



## Wednesday Night Service

April 28, 2021 ~

“Study on the Book of Titus – Zealous for Good Works – Session 2”

Introduction: In last week’s session, we focused on the theme of Titus. It was all about doing good works. We saw how good works are essential to authentic faith. Meaning if there is faith then there must be good works. We then saw that good works are evangelistic in their thrust.

Today we focus on preaching. This is the main way we evangelize. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said this about preaching, “it has the power to turn a place upside down.” There is nothing like preaching’s capacity to touch hearts and transform lives.

But, we have seen preaching fall on hard times. People today often prefer other modes of communication. For many, it has been preaching through podcasts or blog posts to hear a message thorough the computer screen rather than hearing it in person. We can thank covid for most of this. The contemporary world seems to be decidedly unfriendly towards preaching. But for the Christian, we know that there is nothing like preaching to stir up within God’s people a zeal for good works.

Titus begins with a statement about preaching. (Read: Titus 1:1-4) These verses highlight only one church activity – preaching.

(Key) Preaching is the primary way in which God creates a people who are zealous for good works.

Preaching is unique in three different ways and in the remainder of this study we are going to look at these three ways.

THE ORIGIN OF PREACHING: God’s Revelation and Command. (Titus 1:1-3)

Preaching has always been central to the Christian faith. Why is this so? It has to do with the origin of preaching. In these first 3 verses, we see that preaching is rooted in God’s revelation. In Titus, Paul says that “God manifested His word through preaching.”

He then goes on to say that preaching is also rooted in God’s command. Paul didn’t preach the word because he felt he was good at it or that he was on some ego trip to preach before people; Paul preached because he was commanded to preach. (Read: Titus 1:3) Paul says in this verse that “preaching was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior.” This is why Paul identified himself as a “servant of God.” (Titus 1:1) To the church in Rome, Paul says “my aim was to preach the gospel.” (Romans 15:20) For Paul, preaching was not optional, it was necessary. Preaching the gospel is not for the faint of heart, when one preaches the word, He is going up against the number one enemy-Satan.

THE CONTENT OF PREACHING: God’s Word and God’s Son. (Titus 1:3)

It is preaching God’s word, not our word! Preaching must be both biblical and expository. The whole point of preaching is to speak God’s word in human words. Expository preaching does not mean we preach a book verse by verse and chapter by chapter; it means that the preacher must seek to make the message of the text the message of the sermon.

(Key) But in preaching God’s word, we don’t merely preach the bible; we preach the Christ of the bible. Jesus is the thread of all scripture. Jesus is both the goal and the key to the entire bible.

THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING: Knowledge of the Truth. (Titus 1:1)

In a most basic sense, preaching is designed to elicit or bring forth faith. (Read: Romans 10:17) In this verse, Paul says that “faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ.” In other words, preaching is God’s means of making known the Word of Christ so that faith might spring to life in the hearts of God’s people. (Key) Preaching is designed to instill in God’s people a knowledge of truth. Because preaching cures the most fatal disease – ignorance. The sad truth is that more people know more about the things in this life than we do about God’s word.

But here is the best part: when faith comes to life in one's heart and the knowledge of the truth in God's word has renewed one's mind, the result is always a transformed life. (Read: Romans 12:2) This always leads to a life that wants to do good works.

Conclusion: Here is an important truth: Preaching the word of God changes people's hearts. It brings transformation or rebirth. The change is always good.