Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these things are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For in whom these things are not present, that one is blind, being nearsighted, having forgotten the purification from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and choosing sure; for in doing these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you*.”  Now it doesn’t mean we won’t ever sin or have seasons of dryness in our life, but that the general direction of your life is to grow in godliness and the knowledge of the Lord. “Are you growing in godliness? Are you growing in your desire for godliness and to be like Jesus?” |
| 9  Paul continues train of thought in verse 4 = all this is in “hope of eternal life”  All this is grounded in finished work of JC atoning death  Hope = not wishful thinking  but settled assured conviction and future reality that will come to pass  Resurrection when your body will be created anew to be reunited w/soul  Fit for heaven to be with Jesus forever  Even if blown to smitherines bob = God is able to recreate  What is backbone to confidence and hope?  A: Nature of God = cannot lie = lit. “un-lying God”  Heb. 6:18 starkly = impossible for God to lie | 10  In Heb. 6:17 verse before  “unchangeableness” of promises = immutable  Not just God refused to lie, but doesn’t even have potential to lie  Just like God doesn’t have potential to sin  To say God can’t lie = not only He is not deceptive but that He is truthworthy  ILLUST:  Who have us ever broken a promise?  Maybe weren’t deceitful but not trustworthy like God  God is unlike that, He is utterly distinct from lying Cretans and humanity as a whole  Paul in Romans: “Let God be true and every man be a liar” |
| 11  We lie not only because we are finite creatures and potential to change,  But we lie because our wills are bent toward evil from the fall  This world = operates on lies  News  Media  Business  Daily interaction = bent on not telling the whole truth  God can’t change  Fixed in nature  Immutable  No potential to lie just like how Christ not only refused to sin because it went against his nature = impossible for Christ to sin  No potential to sin because potential is not in vocabulary of the fullness of deity that is Christ | 12  God who is without lies = promised hope of eternal life from all eternity lit. “eternal times” = before time existed  Before time was created, Father wrote down all names of elect in lamb’s book of life  Gave it to his Son so that He would enter into time,  In His perfect timing to die for all elect who would ever believe in Him  Verse 3, Christ in proper time manifested His Word in preaching…like what Paul said in Gal. 4:4 that in fullness of time  “*God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons*.”  Jesus manifested Himself on earth and preached message of salvation from Himself; the Savior |
| 13  This preaching, Paul being one of the many apostles tasked to preach same message Christ came to die for sinners  Earth shattering message of truth = Paul entrusted  Although I am not apostle or prophet = I am also entrusted  You are entrusted with that same hope of eternal life to give to other  Matt. 28 we are called to make disciples right?  Paul closes introduction V. 4  “*To Titus, my genuine child according to our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior*.”  Genuine child = closeness of relationship with Titus  Genuine = lawfully begotten | 14  “Child” legitimate child as opposed to illegitimate  Possible Titus was led to Christ spiritually by Paul = spiritual child  Remember Titus = Gentile, Greek = prime example of being recipient of divine grace given to Jews  Paul lit. brough Titus along to Jerusalem council showing Gentile like Titus can be saved w/out circumcised  then…Paul pronounced blessing  “*Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior*.”  Intro packed with theology  God gives undeserved grace and result?  Peace |
| 15  Romans 5:1  “*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we boast in hope of the glory of God*.”  Final thing = “Savior”  Entire NT 25% “Savior” = occurs in Titus = big chunk  Why?  Could be Christ’s deity downplayed  Didn’t believe Jesus was Messiah = God  they didn’t see God as superior to the other Greek gods they worshipped  But whatever circumstance was, is it any different than our day? | 16  At the end of day, you will or won’t believe based on who you believe Jesus is  If you truly believe He is the Son of God = it will change everything about how you live  If you believe He is just a man, the Bible is not alive to you, it is not authoritative over your life  Every single word uttered from the lips of our Lord is authoritative  And He said He will come one day to judge the world in righteousness  Talked more about hell than heaven  But He also talked about the hope of eternal life in Himself  Christ is a judge yes, but also a merciful Savior  Fully God/Fully Man + Truly God/Truly Man  2 Natures United in person of Son |
| 17  Offered up his life as sacrifice for your sins so you would be able to have hope of eternal life  Christ Jesus Lord = fulfillment of God’s unchangeable promise to send seed to crush head of serpent.  He did crush head of serpent at the cross when He paid for the sins of everyone who would ever believe in Him  God’s promises are reality itself because He cannot change and He cannot lie.  He is the God who cannot lie  So trust in God who cannot lie  Let’s pray | 18 |