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| 1  Titus 2:1-10 Sermon Outline  06/16/24  “Do You Live Out What You Believe?”  Part I  **INTRO:**  Integrity….integrity = rare virtue  Definition (Miriam-Webster)  “*firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values*.”  = Principle you never break  One of most amazing examples of integrity = Daniel  Daniel = man of godly integrity  = Jew under exile in Babylonian rule  Lived in midst of pagan, evil culture | 2  Went through various kings Nebuchadnezzar + Belshazzar  Through it all he was faithful  He gained fame through telling dreams and their interpretation  Next King Darius  But…worthless men jealous and hateful of Daniel started to hatch evil plan  Ch. 4:6  “*Then the commissioners and satraps began seeking to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to matters of the kingdom; but they were not able to find any ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him. Then these men said, “We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God.”* |
| 3  Daniel = faultless/blameless = above reproach  commissioners/satraps = manipulated king to sign an edict to worship king alone which would force him to follow through on throwing people into lions den  And he finds Daniel praying to Yahweh during time when he was required by edict to worship the king  Report to Darius and Darius = grieved  Stays up all night thinking of way to save him  Darius liked Daniel probably because he was valuable as a teller of dreams but also because he was faultless and a man of integrity  Before Darius threw Daniel into lions den =  “*Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself save you*.”  Amazing statement by pagan king | 4  Rest of story  Amazing reversal = Daniel saved from lions and scoundrels executed instead  King Darius’ response to God saving Daniel?  V. 25  “*Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations, and men of every tongue who were inhabiting all the land: “May your peace abound! I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom, men are to fear and be in dread before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion will be unto the end. He saves and delivers and does signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has also saved Daniel from the power of the lions*.”  I bring all this up because Daniel trusted in his God and his trust was displayed to a watching in how he lived |
| 5  He did not cave into the rest of the culture in their idol worship but kept worshipping the one true God  There were consequences for his faithfulness, yes…he had to pay the ultimate price, but he kept his integrity and witness for God  Paul = aroma of life or death to unbelievers  Is your life a soothing aroma of eternal life?  Or does your life reek of the stench of death to an unbeliever?  How you live your life is going to be your most powerful witness to a lost and dying world  The gospel is the gospel and sinners are saved by hearing the gospel so we need at some point share and proclaim it  but we also need to magnify the gospel’s transforming power in our lives in the way we live in this sinful world | 6  **MAIN POINT:**  And that is the point of today’s text in Titus:  You need to live your life in such a way that your life becomes a signpost pointing sinners to the gospel  **REVIEW:**  Last week = true/false leaders/vessels  Leadership in Crete in corrupt  Need for qualified elders  Society and church was out of order  Titus called to put it back in order = reattach what remains out of joint  But about the rest of the church?  What does God expect you to act? |
| 7  **BODY:**  Now Paul is going to go over different categories  2:1  “*But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine*.”  Lit. “You” oh man!  Notice not sound doctrine itself but speaking about things “appropriate” to sound doctrine  Sound = healthy  Healthy doctrine leads to a holy life  Everything starts with sound doctrine, but it must not end there  Always ends in holy living  Then V. 2 first group = older men in church | 8  “*temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance*.”  older men = 50 up  temperate = opposite of drunkenness = “sober-minded” = “level-headed”  Dignified  “*never frivolous, trivial, or superficial. He never laughs at immorality, vulgarity, or anything else that is sinful and ungodly. Nor does he laugh at that which is tragic or at the expense of others*.”  Third virtue = sensible = self-controlled repeated multiple times  This virtue lacking among Christians in Crete  “Liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons” = does that sound like a culture that lacks self-control? |
| 9  Finally “sound in love, faith, perseverance”  Can’t speak from experience but I know body starts breaking down and developing all sorts of issues  Dave Paine = my washer is breaking down and my body is breaking down!  Temptation when you are not as youthful to grow discouraged, not persevere, grow cynical in life  When I reach end of my race in old age, I want to be able to say with clear conscience like apostle Paul  “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith”  Famous elderly preacher faithful to same church for decades  Famous Christian biographer wanted to write book  but he initially refused  His race isn’t over yet | 10  Anything could still happen  One single sin could derail decades of faithful ministry  I want same attitude  Bethel, don’t write biography on Teru Kondo’s life until I am dead  To my very last breathe I want to be able to say  “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith”  When I am in the grave, then I will give you a thumbs up of permission to write my biography  Next V. 3 next category = older women  “*Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good so that they may instruct the young women in sensibility:* |
| 11  Characterized deep reverence for Lord  Type of behavior Peter = “beauty of gentle and quiet spirit”  Not “malicious gossips”, = lit. slander someone like devil does  “Not to be enslaved to much wine”  Why stronger word = “enslaved”?  Commentator says men in social circles keeps alcohol in check while women at home unchecked  Women fact they are more easily affected by it than men  Wine for cooking and also wine for type of anesthetic  Whatever the reason  Not to be enslaved to wine but to “teach what is good so that…what?” | 12  They may instruct young women in sensibility = self-control  *to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be slandered*.”  Every generation has the responsibility to train up the next generation  Israel was called to do that to instruct children in the Law of Moses, but when they didn’t the next generation came up as a ungodly generation  Teach them to love their husbands  Sometimes love doesn’t come naturally to us because we are still sinful  We’re not always going to feel those romantic sparks towards our husbands or that motherly love and tenderness towards our children |
| 13  It’s great if we can feel that all the time and that helps  But love primarily manifests itself in action  Sometimes you get irritated at your husband or are fed up with the constant crying and nagging of your children  There’s no lovey dovey feelings you are feeling  We need those who have gone through those same struggles that we are going through to help and teach us how to get through it  That’s why older women, the young women of this generation are going to thrive the most when they have you to help them through biblical marriage and child-rearing    You have a critical role  You have job to teach them to also be sensible (or self-controlled) be pure sexually, to be a home maker | 14  Marked by kindness and being submissive to the authority of her husband  Ultra-feminist movement is nothing new  There since the Fall  However difference is feminism overall is seen as liberating, heroic, and the right thing to do  But in Crete, although that was a part of the culture too  People in ancient days still recognized that as a problem and taboo  For a wife to be submissive to husband and rearing up children in the home = honorable and respected by people  Nowadays society sees that as almost evil  But back then they saw that as a virtue which is how it should be according to the Bible |
| 15  When women didn’t stay home and when they didn’t listen to the authority of her husband  guess what happened  “The Word of God was being slandered”  Lit. blasphemed  Jesus reserved some of the harshest condemnations against the pharisees because they were being religious hypocrites  They claimed to be pious and godly but they were anything but that  There is already too many excuses that sinners use as a reason not to come to Christ  You don’t want to be the reason why sinners don’t want come to Christ  But Paul doesn’t let the younger men off the hook either! | 16  “*Urge the younger men to be sensible* (self-control)” = *sophroneo*  sophroneo comes from the word “sozo” which means to save  Not much words, but captures the youthful lusts of younger men  V. 7 Titus as leader of younger men  “*show himself to be a model of good works, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in word which is irreproachable, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us”*  Titus presumably older than Timothy = but still iin category of young man  Titus prime model of good works (phrase that’s repeated, emphasizing the sound living that results from sound doctrine)  Doctrine to be pure = accurate |
| 17  No worldy philosophies, worldview, or other religions mixed in with the truth  Only the pure unvarnished word of truth revealed in the Scriptures  Titus = dignified = “level-headed”  “*Sound in word which is irreproachable*”  Especially important for a preacher like Titus because words have an eternal impact  because Proverbs says “*power of life and death are in the tongue*”  Colossians 4:6  “*Let your words always be with grace, seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should answer each person*.”  Provv. 15:1 “*A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger*” | 18  Everyone is watching not only what you do but what you say as well and how you say it  Sometimes you have heard others get angry at the way people respond to others  They say, “It’s not what you said that made me irritated, it’s how you said it”  You must reflect Christ in “how you say” what you say  Then finally V. 9  “*Urge slaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be pleasing, not contradicting, not pilfering, but demonstrating all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in everything*.”  Slave to be content and joyfully serve master would have been incredible testimony to them  Incredible testimony for slave to have not pilfered their master’s money |
| 19  Instead by demonstrating all good faith, it would be like wearing doctrine of God as their clothing  Slaves known and marked by specific artless of clothing and jewelry  Most beautiful testimony that slave could give was to beautify everything they did for master for glory of Christ  Only way to live life of godly integrity like Daniel did before godless world is first to be saved from your sins by this incredible God  As King Darius acknowledged to all the nations:  *He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion will be unto the end. He saves and delivers and does signs and wonders In heaven and on earth*.  One of greatest signs and wonders unbeliever see is not some flashy, grandiose miracle | 20  but a life of godly integrity to God and His Word  Committed to live out what you believe  So next week look at why we need to live the way we are called to live  But for now, do you live out what you believe?  Let’s pray |